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Jim's New "Phase."

Mrs Dillon was one of those indulgent mothers who are so lax about administering deserved punishment that their very kindness becomes an evil. She has studied books on child-rearing, and could lecture for hours on the stages of growth through which a boy passes between childhood and manhood. So every questionable act that her son, Jim, did she attributed to some natural "phase" through which he was passing, and smiled, and allowed it to go unrebuked.

She would send him on an urgent errand, and when he came back only in time for supper, bearing signs of a long swim in the river, she would sigh at his unfaithfulness, but say, "Oh, he'll grow out of it in a few years. He's just passing through a phase."

When she sent him to dig a pail of potatoes, and he stayed long enough to clean the whole field, then brought in barely enough potatoes for dinner, she would gently inquire if he was tired and reward him with cake, and promise herself that he would have more energy after he passed through this "phase." And when he complained that it strained him to push the lawn-mower, and actually permitted his mother to do that heavy work, she did it cheerfully, in hopes that as soon as he had "passed through the phase" he would grow stronger.

She never once suspected that he was simply lazy, and was wanting in a sense of duty and of interest in his home. But her neighbors did. Besides, symptoms of the phase were breaking out on their own boys, and must be checked.

One afternoon Mrs Dillon attended a social to which she had been invited, leaving Jim at home to mend a hole in the fence. She was seated by the hostess in a chair near the window, not knowing it was with the purpose of teaching her a lesson.

Presently a shout was heard in the yard, and neighbor boys could be seen assembling. The hostess had made a small outdoor gymnasium in the side yard for her children, and as Mrs Dillon watched the athletic feats of the lad, she was very sorry that her own child could not indulge in such rough sports, because he was passing through a phase.

But suddenly a shout rang out louder than all the rest. The weakling, Jim, sprang for the horizontal bar, hooked one leg over it, and went whirling round and round as fast as a top, emitting all the while a most terrific yell. As he dropped to the ground, he turned somersaults forward and backward, and walked on his hands in a more sprightly manner than his mother had ever seen him walk on his feet. Then, without a pause he seized a boy of his own size round the waist and flung him to the ground; and rising he rolled up his sleeves and issued a challenge to all comers.

The hostess stepped to the door and requested her sons to desist from their play for a while until they weeded the garden.

"Oh, let's help!" cried Jim, brightly, and the whole band was off on a run. In a quarter hour they were again heard at the door. "Got it done!" Jim announced. Isn't there something else we can do?" She said they might go back to their play now.

"Whoop!" cried Jim's voice. "Let's go swimming!"

Jim was at home when his mother arrived that evening, but his task was untouched, and he complained of being tired.

Mrs Dillon calmly brought out the lawn mower, and pointed to the long grass. "It's an hour till supper time. I guess you can finish before then. If not, you can take a turn before breakfast in the morning."

Jim's face clouded. He began to pout. "But mother, I'm so tired!" And he added with a deep, deep sigh, "I don't know what's the matter with me. I guess I must be passing through a phase."

"I know you are," said the mother, quietly, as she reached for a newly cut hickory stick of healthy size; "you won't be long. I'm going to help you get through it quick."—The Youth's Companion.

To Clean Velvet.

If your navy blue velvet suit is soiled only by general wear it may be well and easily cleaned by sponging it with a weak solution of borax and benzine. First brush the dress thoroughly to free it from all superficial dust. For this it is best to take it out in the outer air, hanging it in a shady spot. If any grease spots appear they must be removed by rubbing them lightly and rapidly with a clean cloth dipped in the pure rectified benzine; finish with a clean dry cloth and the spots will be removed without leaving a trace. Then take a piece of sponge or a soft cloth, dip it in the borax and benzine solution and go carefully over the whole fabric, spread out on a table, rubbing the cloth lightly without really wetting it. Keep the benzine away from contact with a light or fire. Any place where the nap appears worn or awry should be steamed from the under side until the pile is raised. By this treatment your suit should appear quite clean and fresh looking. Delicate colored silks may also be cleaned by this method without injury to the coloring.

The Mess Men Make

In the beautiful life of "Margaret Ogilvy," written by her son, Mr J M Barrie, the author tells of a certain day, during the illness of his sister, when he played maid of all work in the household, and proved anew that man may rule the court, the camp and the grove, and still fail in the administration of the kitchen. At last Mr Barrie's sister is able to rise, and after a sharp fight he is expelled from the kitchen. The last thing he does as maid of all work is to carry up-stairs the clothes-basket, which has just arrived from the mangling.

"Now," he writes, there is delicious linen for my mother to finger; there was always rapture on her face when the clothes basket came in; it never failed to make her once more the active genius of the house. I may leave her now with her sheets and collars and napkins and fronts. Indeed, she probably orders me to go. A son is all very well but suppose he were to tread on that countenance!"

Then—his sister in the kitchen—he settles at his desk in the parlor to write a love chapter in his new book. He has yoked to his work when, enter his mother, looking wistful

"I suppose you are terrible throng," she says.

"Well, I am rather busy, but—What is it you want me to do?"

"It would be a shame to ask you."

"Still ask, me."

"I am so terrified they may be filed."

"You want me to—"

"If you would just come up and help me to fold the sheets."

The sheets are folded, and I return to Albert. I lock the door, and at last I am bringing my hero forward nicely—my knee in the small of his back—when this startling question is shot by my sister through the keyhole: "Where did you put the carrot-grater?"

It will all have to be done over again if I let Albert go for a moment so gripping him hard, I shout indignantly that I have not seen the carrot-grater.

"Then what did you grate the carrots on?" asks the voice, and the door handle is shaken just as I shake Albert.

"On a broken cup," I reply with surprising readiness, and I get to work again, but am less engrossed, for a conviction grows on me that I put the carrot grater in the drawer of the sewing machine.

I am wondering whether I should confess or brazen it out when I hear my sister going hurriedly upstairs. I have a presentiment that she has gone to talk about me, and I basely open my door and listen.

"Just look at that mother!"

"Is it a dish cloth?"

"That's what it is now."

"Losh behears! it's one of the new table napkins."

"That's what it was. He has been polishing the kitchen grate with it!"

I remember!

"Woe's me! That is what comes of his not letting me budge from this room. Oh it is a warty Sabbath when men take to doing women's work!"

"It defies the face of clay, mother, to fathom what makes him so senseless."

"Oh it's that weary writing!"

"And the worst of it is, he will talk to-morrow as if he had done wonders."

"That's the way with the whole clanjam-fray of them."

"Yes, but as usual you will humor him, mother."

"Oh, well, it pleases him, you see," said my mother, "and we can have our laugh when his door's shut."

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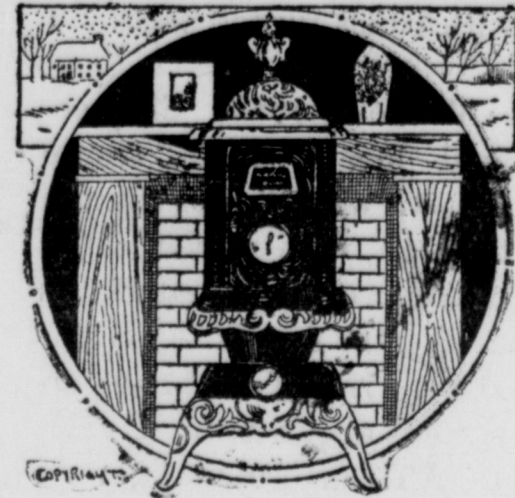
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Five hundred women blacksmiths are idle in Cradley Heath, England, because they will not agree to work for the next six months for four or five shillings a week. The women, who operate forges in their own homes, are engaged in making chains. Their wages have been so low that a commission, after an investigation extending over seven months, decided that they should be increased, although the old rate might continue for six months if the women would consent. About half the women agreed to work for the old pay. The rest have been locked out.—The Youth's Companion.

Not only have many great industrial concerns taken a stand in recent years against the employment of drinking men, but one of the strongest of the labor unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, insists upon absolute sobriety among its members, and shows no mercy to offenders. It is easy to see what this means to all who travel on railroad trains, and to the cause of temperance and total abstinence.—The Youth's Companion.

Portugal objected to being a Manuel training school.—Toronto Globe.

To obtain the meat from pecan nuts soak them overnight in water. They will then break easily, and the kernels will be more easily taken out whole.

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PARLIAMENT WILL MEET IN NOVEMBER.

The date of the opening of the parliamentary session has not yet been considered in the cabinet council, but there is little disposition in the best informed circles to place any credence in the report that the House will not meet till January. The estimates are now being prepared by various departments, and these can all be dealt with by council in course of a month.

While there are a variety of important matters to be dealt with this session, the legislation to be introduced will not involve such lengthy consideration as did the Insurance and Anti-Gambling bills of last session, interests from the Atlantic to the Pacific were heard. The bill which will involve the most consideration will be the act to amend the Bankers' Act.

Another reason why the House should meet in November is that it must rise early in the summer in order that the premier may attend the coronation of King George. The decoration of the Senate chamber may cause a short delay, but the House is almost certain to meet not later than November 17.

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