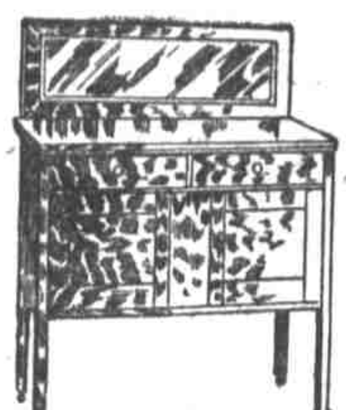
Mid=Summer Clearance Sale



MAGNIFICENT

Buffets

Some warm prices for hot weather bargain hunters. Genuine quartered oak, highly polished, French mirrors. VALUES FROM $35 to $55.

SALE PRICE

$25.00

FIRST FLOOR

Rockers

A special lot of bargain rockers in golden oak. VALUES UP to $6.00.

CHOICE AT

$2.25

SECOND FLOOR

Of Dependable Furniture

All odd pieces and short lines must be sold to make room for the big fall shipments which will arrive next month. THESE SALE SPECIALS ARE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER, and they are representative of the HUNDREDS OF SPECIALS on sale at our store throughout the week. Every purchase represents a POSITIVE SAVING OF ONE THIRD TO ONE HALF.

If You Are From Missouri or Not, Come to This Sale and We Will Show You

WE SELL THE CHEAPEST

Be sure and visit our store this week. We are conveniently located on a carline where it is cheaper to pay rent than to own your own building. These special prices continue all week. We'll give you the most generous treatment, the most helpful service.

GEISLER AND DORRES.

EAST MORRISON UNION AVENUE

Up-to-Date BEDS

Colonial Styles

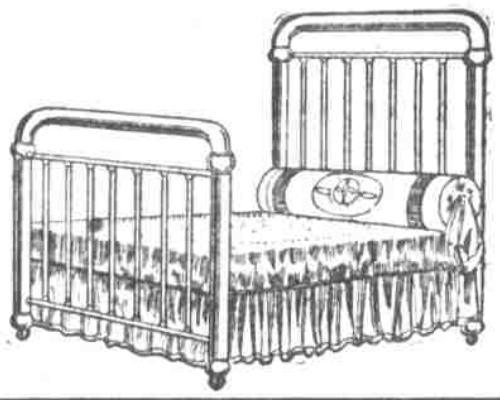
Quartered golden oak and birdseye maple. Regular $17.50 value—

THIS WEEK

$11.00

Large line of Iron, Brass Trimmed and Solid Brass Beds at one third off.

SECOND FLOOR.



Carpet Bargains

THAT TALK FOR THEMSELVES in Axminster, Body Brussels and other grades.

Special This Week

Sanford Axminster Rug 36x72 ins. REGULAR VALUE $5.50. 100 of them this week at

$3.45

SECOND FLOOR.

WOMEN'S CLUBS AND WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

As THE bureau of information comes closer in touch with the individual club and state federation than any other department of the national organization—the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and because there is some question as to the advisability of continuing it at the large expense it is to the national federation, we consider ourselves fortunate in obtaining the full report of the manager, Mrs. Mary I. Wood, which she gave at the Boston convention, which we publish today. It is hoped every clubwoman in the state will read and form her own opinion as to whether or not the bureau is of benefit to the club movement. We would solicit correspondence on this subject, as it is a matter upon which, having a member on the national board, Oregon will have an opportunity of voting directly upon.

Mrs. Wood's Report.

When we were called upon at Atlantic City three years ago to place before the council of the General Federation of Women's Clubs the plans of the executive board for the establishment of a bureau of information it was regarded by all as something of a venture, but withal a venture which had all the arguments in its favor. It was an entirely new departure for the general federation—this establishing of a permanent department, which should have goods, chattels, responsibility and stability.

The council indorsed the scheme, and at St. Paul, one year later, the convention indorsed the work of the trial year and established the bureau for the biennial period. Today we are to report progress and give an account of our stewardship, and some time during these sessions this convention itself will pass judgment upon us and will say whether in the various state federations whose members have applied to us and among the many women whose requests have come to us, we have "made good." Let us then consider a bit what the bureau is, what it has done, what it is doing and how and what we should expect of it in the future.

Early Beginnings.

The credit for the great plan, the immediate thought which animated and set in motion the bureau was Mrs. Decker's, although we find in Mrs. Moore's report of the reciprocity committee at St. Louis the first suggestion. It was in response to a recognized need that the bureau was conceived. The questions had already been raised, "What is the general federation doing for us?" "What bond is there between the individual club and the general federation?" "Why join the general federation?" It was to bridge this gulf, to make what threatened to be a series of individual clubs, or at the most, a series of state federations into a great whole, a real federation, that the bureau had birth.

The thought which underlay the very foundation of the general federation, "From each according to her needs, to each according to her need," was still in theory an underlying principle, but it remained for the bureau to put it into practical execution. The confusion of names of officers, committee chairmen and other workers of the general federation left the woman of the small and somewhat remote club still unable to know to whom she should apply for the help which would have been given gladly. It was an actual fact that not one in a thousand clubwomen could tell the names of the different committee chairmen.

If it was difficult to remember 20 names it is a comparatively simple thing to remember one. Thousands of women have testified to this.

Wonderful Record.

During the life of the bureau more than 10,000 letters have been received from clubwomen alone, while many others have been received from business men, editors, publishers, lecturers and men and women in many calls of life. This fact is significant enough to prove beyond argument the wisdom of establishing a bureau. But without doubt the real test has been its usefulness. The above figures speak also for this phase of the question since it will be obvious to even the superficial observer that unless the bureau had met the needs of the early applicants no such number of women would have sought its help. Ten thousand letters mean 10,000 needs, and through the courtesy of expert teachers, publishers and editors, as well as by the invaluable aid of the officers and chairmen of committees in the general federation, and many other organizations, the bureau has been able in the very great majority of cases to give the needed assistance.

This really wonderful record is not due in any sense to the personnel of the management but rather to the existence of a single central bureau with the great strength and influence of more than 500,000 earnest women behind it. The principal reasons why the bureau has been able to serve so large a number are, first, the necessity of remembering but one address for all questions; second, the influence of the general federation of women's clubs behind the bureau; third, the value of a clearing house for any great organization; fourth, the worth of a repository for the general federation history, publications, statistics, etc.

Into the bureau have poured, from all sources, year books, study programs, syllabi, magazine articles, press clippings, magazines, books and leaflets. Today the bureau has more than 2,500 study outlines which may be recommended with great pride. These are in many cases syllabi which have been prepared by experts and contain much valuable material aside from the mere outline for study. The outlines cover a very great variety of subjects including art, history, literature, travel, science, etc.

What It Contains.

Through the courtesy of magazine editors and publishers, the bureau has a complimentary copy each month of about 30 different periodicals. We have 326 reference books which have been selected with the greatest care. Our reference library is made up of donations from many sources as follows: Seventeen volumes from Mrs. Decker, 100 from the United States government, 97 from state federations, six from individual clubs, 140 from individuals. This valuable library contains books of travel, art, science, literature, nature study, sociology, household economics, history, art and crafts and other subjects of vital interest to the clubwomen of the country. The majority of these books were selected with reference to a general need, but special mention should be made of two sets of books which were selected in a somewhat different manner.

The books donated by Miss Lute E. Stearns of Milwaukee, Wis., were purchased to accompany the outline on "Twelve Famous Novels" which was prepared by the literature committee of the general federation, of which Miss Stearns is a member. They include not only the 12 novels themselves but a reference book on each author except Turgenev. A similar plan was carried out by Mrs. Morris of Berlin, Wis., who contributed to the bureau a supply of her excellent guides to the study of epochs of English history in connection with Shakespeare's plays and gave also a set of valuable reference books for the study of Shakespeare.

This plan is to be very highly commended and might be carried out to advantage whenever so desired by the donor. Such a scheme is particularly beneficial to such clubs as are somewhat removed from public libraries since it enables them to follow a continuous program with much profit.

Values of the Bureau.

The bureau has been a great means of education to its manager. If every woman in the general federation who doubts the value of federation or the value of individual clubs holding direct membership with the general federation could sit for one day at the desk of the manager of the bureau of information, she would be converted instantly. Here the busy woman from the west, with no public library within 20 miles, may benefit from the generous thought of her who has at her command both time and books. Here the member of the program committee of a club in a rural community may consult the outlines prepared by a college professor and if a scarcity of funds prevail in her club she may also find reference books, magazine articles and pamphlets of other clubs and kindred organizations to help throughout the entire year.

Of another value the bureau has been found to be. Occasionally an ex-president, a clergyman, a magazine writer and even an editor has considered it the proper thing to speak slightingly of the woman's club movement. It is not necessary to rehearse these instances. To the clubwoman who knows the good which has been and is constantly being accomplished every word of these able but misguided persons speaks in no uncertain terms of the ignorance of the speaker concerning the subject in hand. Formerly, however strong was our conviction that a misstatement had been made, we had great difficulty in securing statistics with which to controvert the assertions. Since the establishment of the bureau we have a weapon, although still incomplete, with which to establish our claims.

Mr. Bok Answered.

In the March number of the Ladies' Home Journal, a magazine well known to the entire American world, one whose circulation is very large and whose columns are read by thousands of women in every part of the land—in the March number of this magazine there appeared in the editorial columns the following statement:

"This magazine is writ in large and angry letters in the minds of many estimable women as being opposed to women's clubs. And it is. But not in the way that many of these women think. It is not so much opposed to the club idea as to what that club idea usually stands for—what it strives to accomplish and fails.

"If the average woman's club were carried out along sane lines, along lines of actual benefits to the community in which its members live, it would be a factor for power and for good which this magazine would be the first to applaud. Just fancy, for one moment, a state federation of woman's clubs offering a substantial prize for the prettiest, best-kept and most attractive town or village of a certain size within its state borders. Just calculate the valuable and attractive enterprises that such an offer would set in motion: what interesting expeditions, communions and acquaintanceships, and all on a sane, healthy basis, it would develop and bring about. To make the young people of our small towns in love with their surroundings, an actual part of their village life, imbued with the spirit to make their homes more attractive—is there a finer spirit, a higher ambition to cultivate? Of what value are papers, copied from encyclopedias and ill-digested, on Egyptian art, mediaeval literature and what not, compared to such a community work that would make the face of the earth more beautiful and the people more content?

Efforts Misdirected.

"The main trouble with the woman's club idea is that it is misdirected: it chases the mythical pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and sees not the beauty of the prismatic arch itself. When its members study the Filipino and Filipino history and life it misses a signal point—for instance, that the tiniest Filipino village is far more beautiful than is the perky little railroad town in which the club members live. If the members saw that fact then their studies would be worth something to the community. The gathering would break up, not with a confused notion of what it had been discussing, but with a concrete need in its mind of the beautification of the architecture of its town: of the embowering of country road, of the laying out of village drives, of the uplifting of the community spirit. To inculcate the love of the beautiful and the pride of home in the mind of the young is far more important to us in the immediate present than what Caesar did or Rameses stood for."

Without doubt this editorial was read with indignation by very many clubwomen, who recognized the injustice of it and who indignantly, if silently, protested that such misinformation as that implied in this editorial should be read by so large a number of uninformed persons. From many sources came letters and telephone messages to the manager of the bureau to reply and at a word from Mrs. Decker we consulted our files and sent to Mr. Bok a letter, from which we quote a part:

"I shall call your attention to a few statements taken at random from the files of this office. One club of 25 members reports the raising of $500 for library purposes last year. Another with 30 members reports the raising of $300 for library and $325 for park improvement last year. A third reports $168 last year to keep in order the town plaza, to keep clean watering troughs and to help pay the salary of a depot matron; a club with 50 members supports four free cooking classes for girls in the public schools in a large town, three sewing and garment classes where 145 girls are taught sewing and also a mothers' sewing class in a poor neighborhood; they expend $100 monthly for teachers and $50 for supplies for these classes.

Establishes Nursery.

"Another club with 148 members has established a day nursery, maintains a boys' club and a sewing class in the poorer sections. Very many clubs have scholarship funds, some of which furnish the entire expense of educating worthy girls and others loan money which is repaid by the girls. Several state federations have scholarship funds. Many clubs maintain a lecture course which is, as you will admit, one of the greatest means of adult education which can be found. Many clubs maintain rest rooms for working women, not a few have lunch rooms where working women and girls may obtain for the actual cost of provision and labor a good, healthful, clean and nourishing lunch.

"One small club of 30 members owns and maintains a public library, giving their services to the public. One club planted a three-mile avenue of trees; another planted 600 catalpas. A club of 118 women in one town in Illinois supports a day nursery which costs them more than $600 a year. Another club of 208 members gave $600 last year to the Y. M. C. A. in their town besides contributing to the maintenance of a model lodging house, neighborhood work and other excellent objects. Another club expended $1,300 for domestic science and equipment in the local high school. Another club of 123 members bought 16 acres of land and presented it to the city for a park. Everywhere the clubwomen are circulating traveling libraries, establishing free libraries, planting trees, beautifying towns, turning their efforts toward better parks and playgrounds, cleaning up railroad stations, helping support district nurses, vacation schools, etc. In fact, the very things of which you speak, things for civic betterment and social service, are the especial province of the clubwomen."

If this is not civic work, pray, where shall we find it?

These statistics prove beyond a doubt that the great majority of the women's clubs of this country are doing civic work of the best and highest order and this is equally true whether we take the word "civic" in a broad or a limited sense.

Public Information Supplied.

An examination of the year books of the different clubs and statistical blanks sent out by the bureau show that hundreds of clubs, great and small, are furnishing an annual lecture course in the communities in which they exist. Today thousands of books in public and traveling libraries are in circulation as the direct result of the efforts of clubs and federations. A prolific source of adult public education is in this way supplied and a great civic work is accomplished.

Hundreds more are interesting themselves directly in the education of the children of the community and better school directors, better relations between teachers and parents, more school gardens and vacation schools, more medical inspection in the public schools, more beautiful school rooms and grounds testify to this phase of civic work of clubwomen.

Thousands of clubwomen are aroused to the beauty and value of the forests, the moral value of parks and playgrounds and the spiritual doctrine of cleanliness. Thousands are being aroused to the power which is theirs to raise standards, to protect child life and to urge forward civilization. It is an unspeakable privilege to see the bureau a means of intercommunication between these women, to see clubs in the southwest and northeast—and the north, south, east and west—struggling to conquer, each its own particular problem, and suddenly coming up against a problem which, while real, offers no suggestions of its own which helps in its solution, and the bureau is called in and from the experience of other clubs light is turned on and a way out appears. One by one a hand stretches out from different sections of the country and in the office of the bureau touches another hand—one that has met and wrestled and overcome—and the hands join and each contributes strength to each and a mighty chain is formed.

Does Not Conflict.

It has often been asked if the bureau conflicted with or handicapped the work of the standing committees. On the contrary, we believe that the bureau can be of great value to each chairman in carrying out the work of her committee.

One instance of the way in which the bureau can help: The new health department of the civic committee has issued circulars calling attention of clubwomen to the prevalence, prevention and cure of tuberculosis. The committee is the expert body which sets the pace, blazes the trail, and the bureau aims to help. It is done in this way: Hundreds of club presidents and program committees write for programs and suggestions. The bureau suggests consideration of the tuberculosis problem. The bureau thus aids and abis in a valuable way and at a valuable time. The circular of the health department may have already reached the club, but it may have reached it in the middle of the club year when all plans had been made and all days were full. It may have reached sympathetic eyes but the time may not have been ripe. The bureau has the advantage in this way: It only suggests when advice is sought and the ground is yearning for the seed.

Much appreciation is felt by the manager of the bureau for the splendid cooperation of the leading clubwomen everywhere. The address of the bureau appears in the year book of most of the state federations and the individual clubs, and this is of inestimable value. Newspaper columns have announced our mission and clubwomen everywhere have sought to help and to be helped.

So much, then, for the work of the past. The bureau has received very many letters of encouragement and its manager feels that even the most sanguine at Atlantic City or at St. Paul must feel that their prophecies have been fulfilled and that the clubwomen have demonstrated that the establishment of the bureau of information was a needed step.

More to Be Done.

But let us not give the impression that we are satisfied with results. The farther we have gone with the bureau the more convinced have we become that there is much ground yet untouched which the bureau should cover. The bureau has only commenced in a very small way to show what might be accomplished and there are still many things which should be required of it. It should and must be a tower of strength to the general federation, whose servant it is. It should be the obedient servant of officers and chairmen, of state federations, clubs and individual members, the place where help can be sought and whence it shall be received. It should never set the pace for the club movement, but it should encourage the weary, hearten up the sick and revive the dying club.

It is from the active, alert, progressive club that we get our inspiration and strength. It is to the club needing suggestions, direction and encouragement that we give aid. The officers and committee chairmen are in a sense experts and by their superior intelligence the plans are laid out and the policies determined upon. But they are too valuable to be over-burdened by the great mass of detail work which devolves upon the execution of these plans. It is another case of the impropriety of using a razor to whittle our pegs. These expert leaders should be saved as much of the dull routine as possible in order that the entire federation may have the benefit of their best thought.

Upon the bureau should be placed as much as possible of the manual work of the different committees. Each officer and chairman should feel free to make use of the bureau in any way practicable for the better execution of her plans. But after the work of assisting the officers and committees is finished there still remains the service due to the individual club and club member who feels the need of some close personal relationship with the parent body. It is absolutely necessary that this relationship should exist if we are to keep active and alive. Every clubwoman in the country must feel that she has a part in the general federation. This feeling materializes as she sends to the bureau a book, magazine, press clipping or program.

CHARITY WORK, MUCH OF WHICH IS UNNOTICED

By M. J. Roche.

"The evil that men do live after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones."

Not so with the sweet-faced Nun of Mercy. They see no evil, they speak no evil, they hear no evil. If any one of mortal born is fit to enter the kingdom of God, and holy writ says they are who live their lives upon this earth in accord with his commands, then these same sweet faced women, who, with the soft and gentle ministrations of the angel, soothe the pain of what ills man is heir to, or devote their lives to training the minds of the young that they, too, may lead that life which will end with the kingdom of heaven as its reward, have awaiting them an afterlife which will be a full recompense for all they have denied themselves while in the flesh.

Life of Sacrifice.

God would not be just were he to give to them, who have given up everything, sacrificed family and home, denied themselves every pleasure that you and I may reap the benefit of their prayers and sacrifices, and to the worldly who have given up nothing, sacrificed nothing, and live but for the pleasures they derive from life, the same hereafter.

How few know the sacrifices of these noble women; how few know the good they have done, are doing and will do until the end of time. There is no limit to their efforts, no end to their doing. Whether it is caring for the sick, teaching the young, or making life for the aged and decrepit worth the living, they are ever on the go. Truly the all-wise ruler of this mundane sphere will say to them when Gabriel gives the final blast to his trumpet: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

One Governing Head.

The Sisters of Mercy of this country, unlike most religious bodies, are not under one governing head. The several communities are independent one of the other, and subject only to the ecclesiastical head of the diocese in which they are located.

Portland is indeed fortunate in having such a community. The order under the jurisdiction of his grace has in charge the Mercy Home on Sixteenth street, the Home of the Angel at Sunnyside, a school at Mount Tabor, a hospital at North Bend, another at Albany, and still another at Eugene. Besides these the Baby Home at Park Place, close to Oregon City, is the especial charge of Mother Agnes, that noble woman who heads the order. It is of this last place I would write.

Have you ever visited such an institution? If not do so. That you will be surprised is putting it mildly indeed. Picture to yourself a family of sixty or seventy tots, many still in their swaddling clothes, and none more than 6 or 7 years of age. It is truly the babies' home.

Where Good Is Done.

It was my good fortune to visit St. Agnes' Baby Home at Park Place a few days ago. The day of my visit the nuns were in retreat, and, per force, little talking was done about the place, and strange, I might add wonderful, to relate, little noise made. With so many young ones of such remarkably tender age, one would naturally expect to find something of a bedlam. But they were well behaved and neither cried nor annoyed.

I never saw such cleanliness, such neatness, such order. When I arrived there the little tots were in the recreation room. The older ones, some fifteen or twenty in number, were lined up in the middle of the floor reciting a jingly rhyme about "A Little Cock Sparrow." My advance checked them for a moment, but at a word from the sister in charge they resumed, and suited the action to the word as well as could or do many men and women of much training. It really was a clever performance. Though my coming was entirely unexpected yet there was but the momentary flutter. When they resumed their eyes seemed to be glued upon me, but not a word was skipped nor a gesture overlooked.

Two Interesting Rooms.

Another batch was seated on the long benches which skirted the floor like wall-flowers in a ball room, while those too young to memorize rocked too and fro in their little baby-rockers. Go thou and see them wouldst thou spend an hour or two in pleasure; and forget not the little box at the entrance, which has inscribed thereon, "Remember the Babies." What was it he who sees all things said about, "Giving to my little ones," and "Suffer little children to come unto me." Certainly if he had thought for them, so should you.

Interesting as was the sight in the play room, that show in the nursery was even more so. Sprawling in their cribs were a dozen or more, no one more than six months old; clean as a pin and sweet as could be was each of the tots. Twins of Italian parents, with only a birthmark to distinguish them, interested me much, as did a little black baby, for race, color, nor creed bars none from this holy place. Just think of tots only five weeks old and no mother to claim them. There was a little mite there who was inclined to be somewhat obstreperous. He, or perhaps she, for I did not ascertain "its" sex, would not stay down, but insisted upon sitting erect and following me with a pair of blue eyes as pretty as you would want to look into. I certainly did have to wave a good bye and waft a kiss to the sweet little thing.

More Recognition Needed.

Each little one able to toddle about has its own little bed in the dormitory, and its own little plate and cup and spoon at its own little place at one of the long low tables in the refectory.

The play-room had interested me so much that I returned there. What bashfulness had existed had disappeared, and in a moment I had three or four of them upon my knee. One little girl tot puckered up her lips and in baby talk begged for a kiss. Could one refuse such a plea? But this kiss was my undoing, for had I not broken away I would have kissed or been kissed by every one in the room, and they were not all of the dry kind either.

The training these little ones are given is something marvelous. Any one who has the patience to do this is certainly akin to those angels who hover about the throne of God, and watch over us mortals while we sleep.

Could the charity-loving public of the great city of Portland realize what these noble women are doing they would certainly make their work easier. Much is needed there, and that mostly plenty of good and wholesome water. The health officers were there a few days before my going. Their visit was, like mine, unlooked for, but no trace of illness and not a sign of unwholesome dirt did they find. Their only criticism was upon the water, and they, of their own volition, promised to take the initial steps to have the home supplied with water from Oregon City. I, for one, hope they have made good that promise, and that it will not be long before the place is thus supplied.

Burdened With Debt.

Unfortunately there is a debt of several thousand dollars hanging over the place, or otherwise the good sisters themselves would inaugurate this and other needed improvements. Would that I were a John D., though his money is tainted, that I might put in an elevator and save these sweet-faced nuns the many thousands of steps they take in a day from the cellar to the third floor. You who are charitably inclined and have the money to spare, whether it be tainted or not, give this a thought, and while you are building elsewhere, build one for Mount St. Joseph, the Home for the Aged, at Sunnyside.

HORSES EASY TO TRAIN

Easier in Fact Than the New Firemen.

From the New York Sun.

A man who didn't know very much about the mode of training fire department horses stood in front of a firehouse the other day just as an alarm came in. He saw the big horses jump from their stalls the moment the gong sounded and take their places beneath their harness. He saw the collars fastened in less time than it takes to tell and noted by the watch he held that the five-ton truck was leaving the house within nine seconds after the alarm came in.

"It must take a long time to train the fire horse," he said to a veteran fire department official standing at his side. "It must be a big job to get the right sort of horse in the first place, and a still more difficult task to train him."

"Do you see that old horse hauling the crosstown streetcar by the door?" replied the official. "I can take that car horse, or any truck horse you will bring me, if he is not vicious, and make a well-trained fire horse out of him in a few hours. The system by which we take a green horse and make a veteran out of him is so simple that I have always wished that we could make a good fireman as easily as we can drill a fire horse.

"In the first place the rules of the department require that a green horse must be between 5 and 8 years old. He must be sound and not vicious.

"The horse comes to the door of the firehouse absolutely green. He is even worse than the new fourth-grade fireman, for the fireman has been through a course of sprouts at the school of instruction and knows a little about what is expected of him.

"As the green horse looks inside the door he sees the gleaming brass and shining nickel on the fire apparatus, and directly in front of his eyes the harness is suspended over the pole of the truck or engine. The horse looks around the interior and sees many other things that are new and strange, and it is no wonder that he stands in the door trembling.

"This moment is critical. The driver who knows his business lets the horse stand in the door until he has found that none of the strange things has made a move to molest him, and then he is coaxed gently inside a stall.

"Then the driver leaves him for a few minutes and lets him stand until he learns that nothing is going to harm him. When the driver sees the animal's ears resume their normal appearance he knows that he can go on with the training.

"Then the real training begins. The horse is bridled and the driver leads him out by the bit to his place underneath the harness and the collar is fastened around his neck. This process is tried a few times until the horse goes out without hanging back in the least.

"Now a lead line about four feet long is fastened around his neck and as the chain across the front of his stall drops the driver starts toward the horse's place under the harness and the animal now goes willingly. He is led out by this strap maybe 40 or 50 times, until he begins to learn what is expected of him.

"Up to this time the gong hasn't been rung, and now the driver sets out to make him understand that when the gong rings he is expected to move. A man is posted at each side of stall and one at every other avenue of escape. The driver gets behind him with a whip and when the gong rings and the stall chain drops he gives the horse a cut over the flank with the whip.

"This is so unexpected that the animal gives a snort and jumps forward. He looks both ways, but there is a man on guard who raises his hand.

SUMMER DRINKS

Baked Buttermilk for the Complexion—How It Was Prepared.

From the London Evening Standard.

Buttermilk in days long gone by was almost a fetish in the hands of the beauties of the time. When Marie Antoinette and her ladies rolled up the sleeves of their flowered muslins and played with churns and cream bowls in the laiterie at the petit Trianon, the buttermilk craze was at its height.

Unguents for the face as well as the potions in which they indulged were probably responsible for the lovely complexions which made poets compose odes to the bloom of their cheeks and painters almost go on their knees that disdainful beauties should relent so far as to have their charms immortalized. In baked buttermilk, one of the strongholds of the complexion was said to lie. In a few days it worked wonders, while perseverance in its use during the whole of the summer months would preserve the skin smooth and soft as a rose leaf.

Where the sour milk prophet errs today is in insufficiently diluting the buttermilk, the proportions in the genuine old recipes of the past being that of a gill to a pint of fresh milk. This was poured into a jar with a fitted lid and placed before the open range during the whole of a day.

By night the milk had turned to the consistency of clotted cream, in which state it was poured from a height from one vessel to another until, by some magical means, the contents had gone back once more to the smoothness of fresh milk. It was then sweetened with cane sugar and enclosed finally in a stone bottle, corked down tightly and placed before the fire but not too near for five or six hours. At first baked buttermilk does not always appear particularly pleasing, the mere fact that it is distinctly sour making it an acquired taste.

If it was not acid, however, it was scarcely considered to have been perfectly made, while if it effervesced when the bottle was opened it formed not only a more refreshing summer drink, particularly when well iced, but was thought to be particularly efficacious as a means of improving the complexion.

TEETH WITH OR WITHOUT PLATES

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