Woman's World

A Little English Girl Whom Every One Must Address as Ma'am.

PRINCESS MARY OF ENGLAND.

To be a king's daughter is all very well in a fairy tale, but most kings' daughters have far from an easy life. There is the little fourteen-year-old daughter of the king and queen of England. She has lessons that would shame many an American college girl, for a princess' education ends at seventeen or eighteen, and there are many things which she must learn that ordinary girls are not troubled with.

For instance, she must be proficient in several languages and have a good working knowledge of the history of different nations, particularly their modern history. She must be something of an artist and musician, and if her mother is a person of housewifely tastes, as is Princess Mary's mother, then her spare moments are filled up with instructions in regard to cooking, baking, housekeeping and sewing.

When the little princess goes to visit her grandma, Queen Alexandra, that royal lady initiates her into the art of dairying, which to the daughter of a king of Denmark is a very important matter. Then her father insists that his daughter must not neglect her horseback exercise or other outdoor sports, in which nowadays all smart young Englishwomen excel.

It will be seen that the little English princess has no life of leisure. The only girl in a family of four boys, all of them lively and fond of fun, it may be judged that the princess has no chance to become self conscious or vain.

One of the latest court rules is that every one not of royal rank must address the little girl as "ma'am," and it is funny to Americans to see gray haired dowagers courtesying to the seventeen-year-old Princess of Wales and gravely answering his little sister with prim "Yes, ma'ams" and "No, ma'ams."

CHOOSING WALL PAPER.

The Light Reflecting Qualities Should Be Considered.

No paper reflects all the light which falls on it, but the brightest of all papers would be white blotting paper, if that were allowable on the walls. White blotting paper reflects four-fifths of the light. The remaining fifth it absorbs and renders useless. Ordinary foolscap is less bright, swallowing three-tenths and reflecting only seven-tenths.

Taking these as the brightest possible papers, we can see how a room may be treated so as to be cheerfully luminous or as gloomy as a prison. The range is so great that we can make the walls of one room fourteen to sixteen times darker than another, although the same amount of light enters both.

The brightest wall paper is the white figured, while white and gold is almost as effective in throwing back the light falling on it.

It may be taken as reflecting nearly seven-tenths. Next comes chrome yellow paper, which reflects six-tenths, and this is followed closely by orange paper, reflecting five-tenths of the light.

Yellow wall paper and yellow painted walls give back only four-tenths of the light; they swallow up more than they reflect, and light pink paper is just a little less bright.

Light blue paper is rather deceitful. Contrary to what one would expect, it reflects only four-tenths of the light.

BUYING RIBBON.

How to Know What Width to Ask the Saleswoman For.

Very few women have escaped the annoyance of trying unsuccessfully to buy ribbon of a particular width. When one considers the question it is quite natural that manufacturers should turn it out in certain simple widths, but the difficulty is that very few of us know just what these widths are. When ribbons are used as much as this summer our troubles are multiplied.

Here are the numbers and their corresponding widths. Cut this out and keep it for reference next time you need ribbon approximately a certain width:

No. 1 (baby), 3-16 inch; No. 1½, 5-16 inch; No. 2, ¾ inch; No. 3, ⅞ inch; No. 5, 1-16 inch; No. 7, 1 3-16 inches; No. 9, 1¼ inches; No. 12, 1 15-16 inches; No. 16, 2½ inches; No. 40, 3½ inches; No. 60, 4 inches.

There are other intermediate widths, of course, but these are the most used.

Points for Mothers

Infantile Paralysis.

Infantile paralysis is a germ disease. Being a germ disease, infantile paralysis is communicable from person to person. It is contagious and infectious.

The germ is mainly taken through the nose.

It is communicated by means of the nasal discharge.

Wherever possible handkerchiefs should be destroyed when soiled. In any event, they should be thoroughly boiled.

The use of the pocket handkerchief, however, is not sufficient to protect a child from infection. The nasal passage and throat should be kept thoroughly sterilized. A mouth and nose wash of hydrogen peroxide may be used for the purpose. This may be applied with an atomizer or other form of spray.

Children should be made to avoid the filth of the streets. Under no circumstances should they buy fruit or candies which have been exposed to the dust charged air of the streets.

Do not let your children indulge in kissing. Infantile paralysis may very readily be spread in just that way.

Above all, keep your child clean.

These precautions are more necessary in the summer months, but it would not be unwise to practice them the whole year.

Gifts For Children.

The joy of welcoming a new baby into the family often finds expression in deluging the newcomer with offerings and tokens. No gift can be too great and costly for baby.

Proud grandparents and doting aunts and fond uncles and sympathetic friends all wish to attest their interest in some tangible way, and "what to give" baby continues to be a source of anxiety throughout its career. It seems almost a crime to think of the large amounts expended upon toys whose usefulness are over in a day.

Why does not some one think of the future and give things that are really worth while and which will give real pleasure, later on? Think of the joy of possessing a good library when one is old enough to fully appreciate it.

Some girls possess strings of well matched pearls whose beginnings were formed when they were tiny tots and who received one at a time as birthday gifts. Sets of silver forks and spoons have also been gathered together in this way, and pictures which have some true artistic value. It is true that all these things are of but scant interest to the very young boy or girl, but as they grow older their interest is awakened, and a real appreciation for possessing beautiful things is found to be a great delight.

Mothercraft For Boys.

Mothercraft for boys is the newest thing in the various settlements in the east side of New York. Boys are taught to help their mothers at home. Mothercraft includes care of the baby, cooking, dressmaking, laundry work, home management, home hygiene and many other things.

"I think the time soon will come," said a settlement worker, "when boys throughout the country will be taught domestic economy just as are girls. Among the poorer classes men frequently are out of employment, and the women can find work. Naturally the husband should be able during his idleness to attend to the household duties. The sooner a boy learns much about the care of the home the better fitted he will be in an emergency to look after the home. He should be trained to help his mother. Then he will be prepared to help his wife."

A Boy's Friends.

Welcome Tom, Dick or Harry if he is your boy's friend. Treat him with as much respect as you would an older person. His friend's remarks will influence your son mightily in his regard for home.

Moreover, if the friend is undesirable your boy will more easily see it in the refinement of home. Outside he may be a hero; within, all his defects stand out.

Encourage your boy to bring his friends home. You can see his associates then, and he does not need to go out to see them.

Evenings at Home.

Mothers, don't keep your tired moments for the evening. Rest, if need be, in the afternoon, for you have very important work to do later on. Be ready to play games, to accompany songs, even to dance, for there is nothing so good or so jolly, and many perfect dancers have been made at home. If the home is a proper club it will have its dramatic society, its choir, its band, its parliament, its lending library, its smoking concerts and its "ladies' night." You can make the boys think there is no place like home if you like.

Crochet Socks.

Pretty little socks are made for baby in handmade lacework. They are extremely fine and of an intricate design, but they would be pretty and serviceable if made from soft cotton in any pretty crochet stitch, and the woman who is handy with the hook could easily make them without a pattern.

VACATION TIME.

Often It Is a Mere Farce to the Busy Wife of the President.

©1911, by American Press Association.

MRS. WILLIAM H. TAFT.

About this season of the year the first lady in the land packs her household effects, or at least some portion of them, and transfers herself and family from the White House at Washington to a temporary White House in more rural regions.

With the Roosevelts it was home to Oyster Bay, but with the Tafts it is to a rented villa at Beverly, Mass. No doubt the going home of the Roosevelts was accomplished with a minimum of fuss and trouble, for in going back to one's own home new and stylish wardrobes are not required nor is it necessary to carry along this or that convenience which sojourn in even the most carefully fitted fashionable villa will not supply.

To leave the White House household in such order that its domestic machinery will run smoothly until her return, to superintend dressmaking and packing on a large scale, these are some of the worries that confront the first lady in the land on retiring to the semi-privacy of the vacation at Beverly.

Fortunately the summer White House is located in a region where rest and invigorating air are to be obtained and those bores of great people, the lion hunters, have little chance to reach them.

The house is located on the crest of a hill, five minutes from the water, where yachts may anchor. Golfing is excellent, the neighbors are agreeable and unobtrusive, and it is to be hoped the summer will afford the first lady in the land that rest and recreation which will completely build her up after her late illness and permit her once more to assume the place as White House hostess, which, during her indisposition, her daughter, Miss Helen, has been so ably filling.

A BALTIMORE BEAUTY.

Her Engagement to Alfred Vanderbilt Often Rumored.

Mrs. Smith Hollins McKim is regarded by many persons as the most beautiful woman in New York society. She is a Baltimorean by birth, a daughter of Captain Isaac Emerson and heiress to much wealth. When about seventeen she married Dr. Smith Hollins McKim. She was granted a Reno divorce from him last October.

Mrs. McKim is very much interested in horses. She attends all the important exhibitions. Society has persistently whispered that she might marry Mr. Alfred Vanderbilt, but a number of other society men are equally attentive to the fair divorcee, who so far has shown no intention of relinquishing her recently won freedom. Her beauty is of the blond order, and she is clever as well as beautiful. Should she become Mrs. Vanderbilt she is quite charming and brainy enough to assume the social leadership in New York which no one seems clever enough to capture since the death of the late Mrs. Astor.

MRS. SMITH HOLLINS M'KIM.

Women and Stocks.

Women speculators have a habit of giving to brokers orders with a string attached to them. A woman who owned some bank stock asked a broker to sell it at 250 if he thought she could not get any more for it. The market in this stock had been inactive for months, and 250 was the highest price ever recorded for it. The next day the broker had a chance to sell the stock at 250. It so happened that on the same day a lively demand for this bank stock developed, and before the day was over it was selling at 300. The broker wrote to his woman customer that he had sold her stock for $250 a share and would she send her certificate to him for delivery to the purchaser? She refused to deliver the stock.

"You ought to have known better than to sell it for 250," she remonstrated. "I am going to sell it today myself for 300."

It was not until the broker appealed to the courts that he succeeded in getting the stock from the woman.—Strand Magazine.

Pretty Fine Scratches.

Most people consider a polished surface as something absolutely smooth—that is, something with no scratches on it whatever. To polish a thing, however, the very reverse is done to it. It is filled with very fine scratches. All eyeglass lenses, glass for mirrors, furniture, etc., are rubbed with fine emery paper and later with an extremely fine powder which gives the finishing touches in the shape of very fine scratches. Now the question arises as to just how fine the scratches must be—that is, how far apart they must be, for big scratches a good distance apart give anything but a polished surface. The answer is that the scratches or ridges between must be less than one-quarter the wave length of the light that falls on the surface for the light to be reflected and thus give the effect of a polished surface. This is less than one two-hundred-thousandth of an inch for light waves. No breaking up of the waves is caused, and they consequently are reflected in their original form.—New York Tribune.

The Offense Defined.

General Craft, an attorney of Terre Haute, Ind., was once called into a jewelry store in the town to settle a dispute.

"See here, general," explained the proprietor, "if I take a watch from Mr. Smith here and make repairs that cost me 10 cents and then keep it hanging up for a week and charge him $5 when he comes to get it, what percentage do I make? We have been figuring for half an hour and only get up to 900 per cent, and that is but a dollar, so we decided to leave it to you."

"Well," said the general gravely, "you must know that it is a fact, and it has been demonstrated by calculating machines, that at certain points in progressive numbers the law governing them changes. In your case the law would change long before it reached the $5 and would run out of percentage and into what is known and designated as larceny."

Open Door and a Light.

The wives of north country colliers observe a very touching and pathetic custom when an accident occurs in the pit. Directly it is known to the wife of a collier that an accident has happened in the pit where her husband works and that his fate is uncertain she throws open the house door, and, however inclement the weather may be, she keeps the door open and a candle burning in the window night and day till the man is brought home, dead or alive. In some cases the door has remained open and the candle alight during several weeks.—London Graphic.

A Curious Superstition.

The ancients believed that the marrow of the human backbone often transformed itself into a serpent. Pliny ("Natural History," volume 10, page 66) says that the marrow of a man's backbone will breed to a snake. The Chinese (Worde's "Eastern Travels") burned the backbone to "destroy serpents that might hatch therefrom."

Amending Dickens.

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts.—Charles Dickens.

Dear, dear! How long Dickens has been dead! Writing for our day he should have said: Have a liver that never hardens, a tire that never punctures and a touch that never fails to land something.—Life.

He Was a Stayer.

She (coquettishly)—Don't you believe they will worry over your absence if you fail to return home until such a late hour? He (carelessly)—There's nobody to worry except the landlady, and I make a point to keep her worrying by always owing her a month's board.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Complex Accomplishment.

"I understand you speak French like a native."

"No," replied the student. "I've got the grammar and the accent down pretty fine, but it's hard to learn the gestures."—Exchange.

The Cutthroat Game.

"What is the greatest get-rich-quick scheme you know of?" asked the flimsy financier of his partner.

"Taking money away from other people who want to get rich quick."—Wilmington Star.

To please, one must make up his mind to be taught many things which he already knows by people who do not know them.—Chamfort.

Woman's Garden

Gardening Notes.

Plants growing in sunlight always need more water than those in shade, for evaporation and transpiration are always greatest under those circumstances.

Midday watering when the sun shines on the foliage will burn the foliage of many of our common house plants.

Shading during excessive heat will strengthen plants and help them retain moisture.

Temperature both of the air and of the water should be considered. An overheated and humid atmosphere will cause straggly, spindly growth very susceptible to attacks of disease. The temperature of the water used has been found to have a marked effect on plants. Best results are obtained when the water is about the same temperature as the place in which the plants are growing.

Although the watering should not be carried on so that a constantly wet soil results, in watering always be thorough. Any receptacle in which plants are growing should have holes in the bottom for drainage.

Window Gardening.

No home should be without a window garden. In city homes trouble frequently arises from insufficient care in selecting plants which will withstand the unfavorable conditions usually met with. Too great heat, insufficient air and insufficient light are often the great faults. The first two conditions may be remedied by much spraying and dampening. Spread out cloths to protect the floor and spray the plants frequently. If there is insufficient light plants must be chosen which will endure the shade.

Do not make the mistake of using inferior plants for your window garden. Procure vigorous plants growing in rich soil and you will be well repaid. Among the flowering plants suitable for a window garden are the calla, cyclamen, Chinese and English primroses, oxalis, geraniums, heliotrope, fuchsia and freesia. Attractive hanging baskets may be filled with vines to add to the beauty of the room or porch.

The Rotation of Plants.

Geraniums will grow in any soil, but must have only a moderate amount of manure and not too much water. Pansies like the richest kind of light, loamy soil. Most shrubs like a moderately rich soil, with yearly applications of manure on the surface over the roots. Cannas like the richest possible kind of soil, with abundance of water after they start to grow.

For some reason which cannot be fully explained some plants will not do well two years in succession in the same place. Especially is this true of asters and sweet peas. It is more or less true of all plants. That is why the farmer rotates his crops and why the gardener should never, if she can avoid it, plant the same variety in the same place oftener than once in three years.

Flower Screens.

A screen of climbing nasturtium to hide the unsightly ash can and garbage bucket will be a "thing of beauty" all summer if the blossoms are plucked freely and the roots properly watered.

A screen of sweet peas is also beautiful, but it is late to plant seed for such a purpose at this season.

For families that are just now moving into the country a nasturtium trellis is better. The seeds, if planted now, will produce blossoms soon, and if the very best quality of mixed seed is selected the variety of color will be a constant surprise and delight.

Use a fence of chicken wire and fasten at both ends to stakes driven into the ground.

Phloxes Are Striking.

The varieties of phlox which grow in a season are suitable for the amateur who wishes to produce a striking effect in her garden. There are so many different varieties that any shade desired except yellow may be found. Varieties differ in height, size and shape of blossom. All are of easy culture. The plants should have a sunny position. They grow rapidly and their blooming season is not long, but may be prolonged by giving plenty of moisture and a partial shade.

Sweet Pea Enemies.

Slugs and other pests must be watched for, especially in the evening, when they come out to feed. If put into a pail of strong salt and water they will die very quickly.

If small green or brown flies—aphides—appear on the plants, spray them at once with soft soap and water and kerosene or with some insecticide.

Syringe the plants with clear water the next day, and spray them again and again, if necessary, till all the aphides are destroyed.

House Plants.

In dark rooms such plants as the palms, the pandanus, the screw pine and New England flax do well. Of the palms the fan and date varieties require least care. The rubber plant is excellent. It is injured by dust and should be washed frequently.

Used Another Man's Legs.

In the hall of the house of representatives there is a painting of George Washington. He looks a most commanding person, with the stature of a giant and a faultless physique. But looking at the portrait recently a public man commented:

"That is a good deal of a sham. George Washington never looked like that, though I've no doubt he would have been proud to appear so magnificent.

"Notice the legs," the speaker continued. "They are perfect beauties, but they are not Washington's. They are the legs of General Smith of New Jersey, a soldier of the Revolution.

"It happened this way," he explained in conclusion: "Washington had quite unimpressive legs, and the artist who painted that picture was so dissatisfied with their shape that he persuaded General Smith to lend his faultless members as models. So, while we have the face and torso of our great first president, the supporting legs are those of one of his generals. Long may they stand!"—Washington Post.

Not the Answer He Expected.

One of Lord Desborough's best anecdotes relates to a clergyman who was far more at home in the hunting field than in the pulpit, says London Tit-Bits. On the morning of a meet he was much annoyed at having to officiate at a funeral; but, this over, he mounted his horse and started in pursuit of his friends. On the road he sought information of an old woman with a donkey cart.

"Well," she said, "if you ride to the top of the hill you will come to a 'meenister.' Then if you turn to the right you will be likely to come up with them."

Handing her a shilling, he said, "My good woman, why did you call the sign post a minister?"

"Why, you see, sir, it's like this. We used to call 'em sign posts, but since you've been in these parts we calls 'em meenisters, 'cos, though they points other folks the way, they never goes themselves. Go on, Neddy!"

Death in Factory Fires.

The question is often debated as to whether persons who lose their lives in a fire developing with great rapidity undergo extreme physical suffering. An authoritative opinion is expressed by the New York Medical Journal, which says: "Unnecessary anguish of mind has probably been felt by relatives of unfortunate workers killed in factory fires by reflection on the supposedly agonizing pain caused by such a death. Where a great bulk of highly inflammable substances is quickly consumed in a closed space the result is the production of large quantities of carbon monoxide. This gas, it is well known, combines with the haemoglobin of the blood to form a compound that refuses to combine with oxygen. The result is a speedy and probably painless asphyxiation before the flames have had a chance to attack the bodies of the victims."

Dainty Snails.

The writer who qualified the snail as "foul and unclean" was guilty of a libel. Snails are most dainty feeders and strict vegetarians, as many gardeners know to their cost. Apparently three centuries ago snails were more popular in England than they are now. The fastidious author of "The Faerie Queene" gives a recipe for their preparation:

With our sharp weapons we shal thee fray
And take the castill out that thou lyest in;
We shal thee slay out of thy foule skin,
And in a dish, with onyons and peper,
We shal thee dresse with strong vynegara.

—London Standard.

How Gold Leaf Kills.

The Chinese consul at San Francisco discussed at a dinner his country's customs.

"There is one custom," said a young girl, "that I can't understand, and that is the Chinese custom of committing suicide by eating gold leaf. I can't understand how gold can kill."

"The partaker, no doubt," smiled the consul, "succumbs from a consciousness of inward gilt."—Los Angeles Times.

Manuscript Letters Rare.

Manuscripts and holograph letters from living literary celebrities should be hoarded with great care by their recipients. The prospect is that they will grow increasingly rare. Autograph signatures are probably all that the next generation will be able to bid for in the auction rooms and add to its collections.—New York Tribune.

Disinterested Advice.

"I have told my constituents that I regarded myself as a servant of the people," said Senator Sorghum.

"Talk," replied Farmer Corntassel, "but you want to keep people from gettin' an idea that you're one of these servants who are always on the lookout fur tips."—Washington Star.

A Weather Prophet.

"Now, Mrs. Brown, I have planed up your new almanac."

"Oh, thank 'ee, miss, thank 'ee, but my corns tell me the weather far better than any of they 'ere almanacks!"—London Opinion.

In the Barnyard.

"Look how queerly that hen is acting. Do you think she is hatching a plot?"

"No; I think she is plotting a hatch."—Baltimore American.

Industry keeps the body healthy, the mind clear, the heart whole and the purse full.—Simmons.