

The Club Smoking Room

By HAVANA

"It is quite a mistake," said the doctor, "to suppose that mothers understand by instinct the art of properly caring for and rearing children. The more civilised we get the less do we seem to be able to properly train and bring up our young. A cat is a far more perfect mother than most women. The kittens are taught in their play all the things most needed to equip them for the battle of life. Nature is, of course, always the best guide provided she is left alone. But we try to improve on nature with only too often the most disastrous results. Many women refuse to rear their offspring by the means provided by nature, and have recourse to all manner of artificial foods. I believe that these patent concoctions, soothing syrups, and impure milk supplies are responsible for half the mortality we find amongst infants. Nor is this state of things confined to the poor. The working woman is often unable to spare the time to attend to her child properly; she is partly the bread winner of the family, and there is, consequently, some excuse for her. But the society woman has no such excuse, her time is her own, yet she neglects her children because they hinder her social pleasures and engagements. There is far less infant mortality amongst uncivilized races, and less in the country than in the towns. The most highly civilized people bid fair to be swamped by the coloured races from the sheer inability to keep up their numbers. The first step towards a white New Zealand is to improve the numbers and the physique of our native population."

"We can never," replied the parson, "go against the laws of nature and prosper. The engineer, the electrician, the mechanic can only succeed by finding out natural laws and obeying them. I believe we check children too much in their play, and from the start accustom them to an artificial life. The complaint is as old as the time of Socrates that men devote far more attention to racing horses and cattle than to bringing up their own children. You will remember that in his defence before his judges the Greek philosopher contrasts the care that most men bestow on colts and breeding stock with the utter indifference with which they regard their own sons and daughters. The best possible trainer, he says, must be found for a promising colt regardless of expense while the cheapest and most incompetent tutor is thought good enough for a promising boy. But a good many mothers fail, I believe, from sheer ignorance. You would be surprised at the appalling lack of even the most elementary knowledge betrayed by some people. I have known women with a deep rooted conviction that an infant should always have a little of whatever its mother has and I have actually heard of parents giving what they call just a taste of bottled stout and onions to their offspring. With all our multiplication of subjects of study, the study of infant life preservation has been sadly neglected."

tion," commented the cynic, "is to teach us the things of the least possible use to us. We learn how to write, but we never learn what to write, and in a similar way we learn how to read, but we are never taught that is best for us to read. The youngest child in our schools knows by wearisome reiteration that 'The fat pig is up,' and that Tom has a bat, but it never learns that 'God is love.' It is not to be expected that our future mothers should be taught anything about the care of infants, they are far too busily occupied in learning that Acheen Head is the most northerly point in Sumatra, and that Stewart Island is famous for tin and oysters. I am glad that Lady Plunket has undertaken a crusade against our lamentable ignorance in things essential."

"I see," remarked the lawyer "that our University Senate is proposing a good many attractions in our examinations. Perhaps they will include a paper on the proper management of feeding bottles amongst the subjects for matriculation. I feel awfully sorry that the people at Home refused to recognise our new degrees. Fancy how delightful it would be to go forth to the world as a Bachelor of Pedagogy or a Bachelor of Commerce. If our stipendiary magistrates are to be called upon to pronounce judgment on the propriety or otherwise of pictures in our magazines, the senate, since it refuses to recognise theology amongst its many subjects, might still use the old D.D. degree and make a doctorate of decency. Sergeant Hendry and Mr. Anthony Comstock, of the United States, might be appointed joint examiners. The questions and answers could be issued as a supplement to the Australasian edition of 'Punch.'"

"We are all getting so beastly well educated," chipped in a prominent local manufacturer, "that soon we shall have no working classes at all. I could find room for fifty more girls in my business, but I can't get them for love or money. An advertisement for twenty girls brought me only one solitary applicant, a good lady who gave the gaoi as her last place of residence. All our young women nowadays want to take to office work. They learn book-keeping, typewriting and shorthand, and consider all factory work as beneath them. They could earn twice as much in a good factory as they ever can do in an office, and yet an advertisement for any kind of clerical post will bring you shoals of answers, while no amount of wages will get you a good factory hand. The scarcity of labour is going to be one of the most critical problems of the future. The price of raw material is going up in nearly all manufacturing concerns, and if the cost of labour increases in proportion we shall have to raise the price of our products all round. Many of us have forward contracts, and we stand to lose considerable sums. Apart from this, we are unable to extend and develop our business. As you know, the profits in any manufacturing concern are dependent on your volume of trade. What I mean is that the profit on selling a thousand articles is

much more than double that on selling five hundred. It is only after we have built up a fair trade that we begin to derive any return for our own labour and our capital invested, and it is very hard that when we have pushed our business forward to a paying point, we should be hampered only by lack of hands. I see that the 'Times' correspondent says that the whole of the Pacific coast of America is being kept back for want of men to work it. Fruitgrowers are actually cutting down their trees because they find it impossible to get men to pick and pack the fruit. In 'Frisco hotel cooks are getting £30 a month, and domestic servants get £12 to £15. The domestic bids fair to be the millionaire of the future."

WOMEN BEWARE OF INSIDIOUS ANAEMIA.

Bloodlessness Breaks Down Woman's Health.

Christchurch woman Pale, Weak and Languid; Frightful Headaches and Terrible Nervousness—Robust Health Through DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS.

Insidious anaemia—or a state of bloodlessness—causes the health of more N. Zealand women to break down than most other complaints put together. Dr. Thomas Anderson, of London, says:—"It makes its approach in so slow a manner that the patient can hardly fix a date to the earliest feeling of languor which is shortly to become so extreme. The countenance gets pale, the whites of the eyes become pearly, the frame flabby. There is an increasing indisposition to exertion, with an uncomfortable feeling of faintness or breathlessness in attempting it. The heart palpitates, the whole surface of the body presents a blanched, smooth and waxy appearance. The lips, gums, and tongue seem bloodless, the flabbiness increases, the appetite fails, extreme languor and faintness follow, breathlessness and palpitation are produced by the most trifling exertion or emotion and some slight swelling is probably perceived about the ankles. The debility becomes extreme."

The remedy for bloodlessness is more blood. The greatest blood-forming medicine in the world is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and they will do as much for any N. Zealand woman as they did for a Christchurch woman.

"Two years ago I was in a bad state of health through my blood getting out of order," said Mrs. Elsie K. Mather, Hawdon-street, Sydenham, Christchurch. "I was terribly pale and lost all my energy. I did not feel like doing any work, or anything else. My head used to ache that bad that I did not know what to do with myself. I was terribly nervous—the least little thing put me into quite a fright. I got real weak and could hardly get about. Walking knocked me up very easily—I got all out of breath and my heart palpitated and fluttered horribly. After sitting for two years like this, I read about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and got some to see if they would do me the same good as other people. Well, in two or three weeks' time I was much better. Three boxes completely cured me. Now I have really splendid health."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strike at the root of blood diseases like anaemia, indigestion, rheumatism, sciatica, backache, kidney disorders, liver complaint, headaches, and the special - secret suffering of growing girls and women when the regularity of their blood is deranged. Get the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People—price 3/ a box, six boxes, 16/8, from all chemists and storekeepers, or direct by mail from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Wellington.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY REGATTA.

PROTRACTED SAILING RACES.

The Auckland Anniversary Regatta of 1908, which was held on January 9, was marred somewhat because the weather was too fine. In the morning the competitors in the sailing races were almost becalmed, and by twelve o'clock none of them had reached the heads. Shortly after that hour a southerly breeze sprang up which lasted well on towards night-fall, enabling the whole of the yachting races to be finished shortly after six o'clock. The trading vessels were less fortunate, for they still had a considerable portion of the course to cover when the wind fell away with the going down of the sun. The result was that they were becalmed all night, and were not able to come up to the finishing line until next morning. Apart from the sailing races the regatta was a splendid success, the rowing, motor launch races, and side shows providing excellent sport. Appended are the results:—

YACHTS.

First-class Yachts.—Rainbow, 1; Thelma, 2; Ariki, 3. Moana and Ilex retired on the first round. The finishing times were: Rainbow, 6h. 21m. 2s.; Thelma, 6h. 24m. 9s.; Ariki, 6h. 30m. 30s.

Cruising Yachts.—Waioni, 1; Wairere, 2; Kotiri, 3. The finishing times were: Waioni, 5h. 31m. 2s.; Kotiri, 5h. 44m. 35s.; Wairere, 5h. 45m. 38s.; Ngatira, 5h. 51m. 22s.; Thistle, 6h. 6m. 18s.

25ft. Centre-board Yachts.—Emerald, 1; Lina, 2; Maru, 3. The finishing times were: Emerald, 5h. 27m. 14s.; Maru, 5h. 47m. 49s.; Lina, 5h. 49m. 19s.; Hilda, 5h. 51m. 27s.; Tiro, 6h. 2m. 20s.; Olympia, 6h. 24m. 1s.

Yachts not exceeding 25ft. l.w.l.—Queenie, 1; Wairiki, 2. These were the only boats to finish out of six starters. Their finishing times were: Queenie, 5h. 53m. 57s.; Wairiki, 6h. 19m. 28s.

28 feet Yachts (keel).—Bona, 1; Mayo, 2; Wanderer, 3. The finishing times were: Bona, 5h. 1m. 16s.; Wanderer, 5h. 12m. 35s.; Mayo, 5h. 17m. 8s.; Fairy Bell, 5h. 50m. 18s.; Takari, 6h. 31m. 13s.

Decked or Half-decked Yachts above 20ft. and not exceeding 25ft.—Mowai, 1; Heltty, 2; Hilda, 3. The finishing times were: Mowai, 4h. 34m. 22s.; Heltty, 4h. 40m. 28s.; Hilda, 5h. 5m. 4s.; Princess, 5h. 20m. 58s. These were the only boats to finish.

Decked or Half-Decked Yachts, 20ft and under.—Eileen, 1; Rawhiti, 2; Nyanza, 3. The finishing times were: Eileen, 5h. 14m. 19s.; Rawhiti, 5h. 21m. 27s.; Nyanza, 5h. 23m. 64s.; Roma, 5h. 26m. 31s.; Merlin, 5h. 29m. 8s.; Seahorse, 5h. 50m. 5s.; Ventura, 6h. 4m. 27s.

Open Boats.—Bronzewing, 1; Mapu, 2; Lola, 3. The finishing times were: Bronzewing, 4h. 9m. 47s.; Lola, 4h. 14m. 27s.; Fiona, 4h. 17m. 27s.; Sylvia, 4h. 20m. 19s.; Mapu, 4h. 20m. 50s.; Estrella, 4h. 30m. 53s.; Romeo, 4h. 33m. 47s.; Rarerer, 4h. 44m. 10s.

Patikas.—Colleen, 1; Waterwitch, 2; Eona, 3. The finishing times were: Colleen, 3h. 42m. 25s.; Doreen, 3h. 54m. 52s.; Waterwitch, 3h. 55m. 50s.; Roma, 4h. 0m. 8s.; Eona, 4h. 0m. 56s.; Bell Bird, 4h. 4m. 20s.

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