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THE CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

MATER'S LETTER BOX.

Mater invites children to send in stories for this column, or correspondence which will be replied to through these columns. All matter to be clearly written in ink, on one side of the paper only. Name, age, and address, must be always given, and correspondence directed to "Mater," care of Editor, "The Digger," Box 310, Invercargill.

"PILOT."

(By La Comtesse de Armil).

Sandy Dicks' dog was nothing to look at. It was once called a cross between a garden rake and a door mat; but the man who said it went down on his back and stayed there quite a time. No; he was nothing to look at. Sandy didn't pretend that he was. But there was more in Pilot, as Sandy would say than common men could see.

There was a time when Sandy himself would kick any dog across the street that got in his way—a time when he lived for himself, and reckoned every other creature in the universe his natural enemy. But that was not his fault. It was his bring_ ing up. He had never had a friend in his life until he chummed up with Pilot. "Aye, and I tell yer that there dog's done more for me," he would say, "than all the human beings put together. When first I see him I used to kick him aside. I once threw him two bits of red meat and then the red end of a cigar. ...e didn't seem to bear no ill feeling, either. He just took me as if I was the noblest man he had ever set eyes on. I tell yer, there wasn't a low-down trick I didn't play on him. I hurt him till the game wasn't worth playing-till I got plumb tired of it-whilst he guarded me day and

"At last, one day I took his head between my hands-I was sitting on the side of my camp bed-and I says to him, 'Are you a fool?" I was looking straight into his eyes. He wagged his tail and licked my wrists. Then it came to me all of a sudden. "God," I says, "he loves me!" and rolled on to the bed. What I saw in those eyes just made me feel the lowest cur on God's earth when I remembered all that I had done to him. No one had ever loved me before, you see, so I couldn't understand it at first. But I couldn't sleep a wink that night-kept looking over at the little patch curled up against the door. Once I called him. I had not given him a name then-just said, 'Here!' I put my hand out to feel for him, and he licked the back of it, and sort of waited for orders—to see if I wanted anything; then he threw himself down again over against the door with a big sigh as if he was happy.

"Do you know what it feels like when you begin for the first time to love anything? I didn't till then. I had never loved anything before—I thought love all rot. But it is a strange feeling, and the next day I felt a bit ashamed lest the other fellows in the diggin's might find it out. But I don't care now who knows it. Old Pilot has steered me to the right port. And he's done for me what never a sky pilot could have done; 'cos I wouldn't listen to them—he has taught me that without love the world isn't much of a place anyway."

THE LITTLE SILVER RING.

A certain wise man had a beautiful little daughter. When the little girl was about to have a birthday which would bring her age for the first time into two figures, he sent for her and said, "My daughter, I have a gift for you to-day, and with it go three wishes. The gift is a silver ring. Cut on the inside are three circles to remind you of the three wishes. To everyone else the circles will look empty, but to you they will always contain my three wishes. The first wish is this, that your mind may be like a river; the second wish is that your whole life may be like the flowers; and the third is that your body may grow like the oak-tree." Her father then kissed her and added, "What the wishes mean you must find out for your-

The little girl was rather puzzled, but the morning was bright and sunny, so, with her new ring on her finger, she trotted off for a ramble in the woods. On the way she passed over a bridge across the river. She stopped a moment to look down at the water, and the little wavelets splashed together gently and whispered, "Don't you see that the stream never ceases to move onwards?"

"Yes," replied the little girl, "I know but why do you tell me that?"

"Don't you see," the little wavelets replied, "that is why your father wants your mind to be like a river? If it stood still

it would become stagnant and unlovely."

The little wavelets dashed away, and the little girl ran along through a field of waving flowers. She bent down to smell them as she passed, and they rustled their blooms together and sang, "We are beautiful. We are beautiful. We are beautiful.

"But why do you tell me that?" asked the little girl. "Don't you see," replied the flowers, "that your father wants your whole life to be the same."

She sped on to the woods and soon spied a tall oak-tree. She climbed up into its friendly branches. The leaves whispered round her, and as the breeze shook them together she heard them say, "An oak-tree grows upright and is very strong." "I know," said the little girl, "but why do you tell me that?" "Don't you see," replied the leaves, "that is what your father wants your body to be."

So she wore the ring all her life, and whenever she saw the three circles she remembered the three wishes and tried to make them come true.

THE HOME.

SPICED COFFEE JELLY.

Four cupfuls hot coffee, 12 whole cloves, 1 three-inch stick cinnamon, 5-8 cupful sugar, ½ cupful cold water, 2 tablespoonfuls gelatin. Add the spices to the coffee and boil gently for ten minutes. Then strain out the spices, add the sugar and gelatin, which should have been soaked for at least fine minutes in the cold water, stir thoroughly, and pour into a mould, which has been dipped in cold water, to stiffen. Serve when firm with plain cream or whipped cream, which has been sweetened and flavoured with a little extract of cinnamon.

ICING.

One tablespoonful boiling water, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups confectioner's sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon melted butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla and a few drops lemon juice. To the boiling water add confectioner's sugar slowly to make a paste stiff enough to spread; add vanilla, lemon juice and melted butter. If too stiff, a few additional drops of boiling water may be added; spread on tops of cakes at once.

RAISIN DROP CAKES.

Four tablespoons shortening, 1 cup sugar, 2-3 cup milk, 1 egg, 1\(\frac{3}{4}\) cups flour, 3 teaspoons Royal Baking Powder, 1-8 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla or other flavouring. Cream shortening; add sugar; add well beaten egg and milk very slowly; sift flour, baking powder and salt together and add to mixture; add raisins which have been washed, drained and floured slightly; add flavouring, mix well and put a small amount of mixture into greased individual cake tins; bake in hot oven 15 to 20 minutes; sprinkle with powdered sugar, or cover with white icing.

PEANUT BREAD.

Two and a-half cupfuls flour, 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder, 1 teaspoonful salt, ½ cupful sugar, 1 cupful chopped peanuts, 1 egg, 1 cupful sweet milk, ½ cupful shortening. Mix and sift the dry ingredients, rub in the shortening, then add the egg, milk, and peanuts. Pour into greased bread-pan, let stand for ten minutes, then bake in a moderate oven for forty minutes. When the loaf is taken from the oven brush the crust with a little melted butter.

NUT GINGERBREAD.

One cupful of chopped nuts, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of sour milk, one cupful of butter, 2 eggs, 1 cupful of sugar, 5 butter, two eggs, one cupful of sugar, five cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of baking soda, one teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon, one tablespoonful of ginger, one teaspoonful of grated nutmeg. Beat the butter and sugar together, then beat in the spices and molasses; add the eggs, well beaten, the milk, the soda dissolved in three tablespoonfuls of hot water, and lastly the flour and nuts. Beat for ten minutes. Pour into a buttered and papered tin, and bake in a moderate oven for an hour and a half.

TO MAKE A PASTRY SHELL.

Roll pastry one-fourth inch thick, cut a little larger than your pie plate and lay on the outside of the tin, pressing it gently in place. Prick with a fork, place plate on a tin sheet, pastry uppermost, and bake in a moderate oven. When slightly cool, remove pastry from the plate, place on a serving plate and fill as desired.

Lemons ought never to be allowed to dry up. It is so simple to keep them plump. Some people recommend packing them in a crock in dry sand, arranging so that no two lemons touch. This for a quantity. For the usual half dozen on

BARLOW'S Jubilee Store,

NEVER SAY DIE, BUT ALWAYS TRY

BARLOW'S JUBILEE TEA.

Phone 16L

Owing to the rise in Butter you will find it cheaper to use Pure Jams. I have a full range in glass and tins in 1, 2, 4, and 7. TRY IT.

Is the place to buy your GROCERIES—where you get the best value for cash. Established nearly a quarter of a century; still going strong. Send your orders by post or 'phone, and you will receive them promptly for cast on delivery. Pay cash and save booking charges.

DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

ADVERTISERS!

We guarantee the "Digger" to penetrate the whole of Southland, Lake District, South Otago, and to a lesser degree, a few places beyond this sphere, including as far north as Auckland. The destiny of the "Digger" as an effective and efficient advertising medium is assured.

We can tell you of a number who can testify to our claim and we are always ready to discuss advertising with firms who are desirous of reaching the purchasing public.

Remember ONE advertisement in the "Digger" covers the whole field.

We guarantee to have the largest circulation of any weekly, south of Dunedin, and the largest circulation outside of the leading morning and evening papers.

Failure to change your advertisement is failure to get effective service, and no fault of the "Digger."

hand at once, it is better to cover them with cold water, weighting them to keep them down. The water should be changed twice a week.

OUR NEIGHBOUKS' KEEPERS.

We are living so close to our neighbour to-day that we, of necessity, exert either a good or a bad influence on his home life according as we live our own. Each home or fireside in every town or city is also in turn an integral part of that town or city, and the wealth in economy, business, finance and industry of each little home is felt and is evidenced in the town itself. If the community is made up of people of thrift, the family benefits and the community benefits. They rise or fall together.

Apart from the feeling of pride which comes to the best of us from enjoying the beautiful surroundings of our neighbours, it is obvious that none of us may selfishly sit back and determine what we shall spend and how we shall live without regard to our neighbours, for we are perforce bound to realize whether our influence is good or bad.

METHODS OF MORTGAGING.

A mortgage being in reality an obligation on the part of the borrower to repay at the expiration of a stipulated time to the lender the full amount thereof with interest, it is just as important to consider the length of time as the rate of interest. If the term is too short it means an early renewal and its attendant charges for investigation, title search, recording, and so forth, and it is not always possible to renew at the same source. The longer the term the better it is for the borrower.

WE MUST PROVE THAT IT DOES NOT PAY TO CHEAT.

When private capital gouged and cheated, some thought to stop gouging and cheating by taking the business away from them and letting the Government do it, unmindful of the fact, since illustrated, that we may wake up to find the same men running the government bureau who were running the private enterprise and without the responsibility invested capital involves. If individuals want to cheat and waste, they will try to do so no matter what the form of government or of business organisation. We simply have to prove that it does not pay to do it—in dollars and cents and in public regard.

It speaks volumes for the good behaviour of Invercargill crowds when it can be said that the police had occasion to make only one arrest (an inebriate), during the Christmas and New Year holidays. This was effected in the interim, the lock-up being vacant on the festive days. This is a record of good conduct that is to be commended.

Milk! Pasteurised Milk!

Clean, Wholesome, Creamy

GUARANTEED TO KEEP SWEET.

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FOR CASH OVER THT COUNTER ONLY.

Study Economy; no scalding required, no waste, and sweet milk for three meals daily. With unpasteurised milk it may only keep sweet long enough to do One Meal.

We have one of the most upto-date plants procurable for treating milk; freezing plant, cool chambers, etc.

PATRONISE THE FIRM TRYING TO IMPROVE THE MILK SUPPLY OF THE TOWN.

Invercargill Milk Supply,

53 YARROW STREET.

DAIRY will be open from 7 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Sundays, 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

SLEEPY SONG.

As soon as the fire burns red and low,
And the nurse upstairs is still,
She sings me a queer little sleeply
song

Of sheep that go over the hill.

The good little sheep are quick and soft,
Their colours are grey and white,
They follow their leader, nose to tail,
For they must be home by night.

And one slips over, and one comes next.

Then one runs after behind,

The grey one's nose at the white one tail,

The top of the hill they find.

And when they get to the top of the hill,

They quietly slip away,

But one runs over and one comes next,
Their colours are white and grey.

And over the top of the hill;
The good little sheep run quick and soft,
And the nurse upstairs is still.

And one slips over, and one comes next,

And over they go, and over they goe

And one slips over, and one comes here.

The good little, grey little sheep!

I watch how the fire burns red and low.

And she says that I fall asleep.

- Josephine Daskam Bacon