IN HOME LIFE AND SOCIETY

Matters Talked of by Writers Professing Special Knowledge of Women's Fads.

One Tells How to Entertain Children, One Prescribes the Etiquette of Calls, and Others Lay Down Fashion's Law.

Those who have studied the philosophy of children's parties say that children find greater entertainment in games than in dancing. Dancing usually requires too much intervention of grown up people, while the more children appear to depend on themselves in carrying out the details of a party the more successful it is. A mother who has the happiness of her children at heart, when she gives her children a party, permits them to write their invitations and address the envelopes, which they do with the largest sense of importance, this proving to be the most successful of their lessons in penmanship. It is a mistake to make too great preparations for the entertainment of the children. Elaborate preparations anticipate enlarged expectations, and with small folks, as great, these are difficult to realize. It is equally a mistake to provide a friendly or a hired entertainer. Magic lantern slides are a pleasant relief after games, but children feel more quickly tired sitting still than when in motion, and even for a short time the magic lantern needs a lively spokesman, says the New York Sun. The prestidigitateur and Punch and Judy are most popularly in demand, but neither of these is as satisfying as that small importance which every child feels in helping to make the fun. A mother says that two young fellows who don't mind making themselves ridiculous are better than any ventriloquist or master of legerdemain.

The new game introduced is played with a feather. The party is arranged in several groups of seven or eight each, seated in a ring, and as close together as possible. For each group is a feather. This is tossed in the air in the center of the ring. It is the business of the players to keep the feather in the air by blowing every time it comes near. The effort is so ridiculous that the children laugh. When they laugh they cannot blow, and the feather is apt to settle in the lap of the merriest child. In this case she has to retire from the ring. It is, of course, her interest to make the other children laugh. As the rings decrease they are consolidated, and so the game continues until only one person is left, who, of course, is the winner. There are few games so unpretentious and few that can give as much fun to a lively lot of children.

Another new game is "Hunt the Whistle." But when this exhausts an area it cannot be played, as it requires a certain number who are ignorant of the game. Those who know it make a large ring. The others leave the room and are admitted one at a time. At a signal one enters. She is told to enter the ring, kneel down and confess to the mother confessor. She kneels and buries her face in the mother confessor's lap. She is then asked some question that bears on her likes, dislikes, her friendships, faults or some of her actions, as "Who ate the frosted cake?" This question gives time to fasten on to the back of her dress a whistle attached to a string. She has, of course, denied the charges. She is then asked to prove her innocence by discovering who blew the whistle. As she goes around the ring the children steal up behind her and blow the whistle. The sound is always behind her, and her frantic endeavors to trace the sound are funny enough. As soon as the trick is discovered a fresh victim is ushered into the ring.

Rules of Courtesy.

A writer in "The Whole Family" says that, in the matter of making calls, it is the correct thing:

To call within a week, and in person, after a dinner party to which one has been invited.

To call within a week after any entertainment to which one has been invited.

To inclose cards when inviting a new acquaintance upon whom one has never called, although it is better to call before sending out such an invitation.

To call, after an engagement has been announced, or a marriage has taken place, in the family of an acquaintance.

To call upon an acquaintance who has recently returned from an extended absence.

To ascertain what are the prescribed hours for calling in the place where one is living, or making a visit, and to adhere to those hours.

After a removal from one part of the city to another, to send out cards with one's new address upon them.

For the older residents in a city or street to call first upon the newcomers to their neighborhood.

To return a first call within a week, and in person.

To call promptly and in person after a first invitation.

To make the first call upon people in a higher social position if one is asked to do so, or if they are newcomers.

For the caller who arrives first to leave first.

For a gentleman to ask for the lady of the house as well as for the young ladies, and to leave cards for her as well as for the gentlemen of the family.

For the mother or chaperone to invite a gentleman to call.

For a gentleman to call upon a lady if she has invited him to do so, if he bring a letter of introduction, or if an intimate friend of the house introduce him.

A Literary Evening.

Ladies' Home Journal.

"Greenleaf's Arithmetic" was represented by a girl in a white gown trimmed with green leaves. All over her dress were scattered little sums, the multiplication table, examples in addition, division and fractions, in figures of moderate size, cut out of black silesia and tacked on. In her hand she carried a numerical frame as a fan. It was a very effective costume, and every one admitted that "Greenleaf's Arithmetic was more attractive than it had seemed in school that day.

"Little Women" was represented by several girls dressed to resemble Miss Alcott's little heroines, and "Little Men" was quite as cleverly done by several boys. "In Darkest Africa" was a fascinating little "Topsy," with a black cambric mask and a ridiculous wig. Around her neck and on her arms were strings of beads. "The Woman in White" was dressed in a white gown, with a long, white veil. "The Daisy Chain" was very pretty in white, with strings of field daisies all over her. "Lamb's Essays" was dressed to represent the typical nursery picture of "Mary who had a little lamb." In addition she wore a fleece thrown over her shoulders. She had also taken the machinery out of a toy lamb, and had fastened it in front of her dress, so that every time she touched it there issued forth the familiar "baa-baa." Of course she was accompanied by a little toy lamb. "She" was very much like "The Woman in White," only the white veil was much more voluminous, and muffled her face completely. Young's "Night Thoughts" was very funny. She wore a dainty night cap, carried a candlestick, and her white dress was covered with huge red calico mosquitoes.

She Will Give a Tea.

Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

An ingenious young woman in the East End, who is no less patriotic than she is ingenious, is going to give a presidential tea, or says she is going to give one which is much the same. There are to be twenty-three gentlemen and twenty-three ladies present. The former are to represent the Presidents of the United States, the latter the ladies of the White House. No one but the hostess and the person to whom the name has been assigned is to know the character each represents. The guests are to select costumes appropriate to the period, and endeavor to adapt their conversation to events transpiring while they were in office. They will be provided with a card on which to register the guesses as to the identity of each. The person guessing the highest number correctly will be presented with an appropriate prize. The idea will be carried out in the decorations of the table, which will be red, white and blue, and a souvenir card containing the names and characters of the guests will be given each guest.

Bits of Fashion.

Lace capes fashioned much like the winter models, with velvet or jetted yokes and collars, have made their appearance, like many other of the season's fashions, long before they are required.

A perfectly plain skirt of heavy silk, bengaline or velvet may be made up with a front of some contrasting material, or with the front of the same covered with embroidery or passementerie.

A revived Parisian fashion for skirts of lace and silk is to cover the gored silk skirt with three scantily gathered flounces of lace. The skirt may be either black or colored, changeable, figured, striped or plain.

New waists show the fronts cut away in the shape of the fashionable dress-vest. Inside of this is a front of shirred material, embroidery, passementerie, or the same goods finished with an edging of needlework.

For a young girl there is no prettier evening dress than dotted muslin, trimmed with knife-pleated ruffles of the same, edged with narrow lace. At Newport, last season, these simple toilets had a "succes fou," and this season they bid fair to be quite as popular.

The line of fashionable beauty in so far as skirts are concerned is an oblique one, sloping broadly out from half the length of the skirt down to its edge, where every sort of trimming—flounces, pleatings, bands, insertions, etc.—assists in giving it a still more flaring effect.

"Draperies are returning; not a word is breathed about the transformation, but it is surely being effected." Thus predicts a French authority on dress matters, who points to certain new theatrical toilets from leading Parisian artists as notable signs of the transformation.

"My maid has just altered the narrow skirt of one of my old costumes so cleverly," said a woman who has the reputation of dressing exceedingly well. "She has just doubled the width by goring it, umbrella fashion, and making every other gore of bengaline of the same shade. You have no idea how well it looks."

Shirt waists and blouses promise to be even more popular than ever during the coming season. The principal change in them for the new season is the use of a full frill, wide around the shoulders and graduated in width to the waist. This gives the effect of bretelles. Heavy cotton cheviots and linens will be more used for these shirts than lighter goods. The silk shirt waists seem to retain their place.

If the sleeves are not distended enough for present fashion a very full pleated ruffle of lace or silk may be set above the puff; this deep on the shoulders and tapering off under the arms. Many other devices are resorted to for changing sleeves that are not wide enough, such as bows of ribbon, inserted pleatings and puffs, triple strands of velvet put on perpendicularly, also Russian caps, epaulets and shoulder capes.

The most popular way to trim a skirt just now is with narrow bands of some contrasting material, placed at graduated distances from the hem to the knee, the bottom space being the broadest, and the upper one the least in width. Satin is very popular for these folds or bands, which may be from one to two inches in width. Black satin and black cloth make a favorite combination this season. The waist is made entirely out of black satin with huge gigot sleeves and the skirt of heavy, rough black cloth trimmed with black satin bands.

COLLEGE LIFE IN INDIANA.

Written for the Sunday Journal.

In my last paper I left my new student friend just as he had completed his first forenoon at the college. Now it becomes necessary for him to find lodgings and board, so in the afternoon we set out to find a suitable room and on our way we meet with many who are on the same errand. Backward boys and blushing maidens are going from house to house, seeking desirable rooms. After making application at several places without success, we finally find apartments which Will thinks will suit him and he orders his trunk sent around. He has already decided to board in a club, so now he has nothing to do till supper time but to sit in his room and meditate over the occurrences of the day. He thinks of the dozens and dozens of strange boys to whom he has been introduced, and he tries to recall their names and connect them with their faces, but he finds that they are hopelessly confused in his excited mind. However, he remembers one boy, a jolly, fat, round-faced fellow, who gave him a smile and a cheery "good morning!" that went straight to his heart. He resolves to get acquainted with the fat-faced boy as soon as possible.

Just as most persons taking their first sea voyage suffer from seasickness, so nearly all boys upon entering a college have a spell of homesickness, and as my young friend is just an average boy, he is no exception to the rule. Deep down in his heart he experiences a sinking sensation, and he suddenly becomes aware of an intense yearning for home and all its loved associations. The longer he thinks of home the stronger becomes his desire to return. He now realizes that he is homesick. How he had scorned the thought of such a thing when it was predicted by some of his friends. The thought of his former courage serves to renew his spirit, and he resolves to conquer his foolish feelings and be a man. The chimes of neighboring supper-bells remind him that it is time to repair to the boarding club; so, washing the lingering traces of his late grief from his face, he steps out on the street. As he pursues his way to the clubhouse he is joined by some of his newly-found acquaintances, and forgets, for a time, his longing for home.

I now have to introduce Will into an organization, the mere mention of which, to an old college student, will provoke a smile of recognition, and which calls forth a look of inquiry from those who have not had experience in this manner of boarding. For the benefit of those who do not understand how a boarding club is conducted, I will briefly explain its organization. In college towns there are always to be found persons, usually widows, who make a business of conducting boarding clubs. These persons charge each one in the club a certain fee per week—generally 45 or 50 cents—for their services as cooks and waiters. The members of the club form an organization with the following officers: president, steward and treasurer. The steward is the most important officer. It is his duty to purchase all provisions. Upon his judgment and executive ability depend the comfort and happiness of the clubmen. The treasurer is regarded with the same devoted affection that is paid to all taxgatherers. Once a week, without regard to the condition of your exchequer, this functionary calls upon you and peremptorily demands anywhere from $1.45 to $1.75 as your share of the week's expenses, and there is no dodging this bill; when you stop paying you stop eating. From this fund the cook and steward are paid and all the expenses are met. At the present high prices for meat and other provisions the actual cost of a meal's victuals in the Conrey Club is less than 6 cents. To be sure the bill of fare does not include many dainties, but there is no lack of substantial, nourishing edibles, such as no sensible student would turn up his nose at.

But to return to my new friend, of whom I have almost lost sight. As soon as he nears the clubhouse he hears loud talking and hearty laughter, which mean that the "old boys" are back and have come around early to have a good social time before supper. Will steps hesitatingly into the hall and hangs up his hat just as I come in. After congratulating him on his early arrival we pass into the waiting-room as I shall call it. Here everything is confusion. Tall boys, short boys, fat boys and thin boys; in fact, boys of almost every description, are posed about the room in attitudes more comfortable than graceful. While waiting for supper they pass the time in reviving last year's jokes and pleasant memories, and by relating their varied experiences during the recent vacation. There are a few boys, however, who sit around in the corners of the room and take no part in the general conversation. While they try to smile at the witticisms and appear to be pleased, yet it is plain that they are not enjoying themselves very extravagantly. These are the "new boys," whom you would scarcely recognize as such should you see them a week hence. As soon as I have introduced my friend to the club boys he takes his place with the newcomers, and the fun continues till the supper-bell rings. With mock courtesy the boys escort one another to the dining-room. The landlady now assigns to each member the place that he is expected to occupy for the rest of the term. Now there comes a scene that is truly impressive, one which is worthy of the skill of an artist. Over this throng of restless and seemingly thoughtless youth a deep silence falls, and all bow low their heads while the clear, strong voice of one of their number is raised in humble petition for God's blessing on the food which He has so mercifully provided, and in thanksgiving for His loving kindness. Involuntarily the boys' thoughts go back to similar scenes around the family board at home, and the first of the meal is eaten in comparative quiet. But soon the pleasant hum of voices mingles with the click of glasses—containing water—and the merry rattle of tableware. The material features of the meal receive all due attention, and although a great freedom is displayed in the table etiquette of these young Americans, yet a true gentlemanly spirit and regard for the feelings and wants of others mark the bearing of each one. The work goes on with great rapidity, and in about fifteen minutes the average student has satisfied the demands of his interior department and is ready to withdraw to the waiting-room. Here, perhaps, a half hour is spent in conversation and singing. Not infrequently the landlady shows her appreciation of the impromptu concert by ordering the entire crowd out of the house. Such orders are at once obeyed, for the boys have learned that beneath a somewhat brusque manner the landlady conceals an honest and sympathetic heart. If she scolds one of the boys for what she considers some of his short-comings, so she will prepare for him the softest toast and most tempting delicacies should he perchance fall ill. On the whole, the boys believe it pays to stand in with the cook.

As my friend Will was not seated at my table, I could not observe him, but he informed me that he got through all right. He is quite enthusastic over boarding-club life, and wonders why it is not adopted by others except students. He says that in a manufacturing town near his home there are dozens of young men and women who pay from $3 to $5 per week for board that is no better than that for which we pay $1.75. I remind him of the fact, however, that his room-rent, light and fuel cost him an additional 75 cents. But he insists that the privilege of selecting your own bill of fare, and the freedom of regulating your table expenses at your own sweet will, combined with the spirit of fellowship and mutual interests engendered by this communistic mode of life, is worth, at least, a dollar, besides the dollar or so saved in the operation. As I had long since come to the same conclusion, I did not argue the question with him, but, glad that Will was beginning to take an interest in his surroundings, I left him in his room, to prepare his lessons for the morrow, write the promise letter to the folks at home, and, worn out with the excitement of the day, to seek, in sleep, fresh store of strength to cope with to-morrow's adventures.

HOOSIER STUDENT.

GETTING READY FOR SPRING

Racing Circuits Are Arranging Programmes and Announcing Purses.

Lackey's Horse Sale at State Fair Grounds in April—Jay Voss Has a Promising Stallion—Rumor of Combination of Associations.

Jay Voss, of Indianapolis, has furnished his stock farm, at Noblesville, with a young stallion that in breeding is fit to stand at the head of any breeding establishment in the world. This is Estate, by Electioneer, dam May Day (dam of Lord Byron, four-year-old-record, 2:18) by Wissahickon, son of William Welch, son of Hambletonian 10; grand dam, Nora Marshall (dam of Alfred S., 2:16¼, and world's record to wagon, 2:16¾, and grand dam of Lord Byron, 2:18) by Union, son of Morrill; third dam by American Star 14. We have not seen this young horse, but with such breeding, and the fact that his owner is more partial to individuality than pedigree, it's a good bet that he is a credit to the great family of which he is a member.—Randall's Horse Register.

* * *

The local horse market has shown a decided picking up in the last week, owing, doubtless, to the fine weather and the semblance of decency into which the roads have developed. There are many lookers at and inquirers for road horses and ones for family usages, and with these a large sprinkling of men who want a horse that can go some, and who are willing to pay for such an animal. The owners of track horses located in and about the city are beginning to get them into shape for the summer campaigning. The track at the fair grounds is not yet in a workable shape, but a few more of the bright days will put it in a fair condition, and then will begin the work of the winter boarders at the grounds.

* * *

Tom Stuard, who will locate at the Indianapolis track with his stable of horses the coming season, passed through the city last Monday on his return from Goshen, Ind., where he added to his string the four-year-old stallion Vern Walker, a grandson of the great Governor Sprague and the renowned little mare Sallie Clinker, with a record of 2:16¼. Under Stuard's steady nerve and master hand the sidewheelers will have to go the full mile better than 2:10 to beat the little queen, for in more than one race she has demonstrated that she can go away from the wire with any horse that ever heard the word "go."—Western Horseman.

* * *

Pacing blood, as the pacer himself, is becoming more and more fashionable with the advent of each year; and the time is coming, we hope, when a good pacing cross will be considered as nearly the proper thing as any of the crosses to our most fashionable sires. In fact, the future is likely to prove that pacing blood will work wonders in the way of an outcross for our intensely interbred trotting families.—Breeder and Sportsman.

* * *

The secretaries of the Eastern Indiana Fair Circuit, representing the towns of Hagerstown, Muncie, Greenfield, Franklin, Shelbyville and Rushville, met last Thursday. The purse to be offered by the circuit to the horse winning the greatest number of heats during the season was fixed at $150. The first fair of the season in the eastern circuit will open at Hagerstown, Aug. 8, closing with Rushville on Sept. 16.

* * *

One of the best bred two-year-old fillies in Austria has been booked to Brown Prince, one of the stallions taken over there by the Ketcham-Splan party. Excellence Gravinitz, in charge of the King's private stables, was so highly pleased with this horse the first time he saw him that he at once claimed the honor of the first booking, naming the two-year-old filly, as stated above.

* * *

S. B. Rowell, Isaac A. Case and others will hold a combination sale of trotting stock at Goshen, Ind., on the 9th of this month, when thirty-three animals will be disposed of at auction. The stock is by such sires as Combination by Dictator, Jalisco 2:21½, Wilkesword 2:23½, by Nutwood, Arrowood by Nutwood, Nobleman by California, Alexander Wilkes and Badger Sprague.

* * *

Dave Raybauld and Johnnie Williams, of Memphis, Tenn., horsemen known by every follower of the big circuits, have passed the past week or two duck shooting down in the sunny South. Plenty of ducks, as usual, were bagged. Johnnie Williams has a record in that line that is difficult to surpass.

* * *

There is a rumor of a consolidation of the three associations, the American, the National and the American Trotting Register Association which, if true, will mean quite a change in the policy of the registration of horses, and one that is not looked on with favor by horsemen.

* * *

The $15,000 purse for all trotters except Nancy Hanks will be a drawing card during the world's fair. The Northwestern Breeders' Association has the nerve and confidence to offer it.—Western Horseman.

* * *

Col. Pat Dickerson, of this city, is preparing for the various circuits a string of pacers that will cause no amount of trouble to the boys. They are by Delineator, 2:18, sire of McGinty (2), 2:15¾, and several are showing more speed at the same age than did McGinty.

* * *

Scene in court:

"You are charged with fast driving!"

"I was driving very slowly, judge, not more than a 2:40 gait."

"Heavens! Isn't that fast?"

"Not these days, judge."—Horse Breeder.

* * *

Of the thirteen trotters in the 2:10 list Stamboul, 2:07½; Martha Wilkes, 2:08; Moquette (4), 2:10, and Nelson, 2:10, are the only ones whose sires are in the 2:30 list, while not a baker's dozed has a dam with a standard record.—Western Horseman.

* * *

Probably the fastest yearling colt that was sold at the Lackey sale was a grandson of Delineator, 2:18. Ed Sweney, of Kokomo, was the shrewd buyer, and within a few hours sold the youngster to race-horse men for $100 profit.

* * *

John S. Lackey has announced that he will hold one of his public sales at the State fair grounds in this city, on April 11, 12, 13 and 14. He has issued a call for consignments, and will limit them to three hundred head.

* * *

The Indianapolis Driving Club has elected T. Smith Graves as its secretary in the place of Bruce Carr, recently deceased. Sterling R. Holt resigned as its president, and Thomas Taggart was selected in his place.

* * *

Secretary Kennedy, of the State Board of Agriculture, will go to Rushville tomorrow to be in attendance at the meeting of the Indiana Trotting and Pacing Circuit, which will nominate dates and purses.

* * *

H. C. Wheeler, the well-known starting judge, has been appointed special agent of the Indiana Live Stock Investment Company. He will be seen by many horsemen during the coming season.

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About five hundred head of trotting and pacing bred stock will be sold this month at Nashville, Tenn.

* * *

A bill to make ringing horses a felony is now before the New York Legislature.

* * *

Ed Geers will not push Hal Pointer for fast time until late in the season.

Told on Charles Sumner.

Augusta Chronicle.

There is a story about Mrs. Howe and Sumner that seems to be very characteristic of both, writes James Realf, jr., in the Californian. Mrs. Howe asked the great Senator to dinner to meet Edwin Booth, and Sumner replied in his starchiest, pouter-pigeon fashion:

"Madam, I do not believe that I care to meet your friend Edwin Booth, estimable as he may be both in his calling and his character. I think I have arrived at the point where one ceases to take any interest in individuals."

"Why, Charles," replied Mrs. Howe with intensity, "God hasn't gotten there yet."

I asked Mrs. Howe if this story was true, and she said:

"Oh, yes; Sumner told it on himself, possibly, as an instance of my devoutness, though other persons took it differently, and some even asked if I dared to say such a thing to Charles Sumner."

Speaking of Sumner's beauty Mrs. Howe said: "It was remarkable; though in early life he was so thin we used to call him the line, because he seemed to be length without breadth or thickness. At about thirty-five, after a severe illness, he filled out and became an impressive figure, though never so impressive as some men, who, like Webster, were only of average height, yet whose impressiveness always seemed to come from within and not be dependent on their shoulders like a cape. Sumner had a voice of remarkable richness and a smile of strong sweetness."

He Was Safe Enough.

New York Ledger.

Host (a trifle nervous about the effect of his guest's wooden leg upon the polished floor)—Hadn't you better come on the rug, major? You might slip out there, my boy."

The Major—Oh, don't be afraid, my boy. There is no danger; I have a nail in the end of it.

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