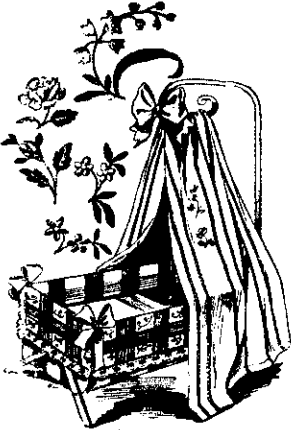


flounce on the inside and three or four gathered flounces outside mixed, if the wearer likes, with lace. The newest cut, however, is with circular flounces.

HELOISE.

MOTHERS' COLUMN.

SOMETHING new in the way of a bassinette is not always easy to discover, but the design I give here will, I am sure, appeal to all young mothers in search of novelty. It is of French origin; few pretty things for children are not. In fact, I very much doubt if one could obtain exactly the same coarse pale blue and white checked linen that is used as the foundation of the cot unless one were to send to Paris direct; but something very nearly approaching it can certainly be had, and the decorative idea of its treatment could be carried out in the same way. On the darker shade of the squares a floral spray is embroidered in white embroidery cotton after the fashion of Mountmellick work, and on the white squares



A TASTEFUL BASSINETTE.

another kind of floral spray, like those given in the detail, is embroidered in pale blue flax-thread. The same kind of thread and colour are used to render the white linen lace more fanciful and in harmony with the rest of the ornamentation. The little cross legs are enamelled either pale blue or white; but, whichever be chosen, it must also be repeated on the curved iron hook which supports the white linen curtains. These are decorated with rows of drawn linen work and a border of floral sprays executed in pale blue flax thread, a large pale blue bow finishing the curtains off at the top. A unique little bed for baby is formed in this way, and is quite a relief from the multitudinous Valenciennes lace and blue or pink bows. Unless a down quilt be used, nothing makes baby a cosier *couvre* pied than one of pale blue Pyrenean wool. One of the great advantages of this little cot is that the sides are fastened firmly to the legs, thus preventing any chance of its being rocked. This is a most pernicious habit to allow any nurse to get into, and it is awful to think that the somnolent effect it produces in the child is really the result of the blood going to the head.

WORK COLUMN.

CHILD'S HOOD.

PARTY-GOING for children reminds one how carefully one ought to see to their being wrapped up. Nothing forms a better covering for the head than a knitted hood, and certainly nothing can be more becoming to a little face still showing traces of babyhood. The following directions for making a very pretty child's hood will no doubt prove useful. The tricot headpiece is commenced at the right side by 7 chain.—1st row. Raise the stitches, and work back plain.—2nd row. Increase 1 at the beginning and end, after the 1st stitch and before the last, and continue this increase in every row as far as the 21st, when there will be 47 stitches.—22nd to 36th rows. Plain, without increase, and in the following twenty-one rows decrease in the same proportion by working the 2nd and 3rd stitches as one, and the 2 before the last in the same manner, so that the number of stitches will be again reduced to 7. The rows without increase form the top of the head piece. When this is done, 2 plain rows must be worked along the front half of the head piece, to go round the face, and these should be done rather tightly, so as to keep in the edge. The 10 lower rows of the left-hand side of the curtain (which is open at the back for nearly half its depth) are 60 stitches wide; in the 4th of these 10 rows a diminution is made in the centre, by taking up the 30th and 31st stitches together, in raising the row, and this decrease is continued in every alternate row (keeping the same line) throughout the whole depth of the curtain. From the 7th of these 10 rows, the edge of the curtain next the front is to be sloped, by taking the 2 stitches before the last together, in every row. When the 10 rows are completed, work another piece exactly similar to correspond, for the right-hand side of the curtain, the decreasing for the slope of the front edge from the 7th row now being at the beginning instead of the end of the rows, and in the 11th row this piece must be joined to the other, by working the row along both. The entire depth of the curtain consists of 16 rows from the joining; when completed it is to be sewn to the head-piece, and from the 13th row of the latter on each side (as far as which it goes plain) is to be somewhat

fulled in. A cord $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards in length, composed of chain stitches, is, with the help of a bodkin, to be run through the top of the curtain, and serves to draw it in to the requisite size and fastens the hood under the chin. Tassels of white wool finish the ends of this cord.

QUERIES.

Any queries, domestic or otherwise, will be inserted free of charge. Correspondents replying to queries are requested to give the date of the question they are kind enough to answer, and address their reply to 'The Lady Editor, NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC, Auckland,' and on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, 'Answer' or 'Query,' as the case may be. The rules for correspondents are few and simple, but readers of the NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC are requested to comply with them.

Queries and Answers to Queries are always inserted as soon as possible after they are received, though owing to pressures on this column, it may be a week or two before they appear.—ED.

RULES.

No. 1.—All communications must be written on one side of the paper only.

No. 2.—All letters (not left by hand) must be prepaid, or they will receive no attention.

No. 3.—The editor cannot undertake to reply except through the columns of this paper.

RECIPES.

CALF'S LIVER A LA FRANCAISE.—Slice calf's liver half an inch thick and lay it singly in a buttered baking pan; season with pepper and salt and cover with two ounces of very thinly sliced bacon, a teaspoonful of minced parsley and three of minced onion; cover the pan closely and simmer very slowly for an hour and a half; if cooked slowly enough its own juices will suffice, but if it seems in danger of becoming dry add a little broth; dish the liver and pour the sauce over.

ESCALOPED APPLE.—Put alternate layers of soft bread crumbs, sliced apple, sugar, bits of butter and spice or nutmeg in a buttered pudding dish. Have a thick layer of bread crumbs moistened with melted butter on top. Use half a cupful of sugar, one saltspoonful of cinnamon, spice or nutmeg and a little grated rind or juice of lemon for a three-pint dish. Bake one hour, or until the apples are soft and the crumbs brown. Cover at first to avoid burning.

POTATO HINTS.—(1) A dish that is always relished is made by paring and slicing as many potatoes as are required for a meal, placing them in a baking pan or an earthen baking dish and laying slices of pork over the top. Cover with hot water, pepper and salt to taste, and bake till the potatoes are tender. The meat is delicious and the potatoes are a very fair substitute for turnips. (2) A very wholesome way of preparing potatoes is to take two fair-sized potatoes for each person; pare and slice them and boil till tender, which will take about ten or fifteen minutes. Pour off the water and sprinkle flour over the potatoes, add a small lump of butter and pour in milk, stirring as you pour, until there is a thick, white gravy over the potatoes; then salt and pepper to taste and serve immediately.

SOUFFLE DISH.—A soufflé dish is usually a round earthenware fireproof dish, from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. When a soufflé mixture is to be poured into this, a band of double white paper is pinned or otherwise fastened round the dish, so as to stand from 2 or 3 inches above it, and to allow of the contents rising (this band of paper is generally buttered, by the way, to make it come off easier), the mixture is then poured in, and it is baked or otherwise cooked.

AMERICAN COCOANUT DROPS.—Boil white sugar in the milk of a cocoanut until it forms into bubbles, then add grated cocoanut, and allow it to boil up. Have a board thoroughly wet with cold water, and dish the cocoanut drops by spoonfuls on it, keeping each spoonful well apart.

TO USE UP OLD NEWSPAPERS.

THERE is a preparation which is used to advantage, and this is a paper pulp with glue, flour, and plaster. To make this, a quantity of old papers is put into a dish and boiled for some hours, being thoroughly stirred so that the fibre of the paper is broken to pieces. After the process of disintegration is complete, the glue, previously dissolved in hot water, may be added, then the flour, mixed up with cold water to a thin paste, is slowly turned in, and the whole should boil about ten minutes, being constantly stirred as it is very likely to burn if left for a moment. Remove it from the fire, and when cold add a quart of plaster to a gallon of pulp paste. Stir vigorously and apply at once. Properly made, this material is almost as durable as papier maché.

Boxes, cupboards or, indeed, any wooden article may be lined or covered with it. If the glue is omitted, it forms an admirable lining for flour or meal-bins or boxes. The glue is objectionable on account of the odour. The other materials, if used for this purpose, should be perfectly clean.

Ingenuity will suggest many ways for using this compound. It may be spread upon papers and dried in sheets, when it makes excellent backing for pictures, or is useful for other purposes, which readily suggest themselves.

URANK'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.—'The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light. Suffers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Bottles 2s 6d each, and everywhere. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.'



THE ETIQUETTE OF INVITATIONS.

EVERY invitation demands acknowledgment. This is the first and most important rule requiring observance among well-bred people, in what is called society. The acknowledgment may be in the form of a note, or of a visiting-card sent either by messenger or, with equal propriety in this generation, by post, or by a card left in person on the occasion of a call of acceptance, as in the case of afternoon 'Tea.' The purpose of this article is especially to show the usual forms of invitation issued to various social gatherings, their proper acknowledgment, either of acceptance or declination, and the length of time which should elapse both in sending out invitations before a festivity, and between the receipt and acknowledgment of such invitations.

In every case the courteous thing to do is the proper thing to be done, and it is safe to say that no one can ever err in being too courteous. The following rule may properly be called Rule II of the Department of Invitations in the Social Code: 'When in doubt be too much, rather than too little, courteous.'

Probably at the present day the most usual form of invitation, as the most usual form of entertainment, is that of and to the afternoon 'Tea' or 'At Home.' This entertainment may, and does range from the simplest to the most elaborate of entertainments, but the form of invitation has but two or three variations.

One of these is the visiting card of the hostess, or if her husband is also to receive with her, their dual visiting card with their address engraved in the lower right-hand, and the hours and date of their 'Tea' or 'At Home,' either written or engraved in the lower left-hand corner. As an example.

MR AND MRS JOHN STANLEY BERWICK.

Wednesday,
October the eighteenth,
four to six. 20, Woodland Square.

or
MRS JOHN STANLEY BERWICK.
Wednesdays in October,
four to six. 20, Woodland Square.

For more pretentious affairs of this character, small double sheets of note paper, either $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 inches or $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, engraved as follows, are used:

MR AND MRS JOHN STANLEY BERWICK.

MISS MILDRED BERWICK.

At Home
Wednesday afternoon, October the eighteenth,
from five to seven o'clock.
20, Woodland Square.

Invitations to any of these forms of entertainment are sent out from a week to ten days before the date set for the 'At Home' or 'Tea'—and demand one of two kinds of a reply. An acceptance is signified by leaving the necessary cards when attending the 'Tea,' or by sending, either by post or messenger, to be received on the day of the entertainment, the same number of cards inclosed in a single card envelope, directed to the persons receiving.

A word on the subject of the number of cards required in acknowledgment of such an invitation may be in place here. A married lady leaves one of her own cards for each lady announced as receiving, and one of her husband's cards for each lady and each gentleman receiving. This number of cards obtains also when an unmarried lady or a bachelor is sending or leaving cards. A single extra card may include any number of unmarried daughters, though if there is a married widowed daughter a separate card must be left for her as for her mother. The men of the family are only recognized by men's cards. The rationale of this custom is easy to find: ladies call upon ladies, and men upon both ladies and gentlemen.

MEXICAN MANNERS.

MRS GOOCH, in her book, 'Face to Face With the Mexicans,' says that again and again, on halting to admire the flowers in the court of a handsome house, she was invited by the lady of the house to enter and inspect them. After she had looked at the plants, she was sure to be invited into the *sala*, where chocolate was served, and on departing, with her hands full of flowers, she received a warm embrace, a cordial shake of the hand, and a 'God be with you.'

If friends meet twenty times a day, the ceremony of hand-shaking is gone through with each time. In passing a friend, driving, riding, or walking, the hat is removed entirely from the head.

Mrs Gooch saw on the Calle Plateros one day two splendid carriages, each occupied by one man. On approaching each other, the carriages were halted; both men alighted, removed hats, shook hands, embraced, talked for a few moments, again embraced, shook hands, bowed, took off hats, and each entered his carriage and went his way.

A vein of sentiment runs through the intercourse of ladies with each other. A spray of flowers sent by one lady to another will be first pinned over the donor's heart, and the pin left in the spray to indicate that she has worn it.

Why is necessity like an ignorant solicitor?—Because it knows no law.