

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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BETTER BABIES.

The Woman's Home Companion in its April number carries on vigorously and picturesquely its great fight for "Better Babies" by reporting the story of a contest just held in Colorado at which prizes were awarded to the finest babies in the state from the standpoint of health. The baby photographs that accompany this article are about as attractive as one could imagine. A national campaign for "Better Babies" is now well under way. Fully one hundred cities all over the United States, both large and small, are planning baby shows of the new sort for this year—that is, baby shows at which the standard of supremacy is not to be beauty, as in the old-time baby shows, but health and physical excellence.

The April Companion, of course, contains many other interesting and slightly useful articles. As for example, "A healthy mind in a healthy body," by Ralph Waldo Trine; an article by John Phillips Street, Pure Food Commissioner of Connecticut, who shows housewives the importance of reading labels on the goods they buy; "Chickens in the Back Yard," in which Frank A. Waugh, an expert, takes up the subject of raising poultry on a small scale; "The Social Problems of a Girl," in which Christine Terhune Herrick presents some intensely practical and entertaining advice; and a baseball article which will furnish mothers a number of definite ideas about baseball which

ought to be told to small boys at the beginning of the spring practice.

ON OUR TREES.

La Grande, March 22.—To the Editor: When a stranger enters La Grande and overcomes the first impression of ugliness which he invariably receives on viewing the depot's immediate surroundings, if it be summer, he is struck by the great number of trees which line nearly all of our downtown streets. The whole effect of the streets with their trees is one of beauty and restfulness, an effect that nature always strives to give, no matter what man may do to mar it. If nature could not thus overcome man's destructive work La Grande would be as ugly a town as one could find in a day's journey, for of all the heathenish tree hacking La Grande's method holds the palm.

In talking recently with some men on this subject the question of the motive of this double clipper, tree barbering came up. No one could imagine what it could be. In walking down the street we noticed the trees in passing. One young man connected with a firm which required him to travel extensively, declared that he had "never seen any place quite so bad. All of the symmetry of form is gone, the trees' beauty is all but destroyed," was his opinion and the rest concurred with him heartily.

Recently an order was printed in this city to the effect that warning was thereby given to all property owners, that trees should be cut back because they might interfere with the wires of the light and telephone companies. The reader's attention is called to the word "might." Surely these companies must have some extraordinary hold on the city to force it to butcher its trees in this way. The strange part about it, however, is that many of the trees are cut back where there are no wires at all. In such a case the owner must have been led by a desire to be in style and in many cases this has led to such a barbering of the trees as to give them simply a ridiculous appearance. La Grande has possibilities of great

natural beauty. Its trees might rival those of some of the beautiful New England towns, but if the present policy is persisted in the whole town will soon have a grotesque appearance altogether unworthy of its citizenship. Let the property owners think twice before permanently ruining the appearance of a noble tree.
JOHN R. MONTGOMERY.

Easter Eggs.

First save all eggshells until you have a dozen, taking care when breaking at the small end, leaving an opening about the size of a nickel. Arrange them standing on end in a pan of flour or meal, leaving open end up. Put on the fire one pint milk in double boiler, leaving out one-half cup; scald, and then add two level tablespoonfuls corn starch, one tablespoonful sugar and a pinch of salt dissolved in the one-half cup cold milk; cook ten minutes, then add the beaten whites of two eggs; cook one minute, remove from the fire, flavor with lemon and pour into four shells. Repeat the process with another pint of milk, adding the beaten yolks of two eggs, and flavor with vanilla. Repeat again adding one square of chocolate. When all shells are filled, set away to harden. Make a dish of lemon jelly; remove shells from eggs and pace them on a mound of jelly broken in small pieces. Serve with a custard sauce.

Lobster Cutlets.

Make some lobster forcemeat as follows: Fry an onion, chopped very fine in an ounce of good butter, until slightly brown, adding one tablespoonful of flour to make a roux. Moisten with half a pint of white stock, stirring well and constantly until the sauce hardens. Season with half a tablespoonful of salt, a scant teaspoonful of pepper and the same of cayenne, one tablespoonful of English sauce, half a teaspoonful of mustard, a crushed grain of garlic and one teaspoonful of chopped parsley. Stir well, adding two pounds of cooked lobster, cut up very fine, with 12 mushrooms, also chopped. Cook for thirty minutes in a saucepan, then put it back off the hot fire; add four egg yolks, stir again for a moment, cool. Shape like chops. Dip in bread crumbs; fry in deep, hot fat. When serving stick a lobster leg in the point of each chop.

Prune Brown Betty.

Cover the bottom of a buttered baking dish to the depth of one-half an inch with coarse stale, entire wheat bread-crusts; then add two layers of dried prunes which have been soaked in warm water until soft enough to remove the pits. Dust with pulverized cinnamon and nutmeg, cover with another layer of crusts; then dot with butter and add one cupful of hot milk. Bake in a moderate oven for one-half hour, or until the top is brown and crusty and the milk absorbed. Serve with hard sauce.

Rice Padding.

Boil three cups of rice in a quart of milk; add a pint of milk when the rice is cooked done, with two cups of sugar, half a cup of butter, half a pound of seeded raisins, half a pound of sliced citron and a quarter of a pound of blanched almonds. Put the yolks of ten and the whites of four eggs and mix in; squeeze in the juice of three lemons; put in a pudding dish and bake two hours. Make a meringue of the six whites of eggs and a teaspoonful of sugar; flavor with nutmeg; eat without sauce.

Date Cookies.

Cookies with dates are much liked by children for their school luncheon. Take one large cup dates, two thirds cup butter, one cup sugar, pinch salt, one half teaspoonful of cinnamon and quarter cup milk. Stone and chop the dates. Cream the butter and sugar and add to the dates. Add the seasoning and stir in the milk. Add the baking powder and enough flour to roll about one-half inch thick. Bake in a quick oven.

To Clean Bean Pot.

To clean the bean pot fill with cold water, put in some kind of washing powder and cover tight; put on stove and let it come to boil. This will make it very easy to wash.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Circumstances Alter Cases.

Ted—"Do you believe that woman should hold the reins?"
Ned—"It is all right when you have the girl out in a sleigh."—Judge.



Many distinctly new designs and fabrics in our spring showing of fancy dress material.

Each previous spring season has introduced some new weave or shade but for this season it seems Dame Fashion has outdone all previous efforts in designing and creating so many charming, novel fabrics and in choosing wonderful new colorings.

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La Grande, Oregon

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The frank statement of a neighbor, telling the merits of a remedy. Bids you pause and believe. The same endorsement by some stranger far away Commands no belief at all. Here's a La Grande case. A La Grande citizen testifies. Read and be convinced.
E. L. Bussey, prop. cab service, 1521 Madison avenue, La Grande, Ore., says: "I had attacks of kidney trouble, and they were always worse when I caught cold. I had dull pains in my back and my kidneys got badly out of order. About three years ago I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, and from that time to this I have relied on them. Whenever my back has bothered me, it has taken Doan's Kidney Pills only a short time to fix me up all right. I am free from kidney trouble now. I never used a better kidney medicine."
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