word in party frocks for small girls. Spot muslin and similar materials are favourite materials, and the frills give quite a crinoline effect, especially when worn with a broad china-blue sash and blue heelless slippers to match. I saw a very quaint model the other day, quite early Victorianish, and designed for high days and holidays. The full skirt was entirely composed of ribbon ruchings in blue, under transparent net frills. Some sweet little frocks for toddlers also took my fancy. They were of white crepe-de-chine, very full from the yoke, and embroidered in cross-stitch in gay Hungarian colours and designs.

* * *

HAVE you got a bowl garden? If not, set to work and make one for yourself—they are so fascinating to do and are a source of perennial joy as table decorations or for window sills. A friend of mine, just back from England, says they are all the rage over there—everybody's making one! You'll want a large, rather deep, bowl and some fairly good mould. On the top place some rough stones or small pieces of rock to give the surface the appearance of a rock garden. Get some very small plants, dwarf cacti or other tiny plants which love stony places. A little rustic house is needed, and one or two small figures from a toy-shop or the inexhaustible Woolworth's store. A small piece of mirror surrounded with moss makes an admirable lake. Small rustic seats and a little bridge can be made quite easily. With a little ingenuity and resourcefulness, exquisite little gardens can be produced, and if kept carefully but sparingly watered and placed in a moderately warm spot, they are to all intents and purposes everlasting.

* * *

IN these days of January, pre-eminently the month of holiday-making, to those who are city-bound and unable, for economic and other reasons, to wander far afield, the call is strong from the havens on the hills, green and red roofs of which glimmer a welcome to week-enders, in quest of elusive sunbeam, and possessed of unconquerable optimism that soon the whirling gusts will howl themselves into some limbo of quietude "where never wind blows loudly." At the usual allotted seasons, household utilities are held up by reason of yearly beano of butcher, baker, and candlestickmaker; happy bands of pilgrims range up at train and ferry, the obviously family parties oftentimes flustered and tempest-tossed, with hamper and hogshead almost torn from their moorings by playful zephyr that makes hay of beret and scarf, and wafts skyward discreet skirts of materfamilias. Youth is mostly at the helm in these slightly pathetic parades of high hopes, this Pippa-ish desire to get the utmost out of one day's play. In the gusty midsummer days it is doubtful whether mother and father, and pastor and master, would brave burden and heat of from 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night, were it not for unfading joie de vivre of their progeny. When the world is young the sticky jujube is fished, not from battered biscuit-tin, but the jar of Aladdin; liquid refreshment is transformed from bespidered Amber Tips in ancient tin billy into nectar gathered from some dream valley, fragrant with meadowsweet, and quaffed to accompaniment of ambrosial currant buns that have seen better days. A short day and a merry one, or so it seems, with breathlessly futile attempts at cricket and gallant straining to conquer the world in the three-legged race. When, in the waning light, the time comes to gather together grimy sweets, paper caps, expiring balloons, and hit the home trail, fat legs linger by the wayside, and freckled faces shine with reminiscence and joy and jam. "Now the day is over" thankfully sigh the Olympians a little later, as they smoke the pipe of peace, drop into a doze, dream they are chasing butterflies over high hills, and awaken with obscure impression that, after all, the game is worth the candle.—Deirdre.

* * *

PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE is setting a fashion among Mayfair babies, according to "Home Notes." Now they must all have their walls a pale greenish blue, the woodwork a dull shade of vellum, a rose coloured carpet and old Sheraton furniture. The Princess's mother and father are most enthusiastic over modern electrical fittings, and have had an electric screen fitted up just inside the door connecting the day and night nursery, so as to ensure a perfectly even temperature. The new Princess is a wonderfully happy and contented baby and is said to be very like her mother.

* * *

A BOOK that will be welcomed by all mothers and all those who have the care of little children has recently been published by Geoffrey Bles (London). It is written by Margaret Gordon, who has had ten years' experience at one of the leading children's hospitals in London, and is the result of expert knowledge coupled with a wide understanding of children from infancy up to school age. As the author says, "Unfortunately, science has not yet been able to simplify the business of bringing up children. If you wish to be a successful mother you must have a thorough knowledge of children, and to make the best of this knowledge you must be as clean and methodical as a hospital-trained nurse." By no means a fool-proof job! The title of this valuable little volume is "A Book for Mothers."

. . . Trees . . .

All ye who pass us by or stay to rest
Within the compass of our leafy shade,
When in our summer raiment we are dressed
More gloriously than princes are arrayed,
Remember we're the roof tree of your home,
Your board, your bed. We haft the axe and hoe.
Your book, the busy shuttle and the loom,
The plough and spade to us their being owe.
We warm your hearth when nights are cold and dark
We were your cradle, and we shall be soon
The little ship, in which you must embark
For that adventurous voyage beyond the moon.
Then treat us kindly for the gifts we give.
We die to serve you; love us while we live.

—*H. V. BAINES.*

Hints for the Housewife

MARKING ink can be applied neatly and easily if the linen to be marked is moistened with cold-water starch, dried and ironed. This makes a smooth, stiff writing surface, and prevents the ink from running.

ADHESIVE paste can be made for emergency use from a cold boiled potato. Rub it on to paper and it will make it stick quite well. This is excellent for fixing a dado or bordering of wallpaper that has become loose.

WIRE brushes are useful in a variety of ways. The unpleasant odour of burning fat which has spattered the grill of the gas stove when fying can be avoided by brushing the grill with a wire brush before using. Wire brushes are more effectual than sandpaper in removing paint, especially from crevices.

IF you run out of shoe polish, you will find that lemon juice is a splendid substitute. To get brilliant polish on black or brown shoes, apply a drop or two to a soft clean rag, and polish the shoes with it. Brown shoes that are stained or discoloured can be rubbed over at night with tincture of iodine, applied on a soft rag. Next morning clean in the usual way and you will find all the stains have disappeared.

WHEN fixing small nails or screws, because of the difficulty of holding them, the fingers are apt to get in the way of the hammer or screwdriver. If the point of the screw or nail is passed through a piece of thin cardboard or thick paper which can be held in the fingers instead this difficulty will be overcome.

Woman of To-day

"THE economically free woman of to-day is a phenomenon not known before in history," states a well-known authority. The electrical age has come so that women can free themselves in their own homes. In an all-electric house work should be finished by 10 o'clock in the morning. The greater part of housework is stupid drudgery, and the application of electrical science will make for the housewife a fuller, richer, and more varied life. There are, I believe, about two million surplus women in England to-day, and for these electricity is meeting their demand for leisure when they return from business. England is the only country with an electrical association for women, but other countries are making great strides. For instance, in Holland, enterprising shopkeepers have the pavements outside their windows heated by electricity during the cold weather, in order to induce prospective customers to linger still longer! Then again, the cleverness of the Swiss engineer is hard to over-estimate. No matter how high up in the mountains, the tiniest hamlet is always electrically equipped.

Cleaning the Gas Stove

THE night before you are going to give your gas stove a special "spring-clean," cover all the enamelled parts in the oven with Kleenoff, and then wash thoroughly with soda and water the next morning. All burners should be removed and also scrubbed with soda water. In order to get the best results from the cooking done in a gas stove the following are a few suggestions which might be a little help: Dishes requiring slow cooking should be put on the browning shelf; for example, a large rich cake. Anything you want to brown and cook quickly, such as small cakes, put on an open shelf with the browning shelf immediately over it. To roast joints place them on the browning shelf, and when they are nearly done, to brown them put them under the browning shelf. If you are cooking a large cake, the gas oven can be turned off quarter of an hour before it is quite done, as the stove retains its heat for quite a while.

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