

# EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

## NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

**Truest Sermons to Be Learned from the Pages of Nature's Book—Duty of the Teacher—If not for Mothers to Read.**

**Teaching from Nature.**  
From the pages of Nature's book are the truest lessons to be learned. It is a text-book all must study. To the young it is the most interesting of all books, and from it may be learned what the printed page in the school-room can never adequately furnish. Too many teachers refuse to avail themselves of the means which Nature abundantly offers. In particular do teachers of the lower grades fail to have their pupils study lessons out-of-doors. Distrusting their powers to interest their pupils in what they see daily, or shirking the labor which is entailed on them by taking their class to the hill-side or river, or totally unappreciative of the value of such aids in their teaching of geography teachers restrict their labors to the four walls of the school-room and to the manual which is supplied them by the school authorities.

Agassiz, the great teacher and naturalist, had his experience with this sort of teaching, and he gives a record of it which every teacher would do well to consider. He says: "In geography let us not at first resort to books, but let us take a class to the fields, point out the hills, valleys, rivers and lakes, and let the pupils learn out-of-doors the points of the compass; and then, having shown them these things, let them compare the representations with the realities, and the maps will have a meaning to them. Then you can go on with the books, and they understand what these things mean, and what is north, east, south and west, and will not merely read the letters N., E., S., W., on a square piece of paper, and perhaps think that the United States are about as large as the paper they learn from. When I was in the college at Neufchatel, I desired to introduce such a method of teaching geography. I was told it could not be done, and my request to be allowed to instruct the youngest children in the institution was refused. I resorted to other means, and my own children—my oldest, a boy of 6 years, and my girls, 4½ and 2½ years old—and invited the children of my neighbors. Some came upon the arms of their mothers; others could already walk without assistance. These children, the oldest only 6 years old, I took upon a hill above the Neufchatel, and there showed them the magnificent peaks of the Alps, and told them the names of those mountains and of the lakes opposite. I then showed them the same things on a raised map, and they immediately recognized the localities, and were soon able to do the same on an ordinary map. From that day geography was no longer a dry study, but a desirable part of education."—Goldswaithe's Geographical Magazine.

**The Successful Teacher.**  
Her manner is bright and animated, so that the children cannot fail to catch something of her enthusiasm.

Her lessons are well planned. Each new step, resting upon a known truth, is carefully presented.

Everything is in readiness for the day's work, and she carries out her plans easily and naturally.

Old subjects are introduced in ever-varying dresses, and manner and matter of talks are changed before the children lose interest in them.

She talks only of what is within the children's experience. Her language is suited to her class—being simple in the extreme if she is dealing with young children.

When she addresses the whole class she stands where all can see and hear her.

She asks for only one thing at a time with slow emphasis, in a low, distinct voice.

She controls her children perfectly without effort. Her manner demands respectful obedience. She is serene.

She is firm and decided, as well as gentle, patient and just.

She is a student—is not satisfied with her present attainment.

She is herself an example for the children to follow, holding herself well, thinking connectedly, and being always genuinely sincere.

She is a lover of little children, striving to understand child nature.

True teaching is to her a consecration. She has entered into "the holy of holies where singleness of purpose, high ideals and self-consecration unite in one strong determining influence that surrounds her like an atmosphere."—School Education.

**To Beautify School Grounds.**  
The famous receipt, "How to cook a hare," began with the sage counsel, "First catch the hare." Many schools cannot beautify their grounds because they are none to stand directly upon the street with only narrow alley-ways on either side, and barely room in the rear for the ill-constructed, malodorous, unhealthful closets, at once a menace and a disgrace to the communities tolerating them. An unwise and niggardly economy has prevailed in many cities and villages which has cut down to the lowest dollar expenditure for school buildings and grounds, and lavished large sums on the erection of court-houses and jails.

In many prosperous cities and villages and other rural communities school buildings stand in the midst of a plot of ground without trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, or even green grass. Upon these buildings the storms beat in the winter and the sun in summer, with no protection whatever from cold or heat. These buildings are frequent-

ly without blinds or curtains to exclude the glare of sunshine, and are as bare and unattractive as it is possible to conceive buildings to be. Pupils reach them by muddy paths or by no paths at all, through grounds that have never received one hour's care since the buildings were erected.—Educational News.

**The Teacher Has a Duty.**  
The English newspapers report an extraordinary case of suicide by a school boy, Cuthbert Evans, a lad of 16, a pupil at Haileybury public school, waited at a railway crossing for a train to appear, then laid his head on the rail and was cut to pieces. Near the spot where he died was found a letter explaining his reasons for an act so unnatural to youth. The letter was addressed to the head master of the school. "Last term," the unfortunate boy wrote, "they (certain of his schoolmates) conceived the vilest dislike to me for nothing at all except my opinions about Crete. From then on my life was miserable. . . . I don't accuse them of personal violence, but of a regularly organized attempt, and a successful one, to make miserable my life by cowardly and insidious means and to make me an object of scorn to all." Thus the lad, a wretched, weak-nerved creature, was bullied and harassed until he looked upon death in its most fearful form as a welcome relief from his daily annoyance. Very characteristic was the testimony of the head master. He had not known that Evans was persecuted; after receiving the letter he made inquiries and found that it was "a simple case of teasing." No doubt it was nothing worse. But is there any form of torture more destructive of mind and morals than the "nagging" practiced by schoolboys on weak lads? This boy was driven to suicide by persecution which he could not complain of for fear of much sharper retribution and which, from its vague nature, would not be understood by the head master unless he were a man of fine feeling. It is unfortunate that school teachers should be too often blind to the nervous self-consciousness and timidity of children. How many young lives are embittered by the petty persecution of a schoolroom, when by the use of tact and sympathy on the part of the teacher they could be made bright and happy. The man or woman who has charge of children in their most impressionable years is under a great responsibility and a responsibility that is not satisfied by mere attention to obvious wants in the school room.

**For Mothers to Read.**  
Mothers are cautioned by a physician who has had much experience with children's hospitals not to permit the children who carry a load of school-books back and forth from home and school each day to carry the load always in the same hand or over the same shoulder, as many instances have been known where the habit lengthened the arm or enlarged the hand disproportionately, or caused the child to carry one shoulder higher than the other. If the books are carried first in the right and then in the left hand every second day, or the bag of books suspended from the shoulder changed about as frequently, the danger will be met and overcome, besides which the weaker hand will be strengthened.

**Botany for Country Schools.**  
Some exercise in botany should form part of the child's education if this is fortunate enough to be in the country. Boys and girls should be early taught the habits of close observation of natural objects. They should be especially drilled in noting the different varieties of weeds in their neighborhood, and also any kinds that have proven injurious in other localities. The coming of a new weed in any locality is apt to be very unobtrusive. A little prompt effort in destroying it may save untold labor later. Not a few of the worst kind of weeds have been introduced through flower gardens where the plant was sown for its beautiful foliage and flowers.—American Cultivator.

**Cooking According to Science.**  
Give me a spoon of oleo, ma,  
And the sodium alkali,  
For I'm going to bake a pie, mamma,  
I'm going to bake a pie.  
For Joan will be hungry and tired, ma,  
And his tissues will decompose;  
So give me a gramme of phosphate  
And the carbon and cellulose.  
Now give me a chunk of caseine, ma,  
To shorten the thermic fat;  
And hand me the oxygen bottle, ma,  
And look at the thermostat;  
And if the electric oven's cold  
Just turn it on half an ohm,  
For I want to have supper ready  
As soon as John comes home.  
Now pass me the neutral dope, mamma,  
And rotate the mixing machine,  
But give me the sterilized water first,  
And the oleomargarine;  
And the phosphate, too, for now I think  
The new typewriter's quit,  
And John will need more phosphate food  
To help his brain a bit.  
Another Victim.—Romantic Lover (to himself).—"She has refused me. She shall suffer! I will darken her life at the cost of my own. Ah, ha, proud beauty! You shall drag through the coming years knowing that a suicide's blood is upon your head." (Shoots himself. Curtain.) The Proud Beauty (reading from the paper the next day).—"Mr. A. S. S. Softhead, a boarder at Mrs. Slimdick's boarding-house, No. 33333 Avenue X, committed suicide last evening in his room. He had appeared ill for several days. Thus one more case is added to the long list of sad suicides from la grippe."—New York Weekly.

Shakespeare wore rings in his ears and fashionable gentlemen of the time fairly glittered with expensive jewelry

# FAIR SOUTH WOMEN.

## TALENTED OFFICERS OF THE NASHVILLE EXPOSITION.

The Women's Department, of Which These Ladies Are the Head, Is One of the Most Admired Features of the Big Show.

**Are Leaders All.**  
One of the most admired features of the Tennessee centennial exposition is the woman's department. In a picturesque building, which is an exact reproduction of Andrew Jackson's celebrated Hermitage, elegantly furnished and decorated, they have an exhibit



THE WOMAN'S FOUNTAIN.

it, wherein is shown progress of woman's work, along artistic and educational lines, not only in Tennessee but in all parts of the world. The exhibit has been collected by systematic and organized effort on the part of Tennessee women, to which work none have

contributed more than Mrs. Van Leer Kirkman, president of the Woman's Department; Miss Ada Scott Rice, Secretary; Mrs. Robert F. Weakley, Treasurer; and Mrs. Charles W. Grosvenor, Vice President for Western Tennessee.

These women are not only foremost among exposition workers, but are also leaders in the social, literary and club life of the South.

Mrs. Van Leer Kirkman comes from an old and honored Tennessee family. Her grandfather, Hon. Jacob Thompson, was a member of President Buchanan's Cabinet. The first four years of her life were spent in Cuba, and thereafter, until her marriage, she lived at Memphis. In that city she received her early education under the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary, pursuing later a course of study at Fairmont College. At the age of 16 she was sent abroad for the completion of her education. Two years spent at school in Paris were supplemented by a year of

travel through the principal countries of Europe. Shortly after her return to Memphis she made her debut in society, and from that time was an acknowledged belle throughout the South. At White Sulphur Springs, Old Point Comfort, and the charming resorts of the Carolinas, her unusual beauty and her graceful and winning manners won for her admiration on all sides. In 1886 she was married to Van Leer Kirkman, of Nashville, which city has since been her home. Her husband is one of the State's leading citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkman have three sons, Van Leer Jr., Macon and Anthony Wayne. Their home—Oak Park—sit-

uated five miles from Nashville, is one of the most complete and beautiful country seats in the South, and here a generous hospitality has ever been dispensed.

Miss Ada Scott Rice is one of the women who make an instantaneous good impression on those who meet them, and the impression always lasts. She is a graduate of Ward's Seminary, the Vassar of the South, and her well-trained mind makes her a valuable officer. She has written numerous sprightly articles for the daily and weekly papers, in addition to performing her arduous duties as secretary. She lives at Nashville.

Mrs. Robert Forde Weakley is prominent in social circles and is ever engaged at the same time in works of charity, being one of the most indefatigable laborers in any cause which appeals to humanity. She was Miss Margaret Johnson, of Memphis, and married Robert F. Weakley, a leading business man. She now lives at Nashville.

Mrs. Charles N. Grosvenor, the vice president for West Tennessee, is a Memphis lady, a daughter of Napoleon Hill, of that city. She graduated with honors from Higbee School of Memphis, and later spent some time in Mrs. Reed's school in New York, pursuing special lines of culture. She has fine literary tastes, is a social leader, and is closely connected with the club life of her native city. She is president of the Woman's Council of Memphis, the largest organization of women in the South, and occupies responsible positions in several other clubs and associations. Mrs. Grosvenor is petite in figure, has a piquant face, dark hair, and large expressive eyes of gray. Her manner is characterized by vivacity and grace.

**Dr. Webb's Locomotive Searchlight.**  
Persons who happened to be in the Union Station yard last night about 10:30 were struck with the unusual brilliancy of the place. The reason for

which hoist the coal from the interior of the mine by an old-fashioned gin, Anne, who is a pretty good mechanic, runs the pump that keeps the mine from filling up with water and feeds the boiler and engine that operates the machinery. Lizzie is the slate picker boss and is assisted by her three younger sisters and little brothers in clearing the coal of slate as it passes down the chutes into the storage pockets.

These energetic young women are fine specimens of womanhood and are stronger than the average man. They are almost six feet in height, and well proportioned, erect and weigh on an average of 200 pounds. They do not confine their muscles and lungs in corset and lace them into eighteen-inch waists, with the assistance of the bed-post, previous to going to work, and they are satisfied with the fine physical perfections with which nature has endowed them and are content to let nature have her sway which keeps them in perfect health and strength. They have never known a day's illness in their lives and a visit from a doctor is an unknown experience.

Their clothes are not of the approved new woman order, but are of serviceable material, the skirts falling over the ankles. They wear stout buckles on their feet and take time about helping their mother with the work on the farm and in the house. They are expert farmers and housekeepers. Mrs. Maus runs the farm and her husband claims it is a better paying investment than the coal mine. The girls work hard six days in the week and seem happy and contented with their lot.

**The Kind.**  
Fuddy—Between you and me, I believe my wife thinks more of the butcher than she does of me.  
Duddy—You don't mean it!  
Fuddy—I do; but I am not jealous.  
Duddy—Not jealous?  
Fuddy—You wouldn't be surprised if you knew what kind of thoughts she thinks of him.—Boston Transcript.

**Only a Little Premature.**  
"I can't hear a suit that isn't pending," said a judge to a young lawyer who was seeking advice.  
"I know it isn't pending," replied the young man, in some confusion, "but it is about to be."—The Green Bag.

**The Revised Version.**  
The fin de siècle lover puts it thus: "I love the very ground Miss Bloomer bikes over."—Trifles.

When you have a country woman to dinner, notice how shy she is of the butcher you serve.

# COAL MINE RUN BY WOMEN.

## Athletic Sisters Who Can Farm and Do Household as Well as Dig Coal.

A coal mine run by women is an innovation in America. In sections of Germany, England and Wales it is a common thing for women to work in and about coal mines, although of late years this custom has been almost abolished in Wales.

In the Mahoney Valley, several miles southwest of Shamokin, Pa., lives Joseph Maus, a native of Germany, who is owner and operator of a coal mine. His four grown daughters and three younger girls help him in operating the colliery. Their father considers them



MARIE MAUS.

the best slate pickers and workers in the anthracite region. He finds them dutiful, cheerful workers, and he never has any fears of their going on strikes for higher wages or from any imaginary grievances.

Mr. Maus superintends the mine and works at cutting out the coal. The oldest daughter, Katie, 22 years of age, performs the duties usually assigned to an outside foreman. She supervises the running of the breaker in a very satisfactory manner, and attends to selling the coal to the hundreds of farmers who live in the valley. Mary, 21 years old, has charge of the mules

**Daintily Cooked Cucumbers.**  
Large, full-grown cucumbers cooked daintily, may be digested with ease by the most delicate stomach. Cut them into halves, then into quarters, then into eighths; put them in a baking-pan, cover with boiling water; add a teaspoonful of salt, and simmer gently for twenty minutes. Lift them carefully with a strainer, arrange neatly on slices of toasted bread, and pour over them a sauce made as for asparagus, using for the sauce the water in which the cucumbers were boiled.—Ladies' Home Journal.

**Veal Croquette.**  
Cold veal at once suggests the most delightful number of made-over dishes. Veal croquettes are always excellent if properly prepared. A simple mince of veal, warmed up in brown gravy, seasoned highly with salt and pepper, and served on toast, is always acceptable at breakfast. It is appropriately varied by mingling six mushrooms to a pint of minced veal, and adding them to the brown gravy before adding the veal. The moment the minced veal is heated through it is ready to serve.

**Whole-Wheat Bread.**  
To make bread from whole-wheat flour scald half a pint of new milk, add to it half a pint of water, one teaspoonful of butter; let cool, add one-half of a cake of compressed yeast dissolved in warm water, and whole-wheat flour sufficient to make a thin batter; let stand in a warm place until light, add flour to make a soft dough, knead again, make into loaves, put into a greased pan, keep warm for half an hour, and bake in a moderate oven for one hour.

**Foamy Sauce.**  
Cream half a cup of butter; add one cup of powdered sugar, one teaspoonful of vanilla, and two tablespoonfuls of any kind of fruit syrup. Just before serving stir in one-quarter of a cup of boiling water; stir well, then beat in the white of one egg previously beaten to a froth, and continue the beating till the sauce is foamy.

**Cookery Hints.**  
Make snowflake with arrowroot flour; the flavor is delicious.  
Eggs will cook much more evenly if the frying-pan is covered.  
Put sugar in the water used for basting meats of all kinds; it gives a good flavor, to veal more especially.  
Add a cup of good cider vinegar to the water in which you boil fish, especially salt water fish.  
When making tomato soup add a raw cucumber sliced fine, boil soft, and strain with tomato. It gives a very fine seasoning.  
When boiling ham put in a cup of black pepper, one onion, a few cloves and peppercorns, adding a bunch of hay; it seasons finely.  
How Dishes Got Their Names.  
The sandwich is called for the Earl of Sandwich.  
Mulligatawny is from an East India word meaning pepper water.  
Waffle is from wafel, a word of Teutonic origin, meaning honeycomb.  
Hominny is from ahuminea, the North American Indian word for parched corn.  
Gooseberry fool is a corruption of goosberry foule, milled or pressed goosberries.  
Force-meat is a corruption of farce-meat, from the French farce, stuffing, i. e., meat for stuffing.  
Blanc-mange means literally white food, hence chocolate blanc-mange is something of a misnomer.  
Succotash is a dish borrowed from the Narragansett Indians and called by them in-sick-quash.  
Charlotte is a corruption of the old English word charlyt, which means a dish of custard, and chocolate russe is Russian charlotte.  
Gumbo is simply okra soup, gumbo being the name by which okra is often known in the South. Chicken gumbo is soup of okra and chicken.



EIGHT WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN MAKING THE TENNESSEE EXPOSITION A SUCCESS.

contributed more than Mrs. Van Leer Kirkman, president of the Woman's Department; Miss Ada Scott Rice, Secretary; Mrs. Robert F. Weakley, Treasurer; and Mrs. Charles W. Grosvenor, Vice President for Western Tennessee.

These women are not only foremost among exposition workers, but are also leaders in the social, literary and club life of the South.

Mrs. Van Leer Kirkman comes from an old and honored Tennessee family. Her grandfather, Hon. Jacob Thompson, was a member of President Buchanan's Cabinet. The first four years of her life were spent in Cuba, and thereafter, until her marriage, she lived at Memphis. In that city she received her early education under the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary, pursuing later a course of study at Fairmont College. At the age of 16 she was sent abroad for the completion of her education. Two years spent at school in Paris were supplemented by a year of



THE WOMAN'S STATUE.

travel through the principal countries of Europe. Shortly after her return to Memphis she made her debut in society, and from that time was an acknowledged belle throughout the South. At White Sulphur Springs, Old Point Comfort, and the charming resorts of the Carolinas, her unusual beauty and her graceful and winning manners won for her admiration on all sides. In 1886 she was married to Van Leer Kirkman, of Nashville, which city has since been her home. Her husband is one of the State's leading citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkman have three sons, Van Leer Jr., Macon and Anthony Wayne. Their home—Oak Park—sit-

## A MONUMENT OF LOVE.

**Story of the Building of the Famous Moorish Palace of the Alhambra.**  
The Alhambra of Spain has attained a fame equalled by no other palace on earth. This marvelous creation of Moorish fancy is situated in what was in its time one of the strongest and largest fortresses in the world. Capable of containing an army of 40,000 men, it was at once the admiration of the Moors and the dread of the Spaniards. The Moors called it the Maiden Fortress, and had a superstition that when it fell the Moorish power in Spain would come to an end. The belief was justified by the event, for Kal-al-Hamrah, the Red Castle, was the last Moorish stronghold to surrender to the Spaniards, it being given up the year before the discovery of America, and the eight centuries of constant war between the Moors and the Spaniards were brought to a close. The dainty palace within the walls of the huge fortress was the work of Ibn el Ahmar, and was inspired by his love for his wife. Teleika was her name, some say Zeleika, and others give her various appellations, so she may have had more names than one, but no matter what was her name, she found life in the great fortress rather dull, and, to please her, Ibn el Ahmar built the elegant palace as a home for her and a refuge for himself from the cares of business and the fatigues of war. It proved too long and expensive an undertaking for his life and pocketbook, but his son and grandson each was bountifully supplied with wives, whom they were anxious to please, so it was continued by the one and finished by the other in 1314, over sixty years from the time when its foundations were laid.



To save Coal in the Kitchen.  
Mrs. S. T. Rorer, in writing of stoves and ranges in one of her departments in The Ladies' Home Journal, points out the way to economize in the use of coal in the cook stove or range: "From an economical standpoint a brick-set range should be avoided, as the bricks and mortar consume much heat that should serve for cooking purposes. A large firebox is also a point in the economy of coal. Where the box is small a greater amount of coal is consumed, as the quantity is too small to create heat for the whole range, unless kept red hot. In this country it is our fashion to attach to all stoves and ranges direct draughts to the pipe and flue. The average housewife, having no regular allowance of coal, does not notice the extravagance of such a draught, but in France, where economy is studied, such a construction would not be tolerated. With this little open coal is consumed rapidly without good results, the heat simply passing up and out of the pipe. Such a fire gives a red-hot top and a cold oven. An ordinary range or stove should not consume over half a ton of hard coal in a month; more than this cannot be used for cooking purposes. Every housewife should study the draughts and the particular construction of the range she uses, so that she may be able to direct the cook how best to get good results from the amount of coal burned. The direct damper should be closed, save when the ashes are being taken down and out."