

The Homemaker

Childhood the Time for Learning One's Own Mother Tongue

By PRUDENCE BRADISH

When I was a girl in school "composition writing" was a bug-bear; largely, I am very sure, because I was required to write on subjects very far from my own life, and usually very far from my own life, and usually very far outside of the field of my interests and my knowledge. What could a little girl know of "Socialism" or of "Egyptian Explorations," two of the subjects that I remember? Oh, yes, and "The Seasons," and "Courage," and "Across the Threshold"? How could a teacher get anything worth while out of children about such subjects? We were too young to have interest even in reading about them. Children in their early teens are incapable of abstractions such as these; they are altogether concrete in their interests.

It is very different now. For the most part, teachers are using commonsense; they are asking children to write on subjects that they know something about; to tell of things seen with their own eyes or done with their own hands. They are not confining study of "English" to the reading of classical literature and writing correctly, but are having the boys and girls in their classes tell about every-day experiences.

I have been watching with much interest the development of the use of English in a boy I have known since he was a baby. I remember that when he was only nine years old he gave to us during a visit at his home one evening a really delightful travel-talk, displaying with his new "radiopicon" picture postcards and photographs of places and things he had seen during the summer. It was a great experience for the boy, and helped him to confidence and facility in expression of his ideas. This boy when he went to college was a ready writer and speaker, and his fellow-students envied his "easy manner" in taking part in discussion.

Wise and well-trained teachers nowadays encourage their pupils to give five and ten-minute "lectures," allowing the others to criticize, so that all may get used to criticism, whether of subject-matter, repetitions, "hemming and hawing," broken construction, obscurity, or other faults. Lecture work like this is paralleled by dramatization wherein the pupil learns the value of words and inflection and the difference between writing and speech and the limitations of each.

The work in "English" must be closely related to the study in other subjects. The connection is not sufficiently emphasized in most schools, and scarcely at all in the average home. Few parents display much interest in what their children are studying, rarely bringing out in the family conversations the things that the children are learning at school.

Why not encourage the children at home to make up little plays, dramatizing a bit of their history, a story in literature? The child delights to throw himself into an impersonation, and so lose timidity and self-consciousness. All his after life, in business and society, will be the more difficult and powerful for just such simple things as this.

Teachers who used to be overburdened with the reading and correction of numberless inane and perfunctory compositions on absurd subjects of which the children could know nothing are learning that English can be taught by the direct method of speaking; that writing is only one method of expression. Where both methods are used, with wide scope for originality and the discussion of things in which the



Through the Glad Eyes of a Woman

By JANE DOE

Copyright, 1922.

Woman, the Holiday Fraud

Let us examine the biggest fraud of the past vacation season.

Just the woman holiday-maker. Poor, restless, nerve-touchy soul.

Only once in a year, for the vast majority of her kind, comes the opportunity to loaf and frolic in the Great Outdoors, and harvest enough vitality and freshness to serve them well on into the dark and dreary months to come.

And what do they do with it? The answer was to be seen in every rocking chair on every hotel stoop, along every promenade and in every boarding-house parlor all round the coast-line and in all the inland holiday resorts.

They turned it into an orgy, a frenzy, an obsession of fierce knitting, tatting, embroidering, faggoting (a very tedious business, involving the most painful concentration), bead-bag making (fearful eyestrain this), dress-making and household linen marking.

Every other woman's holiday seemed to consist of moving about with yards of incompleting wool dresses and cretonne bags just chockful of needlework and mending.

Directly they had finished tucking childish tummies into bathing suits and shoo'ed their little owners into the water, and seen Pa safely at ball with the girls and the boys from the boarding house, they sank into a rocker with a sigh of relief and a look in their wild eyes which said so plainly: "Thank goodness for a little peace—now, perhaps I can undo that sleeve and begin over again," trotted out the peach floss silk (guaranteed to fade in

children are interested, the pupils gain visibly in freedom, vigor, and enthusiasm.

We get our vocabularies from reading, speaking, and writing; but mostly from our own free, spontaneous use of them in the discussion of things in which we are interested. We read and understand the meaning of hundreds of words that we do not use, and speak in a way very different from that in which we write. Only by the free and constant interplay of all three methods can we gain facility in expression.

Watch the small child in your home; he is learning his speaking vocabulary chiefly from you and the neighbors and his playmates. Soon he will begin to read and write, and whether he gains vocabulary from that will depend almost entirely upon whether what he reads and writes gets into his life and daily use through the right sort of encouragement and practice.

With small children letter writing is the first step, and a good one if it is rightly used. It is a step between speaking and formal writing; it is confined to everyday language. It should be kept free to the greatest possible extent. The very best way to make children hate letter writing and prevent their ever being interesting correspondents is to be over-critical of details in these early efforts.

Youth is the time for learning languages, and especially for learning the right use of your own mother tongue by using it.

any ozone) and the book of words "row 1,988, same as row 642. Repeat from *," and spoil the rest of the day for themselves.

And the sun and the wondrous air, the perfect curve of the sea—a miracle of shot green and peacock and pussy-willow taffeta, the eternal mystery of the golden sands and their millions of curious denizens (worth anybody's attention with a pocket lens); the tragedy of the seagull washed ashore, a bedraggled, helpless of crude oil; the panorama of the world's merchant ships crawling across the edge of the sky—all these were lost to them.

Two knitting needles, a load of wool, a pesky lot of instructions, frowning eyebrows, a nervous tension liable to snap at any interruption, and a splitting headache—what a holiday portion!

The sad truth of the matter is, of course, that women in the main don't know how to loaf.

Half an hour in a rocker with idle hands and nothing to do but day-dream soon finds them fretting and fidgeting for the piece of unfinished embroidery left in the hotel bedroom.

Phone 5681

Jeanne's Beauty Salon
"PERMOIL" Permanent Wave with Oil
Marcel Waving, Hair Dressing
Manicuring and Massage
110-B S. Kentucky Avenue
Atlantic City, N. J.
Jeanne Jordan John Stougard
Open Tues. & Fri. Eves. until 10 o'clock

Do you want your family well fed?

Use only
HOLT'S
HOME-MADE BREAD

J. L. HOLT
31 North Stanton Place
Phone 592-J

When On
The Boardwalk

Buy Mrs. Lang's Delicious Home Made Fruit Confections

AT
"Wemadit"
(We Made It)

Crystallized Sweet Shop
241 BOARDWALK
In the Vermont Building

When you taste it, you'll be glad "WEMADIT"

Phone 2598-R City Deliveries

Have You Had Your Ozone Today?

—Take—

"SHORE FAST LINE"

To OCEAN CITY
To LONGPORT or to the INLET

You can imagine them as little girls sewing patiently at the sampler:

"Absence of occupation is not rest;
A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed."

Foolish words!

They've ruined the peace and poise of many, many women who would be all the better, now and again, for a vacant mind, one free from the tyranny of "the little piece of work you can take up at any moment."

A course of loafing would do some wives and mothers in particular a power of good.

As it is, ruined nerves, strained eyesight, premature wrinkles and crow's feet, and an unaccountable, to their men folk) touchiness at the end of their imperfect holiday.

What a waste of vacation money!

Of two evils a great many people are not satisfied unless they choose both.—C. S.

DELANCY DRUG SHOP

32 N. Delancy Place
MRS. B. H. LOWTHER, Proprietress
Telephone 8175-W
Prescriptions Filled Night and Day
We Deliver Anywhere

Portrait Sittings Made in Home or Hotel by Appointment

THE
AMBASSADOR
STUDIO

B. HERITAGE
PHOTOGRAPHS
3019 Boardwalk, Atlantic City
PHONE 3952-J

Oculists' Prescriptions a Specialty
Developing and Printing

Freund Bros.
OPTICIANS

The Only Practical and Fully Equipped Optical Workshop in Atlantic City

We Invite You to Inspect Our Manufacturing Department

At 1006 Pacific Ave.
Also at
Maryland Ave. and Bdwk.
KODAKS - SUPPLIES

Try
BRIGHTON
MARKET

Meats, Poultry Provisions,
Fruits and Vegetables

Dollar For Dollar

4203 VENTNOR AVE.

We Deliver Phone 7821-R

CALL

829 or 5762

When your Evening Gowns, Fancy Dresses, Sports Skirts, Golf Apparel, Sweaters, Blouses or Corsets need refreshing and



1303 PACIFIC AVENUE

Phone 829 Plant Phone 5762

"Cretonne Bed Room Sets" Bed Spread, Bolster, Two Three-Piece Window Drapes, 54-inch Scarf, 72-inch Scarf. Special at \$8.98
FOR HOMES OF DISTINCTION
THE WHITE GOODS CENTRE
718 Atlantic Avenue
New Moose Home Phone 5828

Remodeling and Alterations Reasonable
LORRAINE FUR SHOP
Manufacturing Furrier
146 S. NEW YORK AVENUE
ENGELO ALVANOS, Prop.

You'll Find It At—

Currie's

CURRIE CO.

Established Sixty-five Years Ago

1232-34-36 ATLANTIC AVENUE

Between North and South Carolina Avenues



FIVE O'CLOCK TEA

OUR 25 DIFFERENT KINDS OF TEA-CAKES
WILL ADORN YOUR TABLE AND
DELIGHT YOUR GUESTS

VIENNA PASTRY SHOP

1410 ATLANTIC AVE.