

**Chat to . . .
Boys and Girls.**

We had a pleasant chat one day not very long ago, about flowers and the different legends connected with them, their significance, and how they come by their names etc. But I don't think we spoke of the lily the rival of the queenly rose in the garden; and it would never do to forget her because of her beauty and fragrance, to say nothing of the wonderful stories told concerning the various species.

The lily of the valley is everywhere held as a symbol of purity and holiness and a sweet flower, it is. In some parts of St. Leonard's forest in Sussex it grows freely and a legendary tale is there told of it. It is said to have sprung from the blood of St. Leonard who once met a mighty reptile called a "fire drake" in the forest and did battle with it for three whole days. The saint came off victorious, but in the struggle he was severely wounded, and wherever drops of his blood fell on the ground, lilies sprang up in profusion.

There are quaint old stories of people being changed by death into lilies. One of these given in a book called "Northern mythology," I might repeat for you:—

There was in the days of yore a conjuror who cut peoples heads off and set them on again. One day when he was practising his art, a travelling journeyman entered the room as a spectator. On the table before the conjuror, there stood a large glass filled with distilled water, out of which grew a white lily every time the conjuror cut a head off, which he called the "Lily of life." When the conjuror had cut a head off, the traveller quickly stepped up to the table, and with a sharp knife severed the stalk of the lily without being observed by anyone; so that when the conjuror would replace the head the operation failed, whereupon he was seized and burned for a murderer.

In Germany the water lily is gathered as a charm against witchcraft. One writer upon superstitions says "I remember when a boy that we were very careful in plucking and handling the water lily, for if anyone fell with such a flower in his possession he became immediately subject to fits!"

Did you ever hear of such nonsense? I am glad, and so I am sure are you, that we are not tied down to such old superstitions in our country—none of us would like to be afraid of our lovely fragrant water lilies.

In olden times no plant ranked higher as an antidote to witches and all evil things than St. John's wort or root. When hung up on St. John's day, together with a cross, over the doors of houses, "it kept out the devil and all evil spirits—to gather the root on the morning of St. John's day at sunrise and keep it in the house, gave luck to the family in their undertakings, especially on those begun on that day." It used to be a popular belief in the Isle of Wight, before crowds of visitors drove the fairies out, that if you trod on the St. John's wort after sunset, a fairy horse would rise from the earth and bear you about all night, leaving you in the morning wherever you might chance to be at sunrise.

How would you like that my boys? Some of you I am afraid would think it fine to be left so far from the schoolhouse that there could be no possibility of even one session that day, wouldn't you?

There is a common saying in Switzerland that if a traveller have a piece of St. John's wort in his shoes he will never be weary—what a blessing this would be to tired mothers, trotting miles about the house, attending to everybody's comfort, if it were only true!

Superstitious people also believed that rosemary kept off thieves, and some held that it could work even a greater wonder, and make old folks young again. Don't I wish that were true? Your old auntie would at once begin to cultivate rosemary! There is a story told in an old English poem on the virtues of this plant, about an old woman bent with age, and crippled with rheumatism who looked back to her dancing days with not unnatural regret so—

"Of rosemary she took six pound
And ground it well into a stownde."
Whatever that may be—and then mixed it with water in which she bathed three times a day. The result was very satisfactory; for she became so youthful looking that she began to look out for a husband.

Flax has more than one interesting item connected with it—for instance: When a young woman gets married she puts flax in her shoes, under the belief that through doing so she will never come to poverty. In Bohemia there is a belief that seven-year-old children, by dancing in a field of flax will become beautiful. If flax grew in our country and this belief were popular what a field full of little folks we should see, dancing about guarded by anxious mammas.

In the following legend we have an instructive example of what may be the end of woman's curiosity:

"A dwarf came one day to a girl, and gave her a distaff full of flax on which there was enough for her whole life, provided she never spun it quite off. She spun from one year to another, and yet the distaff was always full, and she got so much yarn, that she was constantly adding one piece of fine linen to another. At last she thought she might as well know what was beneath the flax, and why she might not spin it all off. So she spun quicker and quicker, and had at length the end of it between her fingers. But alas! Under the flax there was nothing on the distaff, and the everlasting supply was irrevocably gone." The moral to which is—let well enough alone.

I must now conclude with a few words concerning the practice of wearing orange-blossoms for bridal wreaths, which was no doubt derived from the Saracens who regarded these flowers as emblematic of happiness in marriage. Orange flower water is sprinkled over the wedded pair in some countries, and in Sardinia, oranges are hung on the horns of the oxen attached to the wagons that convey them on the day of their nuptials.

AUNT BELL.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Hand-painted satin and muslin gowns are coming into vogue.

Double veiling is now considered very smart. It is made of the finest plain or dotted black net, and has a lining of white illusion tulle. The effect is to heighten the beauty of the wearer's complexion.

Exquisite tea gowns are being made of white dotted Swiss over wash silk in pale tints.

In Paris toques of maiden-hair fern with large stiff cabbage roses are popular. The more unnatural the shade of the flowers the sweller are they considered. White and black tulle hats, and indeed white and black hats of all sorts and shapes, are likewise very much worn, as are entire toques and hats of Parma violets trimmed on one side with a white bird.

A new idea is to disguise the existence of any collar band at all and to carry the yoke itself in whatever fashion it may be made up to the chin. Indications point to the reign of the plain or simple rolled collar in the immediate future, and it is said that chiffon and lace ears and tabs and bows are to be abolished from the nape of the neck.

The masses of beads and spangles which have been so popular on evening dresses during the winter are being dispensed with. Black Chantilly over white mousseline de soie is the latest fancy for the evening gown and the seams, which are indispensable in the new tunic, are hidden beneath lace, the idea being to give the effect of a seamless gown.

Some smartly cut boleros on cloth gowns open over a lace bodice arranged in the loose accordion-plaited lines that give fullness to a slender figure; others are lined with lace.

If the signs of the times are to be trusted, perforated cloth is to be much worn. This does not mean that perforated strips are sewn on, but the skirt or bodice is cut out and the perforated design then carried out. A color is put under the perforations.

Clasps, so that ribbon belts may be easily interchangeable, have almost superseded belt buckles. The newest are of silver, gilded with a dull, reddish finish, and with these pressed velvet is used.

Rosa Bonheur is now at Nice, where she occupies a villa opposite that of M. Gambart, her old friend and host. There is a beautiful garden which is a marvel of tropical luxuriance. Palms grow according to the account of an enthusiastic eye witness, as in an African wilderness. It may be that the eye witness has never seen an African wilderness, but, at all events, the villa seems to be a very nice one. The famous painter is extremely rude to people who intrude upon her, but is most charming to those she knows and likes.

The following sounds like a paraphrase of Shakespeare's seven ages of man. It was written by a musician in a manuscript music book: 'At 15 years of age most ladies are arpeggio; at 20 a lady is an allegro vivace; at 30, occasionally, she is an accordia forte; at 40 andante; at 50 the rondo finale often begins; while from 60 it is a tremolo alla sordino.'

People who have grudge against telephone companies in general will be pleased to know that the women of New South Wales refused to be grounded down by any soulless corporation. They determined to get the worth of the telephone rent, no matter how much time it took, so they conversed over the wires by the hour until the central office people were driven to distraction. Things got to such a point that the Postmaster General in Sydney was appealed to, and he issued an order forbidding loquacious women from monopolizing a telephone for more than ten minutes at a time.

The Countess of Warwick is said to be the only peeress whose name appears over a shop window. This particular shop, however is run for the benefit of poor needlewoman. Sixty girls are employed, and the profits are expended for their benefit. One old country-woman, whose name the Countess over the window, did not understand the situation, and exclaimed: 'Oh, pore lady, 'ow she must've come down in the world!'

Mrs. Eva E. Tutts is said to be a skilled engineer and electrician. At any rate, she succeeds in drawing a salary as Secretary, Treasurer, and general manager of the Long Beach and San Pedro Electric Company in California. She is a skilled mechanic in addition to being a shrewd business woman.

The so called 'kiss-curl' which some grown-up good little girls have been wearing in the middle of their foreheads is not such a novelty as the hairdressers make believe. The same fetching arrangement may be found on some of the oldest statues in the Vatican. Apropos of which, an English paper remarks that "Solomon knew what he was talking about when he said: 'There is nothing new under the sun-bonnet.'"

Probably M. Vivier, the Parisian dog tailor, is not sorry that there is a fad for equipping pet dogs with overshoes. M. Vivier has a monopoly of the fashionable canine trade in Paris and says that it is harder to fit a blanket to a dog than a gown to a woman. If this be true, women will feel sorrier than ever for dogs.

A gypsy queen named Mimi Berga was buried in Austria not long ago. She was the wife of a wealthy horse dealer, it seems, and lay in state after her death, in a handsome metal coffin with massive silver ornaments. A profusion of jewels was buried with the body, and, in order that she might not be in need, a purse full of coins was placed in her hand. The hearse was drawn by six horses and followed by torchbearers.

'Woman is nothing but a two legged, dyspeptic owl.' This genial opinion is said to have been uttered by a supposedly learned gentleman who rejoices in the name of Wiggin, and is said to be a professor in the Chicago College of Physicians. The

Boys, Girls and La Grippe.

PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND

Banishes All Poison Germs and Purifies the Entire System.

The Marvellous Medicine Gives Strength, Vim and Snap to All Weak and Puny Children.

Have your boys and girls suffered from Grippe? If so, you have a work which you cannot neglect if you value the future health and happiness of your dear ones. This is indeed the critical period of their lives—a time that calls for prompt and decisive action. Their future, which means health and physical happiness or sufferings and early death, is in your hands, dear parents, and you alone are responsible to your God and your country.

ing care has brought your children safely through the pains, agonies and dangers that Grippe spreads around. Do not be deceived, however, by a satisfaction that all is well. Grippe has implanted seeds of other virulent troubles that must be expelled from the blood, and to get the desired results you must have your children use Paine's Celery Compound, that marvellous prescription of one of earth's most eminent medical men—Dr. Edward E. Paine.



The use of Paine's Celery Compound for a few weeks will thoroughly cleanse the impure and stagnant blood. The relaxed and sluggish action of the excretory organs will be overcome; instead of cold and clammy limbs, the whole body will have the true warmth of health; headaches, constipation, irritability and languidness will be banished, and the rose tint of full life will flush the young cheeks, the eyes will sparkle, and the elastic, quick and firm steps of your loved ones will be the

best evidence of God's greatest gift—sound health.

Boys and girls with such a start in health as they always receive from Paine's Celery Compound; row up like young oaks in the forest, fair to behold; they revel in strength and true life and make men and women that are needed by our country. Do your part, dear parents, and rest assured Paine's Celery Compound will not fail in its grand work.

college authorities reprimanded Wiggin for his ungallant remark, but perhaps he was not really to blame. He seems to resemble the women of his family as he understands them.

The fifty-ninth anniversary of Queen Victoria's wedding was observed on Feb. 10. Usually on these anniversaries the Queen gives a dinner and her wedding gown is shown to the young members of the royal family and the ladies and gentlemen of the household. This year the court was in mourning for Prince Alfred of Coburg.

CURE THOSE UGLY PIMPLES.
By Using Dr. Agnew's Ointment—Any Form of Eczema Healed at Once, and Cured Eventually by its Use.

Not a skin blemish caused by eczema, tetter, ringworm, salt rheum, scald head and other skin diseases that will not vanish as by magic on the application will give quick comfort and relief, and in a few days the skin heals up and is as soft as a baby's. It will cure piles in from three to five nights—no matter what nature or how long standing. 85 cents. Sold by E. C. Brown, and all druggists.

A Practical Sentence.
A decidedly original sentence was given by a Western judge in the United States. A man who did not know how to read and write was sentenced, for a minor offence, to be imprisoned until he learned. The next prisoner could do both, and he was sentenced to stay in goal until he had taught his predecessor in the dock. After three weeks they were discharged, both having fulfilled their task to the satisfaction of the judge.

The Apple as Medicine.
The apple is such a common fruit that few persons are familiar with its remarkably efficacious medicinal properties. Everybody ought to know that the very best thing he can do is to eat apples just before going to bed. The apple is excellent brain food, because it has more phosphoric acid, in an easily digestible shape, than any other fruit known. It excites the action of the liver, promotes sound and healthy sleep, and thoroughly disinfects the mouth. It also agglutinates the surplus acids of the stomach, helps the kidney secretion, and prevents calculus growth, while it obviates

A Happy Medium.

The world in general puts on a new mantle as the spring draws near. We women also have a desire to look gay. But not a few of us have to make both ends meet. And our methods and means to do this, as the harsher sex say, are varied and peculiar. It is our business to call into play various little arts and crafts; and among them is the method of dyeing. And in this regard it is fortunate to discover a happy medium by which you can do your dyeing at home. Maypole Soap promises to help you towards accomplishing this, and the *modus operandi* is extremely simple. You put a cake of the soap into a cup, and thoroughly dissolve with boiling water, then put the fabric in, and keep it moving under water for eight or ten minutes. The soap is made to dye almost any shade, such as pink, cream, mauve, heliotrope, light-blue etc. By the use of it you can readily put such items, be they silk, satin or lace, as blouses, dresses, underlinen, ribbons, children's frocks, pinafores, lamp shades, silk scarves, handkerchiefs, gentlemen's shirts, lace curtains, silk gloves, stockings, antimacassars, toilet mats, slawls, etc., through a redivivus, and make them look almost new, and yet the color when once in will not wash out of the fabric dyed, and it will also defy the sunlight. Certainly to order "Maypole" Soap will be a wise addition to your marketing list.—*The Westminster Budget.*

What European Vineyards are Worth.

The annual production of the European vineyards is 2 652 300,000 gallons. These figures give the reason why the wine growing countries can never become teetotal. It is noteworthy that Italy, so far ahead of other countries in vineyard area, has nothing like the same pre-eminence as a producer of wine. Italy's annual production (in round numbers) is 697,000,000 gallons, while France and Spain yield each something like 610,000,000 gallons. Spain is the chief exporter, getting about £12 000,000 for the 200,000,000 gallons which she sells abroad. France gets about the same sum for her share, while Italy gets only £2,800,000 for the 45,000,000 gallons annually exported.

The D & A Corset

CORSET COMFORT.

There are corsets and corsets. Every lady knows that the mere appearance of a corset is no indication of its comfort. We claim for the

"D. & A." CORSET

that it is well made on a thoroughly natural principle. While supporting the chest it allows full play of the muscles, adapting itself to the form, yet adding to its grace and beauty. In addition to which it is the handsomest looking corset on the market.

PRICE: \$1.00 TO \$3.50 PAIR.

CURVES TO FIT

IRON-LIKE WEAR

S. H. & M. BIAS BRUSH EDGE

OUTWEARS all other bindings four times over—the brush edge is practically everlasting and indestructible. So dressy, so elegant, so soft, so rich, so handsome, and fits the rounded skirt as though a part of it. Do not buy a ready-made skirt unless it is bound with it, for the skirts that wear are bound with the binding that wears.

S. H. & M. is stamped on every yard. If your dealer will not supply you, we will.

The S. H. & M. Co., 24 Front St. West, TORONTO, Ont.