

ENGLISH GIRLS THEN AND NOW.

A writer to an English paper gives the modern English girl a sharp review. We trust the contrast will not apply to American country girls. He writes:

The English girls in the old country houses a generation ago, as the old-fashioned conservative of the *Standard* remembers them, had a merry, genuine, unaffected smile. When a guest dropped in unexpectedly they were clearly delighted to see him, and not in the least ashamed of it. They showed an evident desire to please without a trace of an *arriere pensee*. Tall, well developed, in the height of good health, with bloom upon the cheek and with brilliant eyes, they were irresistibly charming. But it was the merry laugh that dwelt so long in the memory—a laugh from the heart in the joyousness of youth. They joined freely in the conversation, but did not thrust themselves forward; and not a hint was breathed of those social scandals which now form the staple of

electro salver, together with sweet biscuits—it being the correct thing to sip one glass and crack one biscuit. The conversation is so insipid, so entirely confined to the merest platitudes, that it becomes a relief to escape. The girls still have good constitutions and rosy looks, but they worry about it in secret, and wish they could appear thin and white and "more lady like." They have suppressed the slightest approach to animation. They have all got just the same opinion on the same topics, for they have none at all. The idea of a laugh has departed. They read the so-called social journals and absorb the gossip, tittle-tattle and personalities. The guest departs chilled and depressed. What a comfort when he can turn a corner behind the hedge, and can thrust his hand into his pockets and whistle.

BOOK CLUBS.—Few small American towns can boast of a circulating library of any importance, and cultured men and women suffer from the want of new books, periodicals, etc., which they individually cannot buy. This want can

THE PERILS OF THE SEA.

Severe storms always bring to mind the perils of the seas. Our sketch upon this page depicts the danger which lies in the wake of the storm. The little band of outcasts have formed a rude float, and are casting about on the expanse of waters.

It is proper to think of the dangers of the sea when the winds rock our houses and the floods rise. It is proper also to believe that they alone are safe whose trust is in Him whom the winds and the waves obey.

THE VALUE OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF MEAT. Why is there so much difference in the nutritive value of the flesh of animals in different parts of the body? Answer—Flesh is composed of numerous bundles of minute tubes adhering together in a mass. These tubes are filled with the juices of the flesh. Now the quality of the flesh depends much on the juices, while the tenderness or toughness depends largely on



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fashionable gossip. They were well acquainted with household duties, and had not learned to regard them as menial.

At table the mistress would suggest that tea was hardly strong enough for a man, and that a nip of brandy might improve it; and after the old-time late afternoon tea, all the girls would draw round the fire, and when pipes were produced would ask the visitor to smoke; and even if he declined on account of the ladies, it was pleasant to be asked. As the conversation ran on, each of the girls candidly avowed her opinions upon such topics as were started, blushing a little when she was asked to give her reasons; and there was individuality displayed that gave zest and interest to the talk. This was not so many years ago; but now when one calls at such a country house, how different is the reception! The servant shows the visitor into a drawing-room furnished in the modern style, and takes the name up stairs.

By-and-by the ladies enter in morning costume; not a stray curl allowed to wander from its stern bands; nature rigidly repressed; decorum, "society" in every flourish and trimming. A touch of the bell, and decanters of port and sherry are produced, and wine is presented on an

be obviated in a measure, by a friendly combination between certain families or individuals, in which each contributes a given number of books to a common stock; these books are loaned to the members in turn. A more formal and a much better way is the formation of a book-club, in which each member pays at the beginning a certain sum, with which as many books are purchased as there are members, each one choosing a book; these pass in regular rotation from hand to hand, remaining a fortnight with each reader; thus 20 books may be read for the cost of one. When the books have passed around the circle they are sold to members for the benefit of the club. Fines for the detention and abuse of books also keep up the funds. No officer is required in this association, except a treasurer. Another advantage in the plan is that books can be bought by the quantity at lower rates than singly.

KEEP ACTIVE.—Never sit down and brood over trouble of any kind. If you are vexed with yourself or the world, this is no way to obtain satisfaction. Find yourself employment that will keep your mind active, and, depend upon it, this will force out unwelcome thoughts.

these tubes, and these vary with the age and condition of the animal. In old or ill-fed animals the tubes are more than the juices, and the meat is tough. In young animals it is the reverse. There is more nutriment in the flesh of animals not too young or too old, and neither too fat nor too lean.—*Dr. Holbrook.*

TEMPERING NICKEL.—Nickel, like iron, is magnetic, sufficiently ductile to be forged and drawn into slender wire. Its point of fusion is very high, and if melted in a *brass* crucible it yields a homogeneous regulus of a silvery whiteness, containing carbon. M. Bossingault has examined whether nickel, like iron, when carburated, is capable of being tempered and acquire elasticity, and whether it renders steel less susceptible of oxidation. The result was decidedly negative except that alloys of iron and steel, with large proportions of nickel, 20% and upward, resist the oxidizing action of air and water.

FLOOD, of the bonanza firm, sent Christmas checks for \$1,000 each to the San Francisco orphan asylums, and of \$500 each to the benevolent societies.