



## Kiddies' Korner

By  
MADREE PENN



## DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

By Mary Graham Bonner

### THE CHAMPION CAT.

"Purr, purr," said Charles Chinchilla Cat, known for short, by his best friends as Charlie.

"Purr, purr," answered the other cats at the cat show.

"Did you hear the news?" asked Charles Chinchilla Cat.

"We heard something, but not all. We heard that you did wonderfully in the cat show. Tell us. They were talking about your place over there. We couldn't hear them for they were talking so hard and so fast."

"They had lots to say," said Charles Chinchilla Cat.

"Tell it to us, Charlie," purred the other cats.

"Hush," said Charlie.

"What are we to 'hush' about?" they asked.

"You mustn't call me Charlie at this cat show. You see I have been so much honored. I am so distinguished. That means I am so fine and superior and noble and great."

"Gracious, Charlie," said the other cats, "that's a whole lot."

"Cats, I told you all you mustn't call me Charlie."

"But that is your name," they said.

"It's my name my friends call me by—those who know me well."

"We're your friends, and we know you well," said the other cats.

"That's all right. I admit it. But you must treat me differently at the cat show. I am very superior as I have said before, especially today."

"What must we call you?" asked the other cats.

"You must call me by my name in full—it makes no difference."

"They both mean the same," said one of the other cats. "Of course it makes no difference."

"Of course not," smiled Charlie, as he pulled his whiskers and licked his face.

"Tell us about the news," said the other cats.

"Pray tell us about the news, distinguished, honorable, noble Charles Chinchilla Cat," said one of the others.

"That's the way to talk to me at the cat show," said Charlie. "That's fine. Yes, I will tell you the news at once."

"I was at another cat show this morning. It was held in a beautiful hotel where bell boys ran around answering bells and where beautiful ladies and handsome men walked through the halls."

"I won the championship at that cat show, and then my master brought me over here where all my friends were."

"And I have won the championship here, too. I have not only won all these distinctions but I have been told that I have been called the most perfect chinchilla cat in the country. Of course anyone can tell by looking at

me that I am a beautiful silver cat with the most exquisite coat, but my honors today have been fine and numberless."

"I am all silver. I have no spots. That is rare and exquisite in itself. Yes, I have been judged under different sets of rules; and that means that from every standpoint, from every judge, from every person who knew anything about cats I have been considered the prize winner, the best silver cat, the most handsome of chinchilla cats."

"Ah, I am unbeaten. No one can surpass me, though my four-year-old father is a winner, too, of many prizes. I came naturally by winning prizes. But oh, I have won more than almost any cat ever won. I do believe."

"We do believe so, too," said all the other cats. "We're proud to know you, Charlie."

"Hush," said Charlie.

"Oh, we beg your pardon," they all said. "We're proud to know you, Charles Chinchilla Cat, and we hope we meet you at the next show."

"I hope so, too," said Charlie. "Purr, purr, good-by." For his master had come to take him away.

## THE KITCHEN CABINET

K. C. HAS HOUSEMAID TRAINING SCHOOL

Negro Woman Points Way to Solving Servant Problem—Incidentally the Widow of Former School Head Does Wonderful Uplift Work Among Young Girls of Her Race in City.

THE good housemaid, than which there is no more precious jewel, is an antidote for divorce, a synonym for comfort and does for the modern household what shock absorbers do for the modern car—smooths the rough places and prevents bumpy riding.

Ten years ago a Negro woman in Kansas City, looking about for an occupation to dissipate the loneliness engendered by the death of her husband, recognized in the foregoing facts a need and a mission among girls of her own race.

And that is why Kansas City today has the only public school for housemaids in the United States.

Five hundred of them trained by this woman in the past ten years now are in service in the prosperous homes of the city and some are receiving as high as \$18 a week.

A condition of unemployment among young Negro women, bad for them has been obviated. They have been given a profession, a calling, and a definite place in the social structure. Work is always pleasant when a person is well trained for it. They are contented because they are well trained.

Well-to-do women in the city have interested themselves in the school with the result that a board of white women has been appointed to assist in outlining courses.

Situations are obtained for trained or partly trained maids; suggestions for improving the course given and a general supervision of the school, from the housekeeper's point of view maintained.

Committee Gives Advice.

It is known as an advisory committee and grew out of a concerted attempt of Kansas City women to solve the servant problem by co-operation. The answer to this problem is a domestic science teacher once said, "is always wrong."

The committee consists of Mrs. Henry C. Flowers, Mrs. Whitfield Sammis, Mrs. Herman Dierks, Mrs. John H. Thatcher, Mrs. I. M. Ridge and Mrs. G. W. Addison.

These women with the assistance of Mrs. B. J. Williams, the teacher who started the school, have virtually solved the servant problem.

"It did not solve itself, you may be sure," one of them said. "We had to work at it and to have co-operation. We think we have the answer in a school where the training in the past forced from a worried and unhappy woman, overworked and irritated, is given in its proper environment, a classroom."

So extensive and efficient has the school become that whenever a vacancy exists in a home, the first call goes out to Mrs. Williams at the Bruce school.

Bankers, business men and all other householders who employ maids now know that the training school can supply a way to make the household run smoothly and happily.

"A chain is no stronger than its weakest link," is a proverb to which Mrs. Williams adds that "a good maid is a link in the household which operates toward forging a chain of success for the members of it."

"A well baked biscuit and a properly laid table are a good solution for the divorce problem," Mrs. Williams says.

The Bruce school for Negro housemaids is at Thirteenth street and Jackson avenue. Ten years ago, when it was started, Mrs. Williams held sessions in her home around the corner. She had studied in the domestic science department of the Manhattan agriculture college, but did not employ her training except in her own home until after the death of her husband, T. W. H. Williams, for many years principal of the Bruce school.

Sees Need of Training.

"I looked about me and saw young Negro girls suffering for lack of training," she said, recounting the origin of her idea. "Time and again they were discharged and replaced by white girls."

"I noticed that women were more willing to train white girls of foreign

birth than Negro girls.

"It seemed to me," she added with sincerity, "that I would be meeting a real need by opening a school."

By natural gifts an intelligent teacher and able to grasp the problem in its broadest significance, she saw that to be a success, the school must be thorough and set a standard.

At first bearing only the meager fruits of obscurity, the circle of its influence widened slowly until: "She's one of Mrs. Williams' girls" now has come to stand for honesty, neatness and capability.

Those proud and comfortable in the possession of one Mrs. Williams housemaid invariably mentioned and recommended the school to their friends and many women allowed the girls to continue in the school one or two afternoons a week in order to perfect their training.

Additional training in fancy service, are making of salad dressings, tea cakes and fancy cookery were given.

"They always know one of my girls when she answers the doorbell," Mrs. Williams said proudly.

The housemaid's costume recommended by the teacher consists of a blue dress with white apron and cap in the morning and white cap, black dress and white apron in the afternoon.

"I'm running a 'housemaid factory,'" Mrs. Williams says, "but I remember that other training than mere formal ability to do household work is necessary. Courteous manners, good character and cheerfulness are important qualities in a good housemaid."

Schooling Is Thorough.

The training given begins with the preparation of food and the course is carried from the baking of biscuits to the proper manner at the front door in answering the bell.

The low voice so much praised by the poets is a point emphasized by Mrs. Williams and consideration, forethought and initiative are things she endeavors to instill in the Negro girls.

The school was taken over by the board of education two years ago. Previous to that for eight years Mrs. Williams carried on the work. Many times incompetent Colored girls without funds begged for a chance to learn and promised to return the money. These promises, she says, were almost invariably made good. In ten years, the teacher has had brought to her attention only two cases of dishonesty.

"I do not stop with teaching them how to mix biscuit dough with two knives in order to make it flaky," she said.

"I believe morals and neatness and manners are as important as placing the salad fork in the right relation to the dinner plate, though I do not underestimate the latter."

Since taking over the work, she has been assigned also to train the fifth, sixth and seventh grade girls of the Bruce school in domestic science and the rudiments of housemaid work.

How to stack dishes for washing, to keep the silver and the glassware together and manage the cups without danger of breakage are the first lessons in dishwashing.

These girls have everone been given jobs for the summer as helpers in houses in Kansas City. One of them has been engaged for the home of I. I. Cammack, superintendent of schools.

At the commencement demonstration last week, one little girl, Lois Brooks by name, stood before a large assemblage many of them white women, and made a "batch" of biscuits.

She measured out the ingredients, mixed the dough and baked the delicious morsels.

"The baking powder was made by girls in the cooking classes," announced the young demonstrator.

Mrs. John Thatcher, wife of an attorney, who had been particularly interested in the school, recently wrote from Boston, where she had gone to live, that she had found no school in the East in any way comparable with Kansas City's school for housemaids.

Demands for maids are increasing so rapidly that it is likely the school will be enlarged in the near future and other equipment added.

ATCHISON, KAS.

Miss Hattie Ingram, principal of the Colored school in Leavenworth, who lives at 829 Fleming street, with her parents, returned from Hutchinson Monday where she lectured on some of the problems of the Colored race. Miss Ingram will give the same lecture at the Ebenezer Baptist church Tuesday evening.

Manuel Phelps a returned soldier is working at Covington's barber shop. Mr. Phelps brought many relics from France, which he has on exhibition in the shop window. Mr. Phelps tells many interesting things concerning his life in the army.

Mrs. G. G. Brown and baby of Wichita are visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. A. A. Davis, on Mound street. Mrs. Brown is the wife of Dr. Brown, who formerly practiced here. Dr. Brown will join his wife in a few days.

Mrs. James Mayball has returned from a Topeka hospital, where she underwent a painful operation. She is doing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Steward, father

and mother of Dr. Steward of Little Rock, Ark., are visiting their son.

The Mesdames J. D. Colbert and Myrtle Potter are spending two weeks at Excelsior Springs.

Miss Lucile Carter is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Cal Montgomery.

Mrs. Frank Wood of Des Moines, Ia., is visiting Miss Lulu Valuzett.

Mrs. Luke Barnett is recovering from a serious sick spell.

John Scott, the popular bachelor, has a fine garden and some spring chickens ready for the market.

Miss Ally Barnett is particularly elated with the success of the class of women that she trained for future service for Uncle Sam. Miss Barrett trained about thirty women.

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