

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

SOME GOOD STORIES FOR OUR JUNIOR READERS.

The Knockabouts, or Willie's First Morning in the Country—An Italian Girl Who Charms the World by Her Feats While on Horseback.

The Disappointed Goldenrod. PLEASE judge of my surprise one day, "Was in the woods, the month was a May. To see, in yellow beauty dressed, Some goldenrod—I do not jest, "Come, tell me, goldenrod," I cried, "What do you here in the fresh May-side?" The pretty flower raised up its head And looked at me, "I am quietly said, "I tire of hearing all the trees. The birds, the squirrels, the very breeze In autumn praise the flowers of May. "They're fairer far than you," they say, "We know,—their argument is strong—" "Because we're here, the whole year long, I've got permission for myself, And came to see this purple elf They call the violet; and to look At bloodroot blossoms by you brook. The mandrake, too, I wished to find, Who boasts of petals left behind. "And what do you decide?" I said, The autumn beauty tossed its head. "I think them weak and pale and small; A fig for spring—give me the fall! Pray what are these to autumn's dower of aster, mint and cardinal flower? Straightway for home I'll take my way, And never come again in May." My eyes unclosed; still flowed the stream. The flower was gone. Was it a dream? —Caryl B. Storrs.

The Knockabouts. 'Twas Willie's first morning in the country, and there were wonders without number on every hand. The night before, grandpa had promised him that on this same morning he should join the farmer's club, "The Knockabouts." Before going to bed Willie carefully counted his pennies. "Cause," said he, "I will cost something to join!" "Not very much, I guess," said mamma, who was fully acquainted with grandpa and his funny club. For hadn't she been a member herself when she was a little girl? "Anyhow," continued Willie, "I have the dollar papa gave me, haven't I?" But mamma only laughed in reply. "Can't initiate you till the dew gets off the grass!" exclaimed grandpa at the breakfast table.

This trade the club seem to Willie more mysterious than ever. "You must put on your thick shoes, and I don't think a white shirt is just the thing for members of the club to wear," advised grandpa, with a merry twinkle in his eyes. About 10 o'clock Willie was ready, and where do you suppose grandpa took him? Why, out in the orchard, back of the barn, where there was as many as a hundred hay-tumbles. Already three hired men were at work, throwing the hay about in every direction.

There are the charter members of the "Knockabout Club," laughed grandpa. Willie took the little fork grandpa handed him, and was soon a full-fledged member of the funny club. "I've got a good name for my club, haven't I?" asked grandpa, as Willie began knocking the hay about for the sun to dry. "A jolly one," replied Willie. Every morning, while he remained at the farm, he was the first member of the club on duty. "It's the best fun!" he exclaimed. "I wish, grandpa, I could be a knock-abouter the year round!"—A. F. Caldwell in Youth's Companion.

Learned, but Eccentric. Professor Lincoln of Brown University, whose death occurred a few years ago, used to tell amusing anecdotes of Neander, the great professor and historian of the Christian church of the Berlin University, under whom he studied for some time. Neander was accustomed when lecturing to stand behind a curious, high desk, with an open framework, and with holes and pegs for letting it up and down. His costume was a very long coat, coming down to the tops of his great jack-boots, and with a collar which reached almost as high as his head as he bent over his desk, and with arms extended forward, twirled in his fingers a quill pen. If this quill dropped, there was a hiatus in the lecture until some one would pick it up and place it in his hands, and then the wonderful flow of learned discourse would proceed. It is said that when Neander went to Berlin he happened, in going from his home to the university for the first time, to be with a friend, who, for the sake of some errand, took a most circuitous route; Neander pursued this roundabout course for years, and only by accident discovered that there was a shorter way. On one occasion, being jostled on a crowded sidewalk, in order to pass by the crowd, he stepped off into the gutter with one foot, keeping the other foot on the curbstone. When the crowd was passed, he continued absent-minded to walk on in this curious fashion, and when he reached home he complained of being fatigued from the disordered condition of the streets. An acquaintance, who had followed him, was able to explain the fatigue.

Amusing Ignorance. The written civil-service examinations for policemen in New York have been sneered at as a part of a visionary scheme. The ignorance displayed by some of the unsuccessful applicants for

FOR WOMEN AND HOME

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR MAIDS AND MATRONS.

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Woman. If woman! In this world of ours, What boon can be compared to thee? How slow would drag life's weary hours, Though man's proud brow were bound with flowers, And his the wealth of land and sea, If destined to exist alone, And never call woman's heart his own. My mother! at that holy name— Within my bosom there's a gush of feeling, which no time can tame— A feeling, which, for years of fame, I would not, could not, crush; And sisters! ye are dear as life; But when I look upon my wife, My heart blood gives a sudden rush, And all my fond affections blend In mother, sister, wife and friend.

Yes, woman's love is free from guile, And pure as bright Aurora's ray, The heart will melt before her smile; And base-born passions fade away; Were I the monarch of the earth, Or master of the swelling sea, I would not estimate their worth, Dear woman! half the price of thee!

Sneezing. When traveling in the south of Ireland, some years ago, I was not a little surprised to hear every one in a room shout "God bless you!" when any person sneezed, and the "God bless you" was repeated for every sneeze. I have since learned that this salutation has an origin going back to the sixth century, when the black plague fell upon Rome. Its victims showed the first symptoms by sneezing. When the African king of Menomopata sneezed all those near his person sent up a great shout, all within hearing take it up, so that the sneeze may be said to go echoing through the kingdom. One would think the subjects would soon get hoarse if their sovereign chanced to have an old-fashioned New England hay fever. When the king of Senaar sneezes his courtiers turn their backs on him and give a loud slap on their right thigh. There is a great deal of character in the manner of sneezing, and though even George Washington could not be dignified when he felt a sneeze coming on, and was in doubts whether it would come to a head or not, it must be confessed that a good sneeze is more pleasurable than otherwise.

How He Cornered Him. A gentleman was riding on the outside of a coach in the west of England, when the driver said to him: "I've had a coin giv' to me today 200 years old." "Did you ever see a coin 200 years old?" "Oh, yes; I have one myself 2,000 years old." "Ah!" said the driver, "have ye?" and spoke no more during the rest of the journey. When the coach arrived at its destination the driver turned to the other with an intensely self-satisfied air, and said: "I told you as we druv' along that I had a coin 200 years old." "Yes." "And you said to me as you had one 2,000 years old." "Yes, so I have." "That's not true." "What do you mean by that?" "What do I mean? Why, it's only 1897 now!"—Tit Bits.

Miss Pepina, Equestrienne. Novel readers may remember that in one of Charles Lever's rollicking stories the hero, a dashing Irish dragoon, is made to leap his horse over a small cart in a Portuguese street. At a circus in Berlin recently Miss Pepina, a young Italian girl, performed the astonishing feat of jumping her favorite



mare across an open victoria in which four men were seated. This young woman was born in Trieste, Austria, of wealthy parents, and from childhood showed great liking for horseback exercise. In her early teens she could ride much better than any woman in town, even the men finding difficulty in keeping up with her. After much urging, her parents finally allowed her to appear in the Circus Vidoll at Trieste, where her daring performance soon made her such a name that today she commands a higher salary than any other professional equestrienne in Europe. Her chief feat, previous to the one described above, was to jump her mare over four fair-sized ponies standing side by side.

Early Training. The father of Prince Bismarck rebuked him, when he was a boy for speaking of the emperor as "Fritz." "Learn to speak reverently of his majesty," said the wise old German, "and you will grow accustomed to think of him with veneration." The remark made a deep impression, and bore fruit in after years. The universe is full of indices; every spot lifts a finger-post pointing to an origin.—J. C. Campbell.

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Great Help to Men. Not many women living on Mississippi valley farms are accustomed to the rigorous economy and hard work done by their country sisters in New England. The latter not only do their own work, but they are able and willing to milk the cows and assist with the hay getting, and in other ways lend a hand out of doors in emergencies. Some of them even eke out the family income by little ventures of their own, such as raising hens and bees and gathering and marketing spruce gum, beechnuts and blueberries. There is no servant girl problem, because there are no servants. When sickness or some other real disability necessitates female help in the household a neighbor's daughter is called in. She is, of course, regarded

and in every minutest particular treated as a member of the family; it could not be otherwise. The children are trained to bear their share of the family burden, so far as it can be done without interfering with their schooling, and the very school terms are arranged with a view to conflicting as little as possible with farm work. When the children grow up many of them go out into the world to seek their fortunes (that within reasonable limits is a law of nature), but there is nothing like an exodus of the rising generations, no approach to a depletion. Plenty of ambitious, vigorous young men stay behind to arrange themselves in life as their fathers did before them, chopping in the woods winters and tilling the few acres they have been able to purchase with their wintery savings summers. Furthermore, there are plenty of desirable young women happy and proud to cast their lots in with the young men and do their share of the drudgery necessary to establishing a home. Thus new farms are cleared out of the woodland and the old farms are kept up.

English Women Dress Badly. A writer in an English periodical confesses to feel humiliation because of the fact that in England there are only a very few women who dress really well. The gowns of the average English woman, at the present time, are far too often marred by over-gorgeousness. She allows her dressmaker to load her bodices with imitation jewels, laces, furs and ribbons. She will even be persuaded to carry about on her head and shoulders several years' income, in the shape of diamonds, but she misses altogether that chic elegance and crisp freshness that exact rightness of taste, which seem inseparable from the toilet of the French woman, even though she may be merely a Paris working girl, whose pretty head can boast no covering but that of her own daintily dressed hair. In fact, Daudet was right when, after staying for some little time in London, he gave it as his opinion that "there was a sense of color and shade, of harmony



A Dainty Costume.

Entirely plain skirts are seldom seen and ornamentation from waist to hem is as often employed as is the circular style of trimming. The perpendicular naturally adds to the height and a princess effect is given by trimming extending down the front from waist to hem, which seems continued by similar trimming to the throat on the bodice, a folded sash making the only break at the waist line. In tailor finish dresses, too, the skirt trimming may run up and down, but now that tailor gowns are freely trimmed, the



bands of trimmings are usually well curved or cupped in their up and down course. In the accompanying picture this method is illustrated, and here there is a repetition of the skirt trimming design upon the bodice, though without the previously mentioned princess effect. Light brown cloth was used in this gown, Havana brown woolen braid trimming it. The fronts of its jacket were double, the upper ones having slashed revers edged with braid and the under showing a row of buttons on each side and opening over a blouse of white China silk, with linen stock collar and plaid tie. Triple epaulettes edged with braid finished the sleeves. A coming form of dress trimming is the old-time gimp and fringe, which are reappearing. Everyone seems to expect the return of silk fringe, and doubtless we shall soon stop thinking of sofas and chairs when we plan to fringe our own curves. It is permissible to wear white collar and cuffs with a plaid gingham shirt but you may not wear a white collar and a plaid gingham shirt with cuffs to match the shirt. Seven times seven you must not wear one kind of shirt, another kind of collar, and a third kind of cuffs! The soft four-in-hand stock is being made up in all sorts of gingham, chevrons and muslins, and is at once comfortable and dressy, but it is not exact, and so the tailor-made girl will have none of it. But, then, she does not expect to be comfortable.

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Ruffles for Summer Wear. Nothing is prettier than five tiny laced-edged ruffles, with lace also on the heading of the last one. Bands of inserting, either plain or edged top and bottom, can be used in clusters or in apron fashion, just as braid is used on heavy goods. Always set inserting in, don't put it on. Three graduated ruffles to the waist in the back and shaped enough only to reach a little above the knees in front look very smart for soft material, but take quite a good deal of material. The girl with a shirt waist who was prepared for nature's spring opening soon appears to special advantage, but soon every girl will be wearing wash gowns, and as the skirt garniture for these helps to give style to the gown a few hints of what will be worn may prove useful. Another very swagger skirt, designed by a leading modiste, was of blue and white dimity, shaped to the hips with clusters of tucks in four places across the front, which were covered with strips of inserting twelve inches long. The fullness was allowed to fall straight from these. Ruffles are things easiest to launder, and for this reason they will be the most popular for wash gowns. A novel idea, new this spring, is to have one ruffle around the bottom nine inches wide, with three above three inches wide. When the ruffles are narrow they are absolutely tiny. Odd numbers in clusters are always prettier than even; for instance, three or five look better than two or four. Three or five narrow strips gathered in the center and lace-edged top and bottom, put on at even distances from the hem to half way between the knee and the waist, is pretty.

Following in the craze for tucks this summer these may be used with good results on your skirts of thin fabrics. Why not have a cluster of three two-inch-wide ones around the bottom, again at the knee and just below the hips? Trim the bodice to carry out the same fullness and the style in the gown will please you.

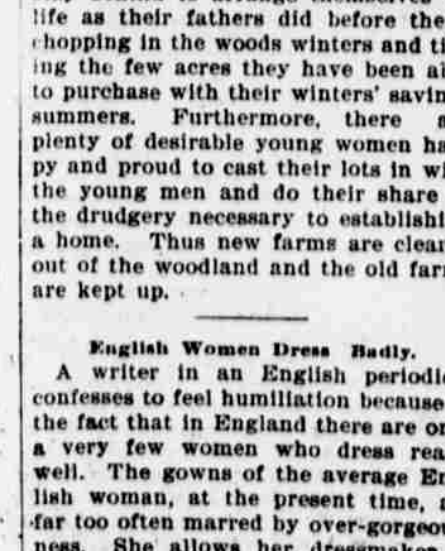
Vacation Costumes. Among the sensible vacation rigs for children are little dresses of stout serge or flannel, made with waist and skirt all one, a narrow guimp at the neck, and a little jacket that can go on in the early morning and as the sun goes down. This sort of rig is shown for tots of 3 and for misses of 16. Some mothers carry their notions of sensible dressing much further, and there are this very minute in back country places and unfrequented resorts where fashionable yet devoted mothers take their children many little maids kicking their enfranchised heels in knickerbockers, while their sturdy little chests expand in sweaters. They look as cute as can be, and are a lot more comfortable than their little fashionable resort sisters in muslins and silks. A summer in that style of costume, reason these mamma's, will make a little weakling a sturdy child, and it certainly doesn't work in the opposite way. Naturally, more mothers are as reluctant to start their little maids in advance dress reform as they would be to take it up themselves, and so such costumes for little girls as those shown here are in high favor. The model at the left hand was of a light-weight, dark red stuff. Its skirt had three wide tucks around the bottom, topped by a looped black soutache trimming. The blouse waist had a square yoke and was bordered with a bias fold of the same shade of silk, one end running down the left side and bearing a row of gilt buttons. The stock collar was silk, finished by a narrow mousseline frill, the sleeve puffs were also tucked and soutached and the belt was scarlet grosgrain tied in a long sash in back. The other dress was for a bit older child than was its companion in the picture. It consisted of a plain skirt of porcelain blue woolen goods, and a simple blouse waist of the same shade of taffeta, finished with collar and belt of the same silk. Over the blouse came a very pretty jacket of biscuit-colored cloth, its fronts turned back in wide plaits decorated with small brown buttons. Its collar was

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Deep Boring. The deepest hole yet bored in the earth runs 6,571 feet below the surface of the soil. This is at Rybrick, in upper Silesia. An interesting feature was the record of temperature taken. At the surface it was 53.6 degrees. At 6,571 it reached 157 degrees Fahr. The new black cloth jackets are trimmed with white lace applique.

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Chicken Cholera. This is an exceedingly fatal contagious disease, which is widely distributed over this country, and causes enormous annual losses, especially in the central and southern sections. The first symptoms of the disease is, in the majority of cases, a yellow coloration of that part of the excrement which is usually white, quickly followed by violent diarrhoea and rise of temperature. Other common accompanying symptoms are drooping of the wings, stupor, lessened appetite, and excessive thirst. Since the disease is due to a specific germ, it can only be introduced into a flock by direct importation of this germ, generally by fowls from infected premises. As soon as the symptoms of the disease are observed the fowls should be separated as much as possible and given restricted quarters, where they may be observed and where disinfectants can be freely used. As soon as the peculiar diarrhoea is noticed with any of the fowls, the birds of that lot should be changed to fresh ground and the sick ones killed. The infected excrement should be carefully scraped up and burned, and the enclosure in which it has been thoroughly disinfected with a one-half per cent solution of sulphuric acid or a one per cent solution of carbolic acid, which may be applied with an ordinary watering pot. Dead birds should be burned or deeply buried at a distance from the grounds frequented by the fowls. The germs of the disease are taken into the system only by the mouth, and for this reason the watering troughs and feeding places must be kept thoroughly free from them, by frequent disinfection with one of the solutions mentioned. Treatment of sick birds is not to be recommended under any circumstances. The malady runs its course, as a rule, in one, two or three days, and it can only be checked with great difficulty. —Ex.

Fowls for Eggs. One of the difficult things to learn in poultry culture is, that it is not the number, but the kind of individual hens or pullets which are kept that makes the difference in the balance to their credit at the end of the year, says a writer in Poultry Herald. Probably there are a great many who keep chickens that do not realize the vast difference in the individual hens in a flock. We can assure them if they will but take the pains to watch their fowls in this respect they will find some of the hens laying more than double the number of eggs some of the others are, and besides there being a marked difference in the size of the eggs. A very grave mistake among a great many is that of keeping all the old hens over for laying stock, and housing them and the laying stock together. The result generally is few if any eggs, as the old hens naturally predominate over the pullets and obtain the majority of the feed thus becoming fat internally, which will hinder if not entirely stop them laying; while pullets, which need the most food to develop them and bring them up to egg production, have to do with the little they can get after the hens have been satisfied, and consequently few pullets in the flock will begin laying until well along towards spring. By selecting the choicest of hens for breeders for the following season and giving them a pen by themselves, disposing of all the others and depending alone on the early pullets for the winter eggs, the result would be quite different.

Texas Fever Tests. A recent communication from Columbia, Mo., says: The executive committee of the Missouri board of agriculture has made arrangements for extensive experiments with Texas fever. In cooperation with the experiment station, the work of last season will be duplicated. Texas cattle, freed of ticks by the use of a dip, will be placed in pastures with natives to prove the efficacy of this mode of disinfecting. Pastures that were infected last season have been burned over, and native cattle will be placed upon them to ascertain if the burning has effectually destroyed the ticks. Dr. J. W. Connoway will make further tests with serum intended to immunize native cattle. Cattle immunized last season will be tested again this year, to ascertain the length of time the serum will prove effective. Ticks hatched on immunized cows have been kept over the winter, and their progeny will be placed on natives to ascertain their ability to convey the infection.

Overproduction of Hogs.—We heard a prominent Indiana breeder say not long ago that hog cholera last season was a blessing in disguise. "If all those hogs had lived, and the usual proportion of them bred," said he, "you could walk from one end of the country to the other on the backs of hogs next fall." He lost several thousand dollars through the disease, but he believes his loss from depreciated values would have been about the same had there been no disease in the country. While the hog rightly managed may be made one of the farmers' most certain sources of profit, there is no other stock that will increase so fast, and with which he is so likely to become over-supplied. There is reason in all things—even in the rearing of swine.—Am. Swine Breeder.

Inspect the Greenhouse.—If you have a greenhouse, see that it is kept clean, if you neglect to go over it frequently and thoroughly, insects will gather in cracks and crevices, and breed there, and in a short time they will become so firmly entrenched that you find it impossible to get rid of them. Act on the defensive by not allowing them to gain a foothold. It is a good plan to scald the benches and shelves, and afterward give them a wash of water containing carbolic acid.—Ex.

The Bermudas export over 17,000,000 pounds of onions annually.