in the schools, which, in its theoretical treatment, seemed to repel us.

It is indeed true that "mother" ought to mean more to children than it usually does; but this will never be so long as mothers of wealth, devoting their time to the pleasures of fashionable society, give up their children entirely to the care of illiterate servants; so long as the mothers of poverty work for the scanty food which sustains their children; or the mothers of the middle class, unheeding the mental and moral nakedness of their children, spend their time in making clothing which, in its elaborateness, is intended to rival that of the children of wealthy parents.

Why do we meet with so many uninteresting men and women, so many who dress well and talk well, so far as the grammatical form is concerned, but whose dearth of ideas is disclosed by the tendency to gossip? Mothers should make themselves interesting to their children, and answer their questions, instead of repelling them. If the questions are puzzling,—as many of them are,—the problems, if reasonable, should be solved, though days of earnest research be necessary to do it. Any mother of intelligence and ambition, with the means now within the reach of every one, can acquire a knowledge of botany, geology, zoölogy, and astronomy, which will render a walk with her children, by day or by night, a perfect delight to her and to them. These things will quicken their observation and make them more intelligent men and women; also happier, because no matter where their lot may be cast, the wonders of nature will be before their eyes, an everlasting source of enjoyment.

This is no dream of the imagination, but the outcome of a successful experiment. I could tell you of a little girl, six years old, who cannot read a word, but who knows many flowers, and how they grow, and can roughly classify them; who knows the names of some of the planets and constellations, and where to look for them; who delights in watching the ants, bees, and birds, and in hearing stories about them, and who expresses her ideas with ease and accuracy. All this has been accomplished without perceptible effort on the part of the child, though, of course, there has been earnest effort on the part of the mother.

Lillian Mayne.

A Family Ice-house.

MANY people imagine that domestic economy means a heroic going without; but true economy means a liberal use of everything that administers to good health. So far as ice is concerned, the best economy is to use it in profusion. Have as much as you want, but cut and store the ice yourself, or buy it at wholesale in winter, when it is cheap. Every family that has room enough out of doors for a small ice-house will save money by building one. It should be as much a part of the establishment as the refrigerator in the kitchen. It need not be unsightly, nor at all troublesome to keep in order. Charitable societies in cities give ice to the sick poor in hot weather, and if you are generous,—paradoxical as it may appear,—a well-filled ice-house will seldom be a source of coolness between neighbors.

Ice melts faster in free air than in confined air, faster in water than in confined air, and faster in the sun than in the shade. It will melt in any ice-house; it simply melts slowly in a good one, and rapidly in a poor one. Reduced to its simple elements, the success of an ice-house depends upon site, drainage, ventilation, and construction. The best site for a family ice-house is some shady place under a tree, or the north side of a building which is also protected from the wind. Shade is of the first importance, and shelter from the wind the next; so, if there is a choice, take the shady place. If a good position cannot be found, put it anywhere. The melting ice in the house causes a constant flow of water. If the soil on which the house is to stand is sandy or gravelly, and has a gentle slope, there is nothing to do but to dig a cellar about two feet deep and fill it with stones. Cover the upper layers with smaller stones and sand. This will make the floor on which the ice is to rest. The water will escape easily through the sand and stones, and there will be no chance for currents of air to flow upward into the house. The tendency of the air in a badly made ice-house is always to flow through it. Therefore, while there must be drainage, there must be no inlets for air. If the soil is wet and not easily drained, the surface must be covered two feet thick with stones, and the house placed on top of this. If this is done, the sides of the stone work must be made tight with mortar, to prevent the entrance of air. If provision must be made for carrying off the water, the pipe must be trapped to prevent the air from entering the pipe and thus getting into the house. A well-drained foundation having been prepared, a wooden sill must be laid, on which the walls are to rest. On this sill will rest the uprights. These may be simply planks eight inches wide and two inches thick. They may be placed at intervals on the sill, and held in place by a string-piece on top. On the outside of the uprights may be nailed boards with battens or clapboards. On the inside they are simply boarded up with cheap stuff. The whole aim is to make a hollow wall. The space between the outside and inside boarding must be filled solid with tan-bark, saw-dust, or rough chaff of any kind. Upon the walls place a common pitch-roof, boarded and battened or shingled. It must be rain-tight, and must not be air-tight. There should be an opening at the ends, or a hood or ventilator, to permit a free circulation of air through the upper part of the house. The door should have double walls filled with saw-dust.

These, in brief, are the conditions: perfect drainage below, double walls filled with saw-dust, no entrance for air below, and free ventilation above. The ice should be laid on a foot of saw-dust or chaff, and a space of twelve inches all round between the ice and the wall should be filled with saw-dust, as well as all the cracks between the blocks. When it is all in the house, saw-dust is spread two feet deep on top of the ice. The cost of an ice-house must vary with the price of labor and materials. A house twelve feet square and ten feet high will hold enough ice for one family, and certainly will not cost much money to build. An ice-house should always be painted white, and, if convenient, it should be covered with vines, which will partly neutralize the heat of the sun's rays.

Charles Barnard.

Women's Wages.

I HAVE been looking for some clue to the unsatisfactory relation of woman's work to woman's pay. There are, in reality, two distinct classes of women who are in the field for remunerative employment: those who desire to add to an insufficient income, and those who depend upon themselves absolutely for bread. Both classes call for consideration, and yet the fact of their existence is precisely that in which the difficulty we are considering has its rise. "Women," it is often asserted by their apologists, "are quite as capable as men in many fields of labor; yet for the same work, equally well executed, they receive less pay." That women, under exceptional circumstances, can and do produce work that is equal to, and sometimes superior to, that of men, will be generally conceded; but if they universally did so, if woman's work in the aggregate was equal to that produced by men, then, by the irresistible law of supply and demand, hers would be preferred.

The great governing principle of the labor market is that which exacts the best results for the least expenditure, and all the arguments brought forward against the employment of women in fields at present occupied by men would yield if experience once proved that women, taken as a class, were as efficient as men.

Whatever may have been the case fifty years ago, or may still be true in older civilizations, public opinion in this country now recognizes the right of women to enter upon any field of labor. She has invaded the professions and many branches of business. She is found in factories, in mills, occupying the desk as a clerk, canvassing, teaching, nursing, speculating (unfortunately), and it is not unusual now to find her at the head of large business houses. Where is she not? What then is the meaning of this cry for justice to women who work for a living? Why are women toil-worn, struggling, and dissatisfied? The fault, if fault there be, must be with themselves, either in their physical or mental disability. As regards the former, although unquestionably the disability exists, it has never been prejudicial to women as a class. Mental disability is a far more serious stumbling-block, and one which repeated efforts have been made to overcome. "Women," it has been asserted again and again, "need training," and where training has been possible the results have justified the assertion. Girls trained for special duties in large business establishments have entered the lists with youths of the same age, and have, in many cases, succeeded admirably. Within the last few years, a wide field has opened for them as designers. But there is undoubtedly something which the majority of women lack beyond training, and we are inclined, after much consideration of the successful and non-successful competitors of the labor market, to the conclusion that the real disability of most women lies in the absence of a sense of responsibility.

Of the many who come forward to solicit employment, comparatively few are absolutely and entirely self-dependent. The ranks are full of applicants who, having a pittance, desire to add to it, and to do so in a "genteel" way, the results in such cases being precisely analogous to those that beset young men seeking careers. The man who succeeds is he who feels impelled by dire necessity to struggle; who feels that upon his success everything depends. Imbued with a sense of responsibility, he strives, and strives successfully: in fact, he is successful in proportion as he has the sense of responsibility.

The same truth, as it appears to us, applies to woman. When she feels a sense of responsibility she does not fail, she succeeds; and for this reason, that, like the man, she sacrifices everything to the one object of success. Can the majority of women do this? When they can, and precisely in the measure that they do, they will compete upon equal terms with men, command equal wages, and work with equal success in every path they enter. For then, and then only, will they realize that it is not their need of employment which entitles them to it, but their capacity to fulfill every obligation, whether of minute detail or of grave moment, in a thorough and worthy manner.

Janet E. Ruutz-Rees.

More Suggestions for a Family Ice-House.

A PRACTICAL experience of many years enables me to modify the suggestions for "A Family Ice-House," in the November CENTURY. In my opinion, the earth should not be excavated at all where the ice-house is to stand, as the lower tiers of ice would rapidly melt, and the drainage would not be so good. The floor should be simply the ground, level with the surrounding surface. In large ice-houses even, the melting is so gradual that the water soaks into the ground, drains being rarely used, since they are apt to be the means of conveying air to the ice. Where the land is low and wet, a drain is dug outside the building, say three feet from it on all sides, and is filled with loose stones. This will dispose of the surface water and drain the ice-house. In constructing the ice-house the uprights, of two by four or two by six inches, must be set about three feet apart, securely spiked to the bottom plank, and braced between. After boarding up inside and out with common boards, and filling the spaces with dry saw-dust, stamping it down as it is being filled, two-inch narrow strips should be nailed perpendicularly on the outside, about six feet apart, and on these should be nailed the clap-boards. Thus an outside air-space will be obtained, through which the hot air will circulate in summer, reducing the temperature. There should be a square ventilator on the roof, with open slats on each side. In packing the ice, place the cakes close to each other, and close to the sides of the building, chinking the spaces between with broken ice as each layer is completed. No saw-dust should be put on before the top layer is in, and then not so much as to cause heating. Ice packed in this way will keep better, and there is less waste.

S. J.