

For the LITTLE ONES



CARD SERVES AS DIAPHRAGM

Interesting and Instructive Experiment May Be Tried With Any Talking Machine.

Here is an amusing and instructive experiment that may be tried with any talking machine. Heretofore it has been supposed that the needle and sound box were necessary to transmit the words or music etched on the disks or rolls used as records on these machines. You may be surprised to know that an ordinary visiting card, or any similar card, will be quite effective as a diaphragm. As the disk revolves push aside the needle and apply the corner of the



Card as Diaphragm.

card to the surface. It will receive and transmit the sounds perfectly clearly. Of course, such a primitive transmitter has neither the volume nor the expression of the regular apparatus, but it is most interesting as a scientific experiment and will afford a great deal of amusement as well as furnish food for thought.

REAL MEANING OF "POTLUCK"

Inhabitants of Limoges Make One Plunge With Ladle and Take Whatever They Can Get.

The real origin of the word "potluck" is unknown to most of the people who use it. In Limoges, France, however one runs into potluck itself, remarks the New York Sun. In a certain corner of that quaint city of jostling roofs there is still segregated, much as if in a ghetto, a Saracen population, probably a remnant of the wave of Saracens that swept over Europe hundreds of years ago. Here they live in their crooked, narrow streets, following old customs handed down from generation to generation. There are many butcher shops in the quarter and outside of each steams a great pot of soup over a glowing brazier. In each pot stands a ladle as ancient as the pot. When a customer comes with a penny in goes the ladle and comes up full of savory broth and chunks of meat, odds and ends that the butcher has had left over. And what comes up the customer has to take. One can imagine how anxiously the hungry urechin or the mother of seven must eye the inexorable ladle and how a pretty girl might get another draw from the butcher's boy.

At any rate "to take potluck" means to take what you get and say nothing whether the pot is in Limoges or in the flat of the man who eagerly invites a friend of his youth to dinner.

RIDDLES.

- Which is the largest room in the world?
The room for improvement.
- When can you drink out of a flag-staff?
When it holds a flagon.
- How high ought a lady to wear her dress?
A little higher than two feet.
- Why do little birds in their nests agree?
Because they are high men (Hymen).
- Which is the most dangerous bat that flies in the air?
A brickbat.
- Why is a flirtation like plate powder?
Because it brightens up spoons.
- How long did Cain hate his brother?
As long as he was Abel.
- Why is a bad cold a great humiliation?
Because it brings the proudest man to his sneeze (his knees).
- Why is a tumbler like a pugilist?
Because he can't get his living without some assaults (somersaults).
- Why is ivy climbing a tree like a watch?
Because it's a stem winder.
- When are roads like corpses?
When they are men-led.
- Why is cold cream like a good chap-eron?
Because it keeps off the chaps.
- When is a blow from a lady welcome?
When she strikes you agreeably.
- What snuffaker is that whose box gets fuller the more snuff he takes?
A pair of snuffers.

PLAY FOR WINTER EVENINGS

Much Amusement May Be Obtained by Use of Ordinary Dinner Plates Covered With Lamp-Black.

Prepare a plate by covering the bottom with thick lamp-black. Then when your friends arrive, tell them you are able to perform a great trick. You are an expert magnetizer. You may say:

"I do not often perform in public, but among friends I do not object to giving a proof of my skill. The only point upon which I must insist is perfect gravity and quiet among the audience. I will now see if I can select a subject who is susceptible to the magnetic influences."

You now pass from one to another, making passes, and looking steadily into eyes of several of the company, feeling the pulse of one and another, till finally you select one individual whom you declare to be the man for the experiment.

You now clear one end of the room and place two chairs, face to face, some three feet apart. In one of these you seat your intended victim and ask for two glasses of water, standing in two plates. This produces the blackened plate, and a clean one, upon each of them a glass of clear water.

Handing the blackened plate to the subject who is to be magnetized, you take the clean plate and say, seating yourself in the vacant chair:

"Fix your eyes steadily upon mine, and make exactly the motions that I do."

You now proceed to make several motions with your open hand, keeping your eyes fixed upon your victim, till you have his undivided attention. You then dip your finger in the water and drawing it across the bottom of the plate make a cross upon your forehead; the subject does the same; a second pass over the bottom of the plate and the face draws a long black streak down the victim's nose; a third smears one cheek; a fourth the other. When the victim resembles a black-amoor the operator gravely rises and says the subject has proved that his will is too strong to yield to that of another man, and he must try a new one.

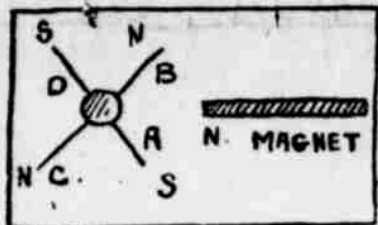
Then lead him to a mirror.

TEST WITH MAGNETIC MOTOR

Experiment Illustrates the Principle on Which All Electric Motors Are Based.

This experiment illustrates the principle on which all electric motors are based. All that is needed is five needles, a cork, a bar magnet and a small piece of wire.

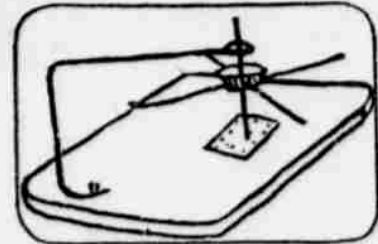
Magnetize four of the needles and stick them into the cork so that every other one will have a north pole pro-



A Magnetic Motor.

truding. Then push the remaining needle through the cork for an axle, making a support from the wire as shown.

To operate, bring one end of a bar magnet between needles A and B, then A will be repelled and B attracted by the bar magnet and the wheel turn, quickly lower the magnet



Motor in Operation.

and raise it again when the needles C and D come around. The direction of the motor can be changed by using the other end of the magnet.

Bobbie Knew.

Bobbie and Little Willie had been given orders by mother not to go swimming alone. Once in a while, however, they indulged in their secret pleasure without telling their fond mother.

One day they were returning from a swim and both had entirely forgotten about the necessary excuse. Little Willie bravely entered the house, but Bobbie prudently turned the corner and waited outside on the cellar door.

The first question mother put to little Willie took the little one un- aware. "Where have you been, Willie?" asked mother sternly. Willie hesitated, looked at the door longingly and finally replied, "Wait till I go and ask Bob!"—National Monthly.

The Compliment.

He had handed the child a banana and the latter, in his delight, forgot his customary "Thank you."
"But what do you say, Harry?"
For a moment the child was puzzled, then with a smile he handed it back.
"Pee! it!"—Harper's Bazar.

Not to Be Caught.

Teacher—What is the stuff heroes are made of, Tommie?
Tommie—You'll have to excuse me, teacher, but I'm not booming any particular breakfast food!

LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOTBED



A well-made hotbed and thoroughly protected as it is on the south side of the tool house. Any dealer in sash can supply them. Two sash three feet wide and six feet long will make a bed big enough to take care of all the plants needed for a large family. The right use of the hotbed and coldframe will give you vegetables from one to two weeks earlier than without. This helps if you are selling stuff.

The place selected for the hotbed should be well drained and, if possible, on the south side of a barn or other protecting objects. In middle latitudes where the ground is not likely to be frozen much after the bed is made, it should be excavated a foot deep, but in the far north where the ground is very cold, it would do better to make all above ground and inclose with a frame of boards.

If an excavation is made, throw up the dirt on the north side and use a narrow board on the south side, while several wide ones are used on the northwall to hold the dirt.

A foot of fresh stable manure should then be tramped in and as soon as this begins to heat add four inches of loose soil of a sandy nature if it can be found. The temperature will rise quickly, too hot to plant in for a few days. As soon as the cooling begins and it reaches a temperature of about 80 degrees, which will be the third or fourth day, plant the seed.

If sweet potatoes are to be bedded for slips they should be covered to a depth of an inch or more, as the roots of the slips will be too short if covered shallow. A hotbed should be made about three feet wide and as long as needed.

Such plants as tomato and pepper

should be grown where one has a hotbed, and as soon as large enough be transplanted to a coldframe, where they may stand two inches apart until ready to put in the open where they are to grow. These plants cannot stand cold and should not be exposed to cold, damp weather even if several degrees above frost.

Melons and cucumbers may be started in the hotbed by taking old cans from which the ends have been melted and planting the seeds in them in the hotbed. When ready to transplant them, take up can with the plants and dirt in it and put in the hill that has been prepared. The can may then be lifted up leaving dirt and plant. If the side seam of the can has been melted it will have to be held in place with a string tied around it.

Cold rains should not be allowed to fall on the hotbed, though a light shower will not cool it. Warm well water should be used for watering. Boards will do for a covering till the plants are up, then sash or muslin should be used when too cold to leave open. The plants must have air and the top sash should be left open during the middle of the day.

I have been successful without other covering than boards, as the sun is warm at that time of year.

GROWING POTATO UNDER A COVER

Straw Keeps Soil Cool and Moist, Right Condition for the Best Field.

Potatoes may be grown under straw as well as in the soil. The straw keeps the soil cool and moist, just in the right condition for best yield.

The following method of culture is given by a Maryland farmer who has followed this system for several years. He says: "My ground was plowed in the fall of 1911. Last spring, when the ground was dry, the land was well harrowed and the rows marked out two inches in depth. Early Rose potatoes, cut to one eye and dusted with plaster, were dropped ten inches apart in the furrow and covered about two inches in depth with the fine soil. Two weeks after planting the entire ground was covered with six inches of partly rotted wheat straw and chaff. The shoots pushed above the straw three weeks after planting, and made a strong growth. No cultivation was given. The vines were dusted with plaster and paris green as soon as the bugs appeared. Two applications were made, as worms were pretty thick in midsummer. The potatoes were ripe and fit to eat by the middle of July. When boiled the flesh was dry and well flavored, and when roasted in the ashes the potatoes when broken open were of a floury quality. From the two bushels planted I obtained 21½ bushels of good-sized and two and a half bushels of small potatoes. This was not a large yield. I am satisfied that the yield could have been increased by the use of a good kind of bone fertilizer. The ground was not manured or fertilized for the potatoes, as the ground had before been heavily dressed with yard manure the year before for growing truck. This is a good way to grow potatoes for family use by those having plenty of straw. Rotted stalks may be used if straw cannot be had."

A Future Guaranty.

Farming without a crop rotation of some sort, in my opinion, is most unprofitable. On my farm my rotation consists of wheat, followed by oats, then barley and corn. Rotation tends to produce bigger yields and keeps the land clean, says a writer in an exchange. Corn is almost necessary to a good rotation, as it increases the yield of the crop following. In preparing my ground for seeding, I plow as early as possible, then work the soil into good condition with a disk. I have a set time for seeding. I am governed by the weather.

High Class Rams.

No rates produced are too good to use on the grade flock and the higher the class of rams used the greater the profits.

FERTILIZER MIXING EASILY MASTERED

Work Can Well Be Done in Late February or Early March—Equipment Needed.

(BY M. ROBERTS CONOVER.)

Mixing one's fertilizer is a distinct advantage as it insures a proper proportion of ingredients as well as purity. Although there are reliable fertilizer dealers who will mix up the desired quantity of fertilizer according to a given formula at very reasonable prices, knowing one's soil and how to augment its plant-growing properties by contributing the right elements of plant food lifts the farmer above the grade of the blind, haphazard struggler. To the level of the scientific worker.

Although the proper proportion of ingredients for certain crops is the result of experience and research, the actual work of fertilizer mixing is simple and easily mastered.

The work can well be done in late February or early March for the mixtures needed early and on rainy days later in the season for the later lots. The least experience of hired men can do the work if one sets the example and superintends the process.

The needed equipment is a dry floor, a reliable platform scale, a wire screen of half-inch mesh, a scoop, a heavy implement for breaking up lumpy ingredients and some bags to receive the mixture.

Dried blood, ground bone, acid phosphate, tankage, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, cottonseed meal, etc., present no unsurmountable difficulties. Nitrate of soda and other ingredients inclined to be lumpy are easily crushed. They should be sifted before adding them to the other materials.

It is easier to work up the fertilizer in half-ton lots. First spread upon the floor the proper proportion by weight of any one ingredient and spread the others upon it in layers.

Portions of any ingredient used in much larger quantity than the others should be interspersed through the heap in several layers. For instance, finely ground bone, being very light, mixes much better when layered in small quantities between the other ingredients.

After the heap is completed shovel it over three times, shoveling down into the mass to insure thorough mixing. After mixing screen it by shoveling through the inclined screen.

All of the nitrate of soda required by any formula need not be mixed into the fertilizer but reserved for application to the crop upon the surface of the soil after it is growing well.

It is really better to mix the fertilizer at least two or three weeks before it is sowed than to apply it freshly mixed.



The Home Department

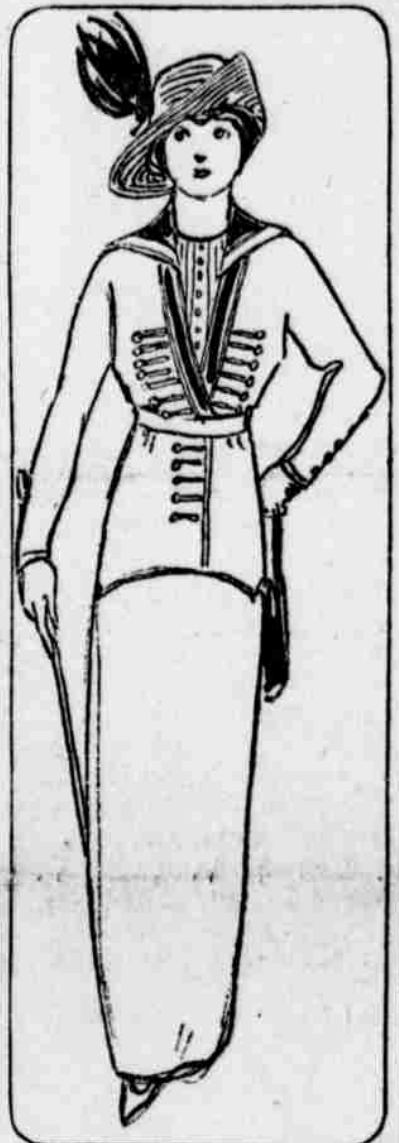
LINES LITTLE CHANGED

NEW TAILORED COSTUMES SHOW NO RADICAL DEPARTURE.

Choice of Style Largely Left to Individual Taste—Serge Among the Most Popular of the Materials to Be Worn.

Spring costumes of a conservative type do not show very decided changes of line. A woman may have almost any sort of coat that is most becoming to her and yet not be conspicuously out of style.

Generally speaking, however, customary lines prevail. Coat fronts are sharply cut away anywhere from the bust line to below the waistline. Coats with fronts cut away from the bust line and revealing chic little



In Navy Blue French Serge.

waiscoats are favorites with the Parisian tailors, but can be successfully worn only by the exceptionally slender woman, and the cutaway models most successful here fasten down to the waist line or a little above, and are sloped away gradually from there. In this model, too, there is often a waistcoat, but it appears above the button line, not below it. Serges, wool eponge, tweeds, new chamade cloth, bailla de lain (a very fine corded wool, soft and pliable in texture), and stunning English suitings are the materials most used for the wool tailored costumes, while for

the silk two or three piece costumes are the new and dainty checked and finely striped taffetas, heavy corded sarah or silk serge, bengaline or poplin or tussore.

The dark, soft tartan taffetas are cleverly used with dark blue or black wool, and the one tone taffetas are still much in vogue for tailored effects.

The fine French serges are much used for the one-piece frock. This material is extremely popular in cream or ivory white, beeswax, chamis, blue and biscuit color.

The practical and attractive one-piece frock shown is of navy blue French Serge. The blouse bodice is made with long sleeves, trimmed at the wrist with pipings of white and buttons of blue, with rims of white. There is a large, round crepe collar of blue satin, piped with white. Blue buttons, the sides of the blouse front at the opening and also the upper part of the skirt. The lower part of the skirt is attached to the upper part, which is a shaped affair, the joining line shown by a cord or piping of white.

Another model is made of striped woolen material and is trimmed with plain, one-tone silk and silk buttons. The skirt is made with the new short hip yoke, with the stripes running diagonally.

One simple, one-piece frock of soft woolen material is made with tunic skirt, which slants away toward the back. The underskirt and front of the bodice are trimmed with large buttons. There is a glimpse of tulle.

MARY DEAN.

NEW FEATURES IN PARASOLS

Distinctive Ideas Mark the Dainty Sunshades That Will Be in Vogue This Summer.

One of the new parasols has an inland piece of different colored silk in each fold set in like gore. The sticks are plain. Hemstitching is also a feature. But comparatively few are yet in the market, and these merely as concessions to the curiosity of seekers after novelties. They look nice with summer fabrics, and now the display of the less expensive thin goods, such as women like to make up at home during Lent, is at the full.

The new madras is not very different from that of former seasons, but some of the better ready-to-wear shirtwaists have plaits, very narrow indeed, but decided, on the fronts. Plaiting is positively in evidence on the summer skirts, accordion plaiting especially. An accordion plaited gown of aecian silk with a waist of cream colored chiffon over silver net was something the gaze lingered over at a recent exhibition.

Silver and gold lace are very fashionable, but so very unsatisfactory on account of their tarnishing quality that they can scarcely be worn out of doors. A touch of gold is frequently seen on the new turbans, however, often as the sole bit of trimming on a simple Turkish sort of hat that is almost an exact reproduction of a fez. Imitation can go no further.

To Hold Buttons.

When sewing buttons on, if a narrow piece of tape is threaded through the button and a small hole pierced through the article and the tape drawn through and the ends of the tape stitched down flat on the wrong side, the button will be found to last as long as the article.

NAPKIN RINGS MOST ORNATE CHARMING IN ITS SIMPLICITY

Elaborate and Dainty Dining Table Accompaniments Made Both in Silver and Gold.

Toque of White Velour With Inconspicuous Trimming is a Welcome Innovation.

Oblong napkin rings with squared-off ends are among the novelties in table furnishings. They are developed in silver and gold, decorated with an engraved pattern or repousse pounded into an oriental design and in carved ivory or painted celluloid. These oblong rings are found cheek by jowl with the holders of circular type which, instead of being rather ponderous affairs, are now decidedly narrow and rather sparsely decorated. They also lack the rolling double rims which erstwhile distinguished such rings.

Not especially substantial, yet wonderfully attractive, are the napkin rings of filigree silver. Of the most delicate design and irregularly edged, they look—when drawn over a roll of damask—like a tracery in frost. If carefully handled they do not bend out of shape or break, but it is necessary to use extreme deliberation in cleaning.

Modish Coiffures.

Fringes both straight and curled still persist, but only a few strands of hair are cut upon the forehead. Puffs and curls are arranged from back to front, instead of following the line of the brow, and the dressing is done very softly and with a strong bias in favor of the side parting.

There are no longer any coils showing on the top of the head, but the back is covered with puffs so soft and flat that they look like waves.

This charming toque of white velour sets down snugly and closely to the head and turns back in a white brim about a crown of white silk beaver. Only at the front is the toque trimmed and that most inconspicuously.



After the series of hats whose feathers "wave wildly in many directions," a hat of this style has the refreshing effect of an oasis in a desert. Another thing which makes it irresistibly attractive is that its smart trimming may be made at home and that extra five or ten dollars—according to one's taste and limitations—which would have gone for plume or egrette may be put back in one's purse for other uses. Puckered bits of satin ribbon and little silk cords are cleverly arranged to form the green leaves, and flat pieces of satin ribbon in different shades of delicate pink make the rose.

Sour Milk as a Face Lotion.

Sour milk is an excellent lotion for both hands and face, albeit a bit disagreeable. It should be allowed to dry on the skin, then washed away with warm water.