Lobster à la Newbery.—The meat of a two-pound lobster cut in small pieces, two tablespoonfuls of butter, a teaspoonful of pepper, a pinch of salt. Add a gill of sherry. Cook for ten minutes, then add three well-beaten eggs, and half a pint of milk or cream. Serve as soon as it thickens, garnished with a boil.

Plain Omelet.—Break four fresh eggs into a bowl with four tablespoonfuls of sweet milk, whip very thoroughly. Put a walnut of butter in the chafing-dish when very hot; run the eggs over it. Use a thin-bladed knife until the bottom is browned, but do not stir. When done carefully roll the edge over until all be rolled up. Serve on a hot plate.

Swiss Omelet.—Two dozen small leaves which have been properly prepared, thoroughly washed and drained. Take half a cupful of flour, and half a cupful of Indian meal; salt the fish, and roll them in it. Put two or three strips of pork dripping, or an ounce of hot lard (dripping is preferable) into the chafing-dish, and when hot, drop in the smelts, and fry brown. Do not put in too many at a time, or they will not crisp well.

Crowned Potatoes.—One pint of cold potatoes, cut into cubes, or thin slices. Put them in the chafing-dish, cover with milk, and cook until the potatoes have absorbed the milk. Then add one tablespoonful of butter, half a teaspoonful of pepper, and a little chopped parsley.

Reading the life of G. A. Sala the other day, I was much amused by his account of the contents of his rain in his youth, and of that which he afterwards did with his wife; and I wished that all boys could share a little in this kind of sensible training. I ran also through his dishes, doubtless if he knew something about the dishes he was eating, and the trouble they cost the cook. In these days of incompetent householders, as many as to be a critic, it is needful and wise to be fully qualified to tell other people how to do things, and to give clear directions in plain language, without the dull and slow-witted can understand.

In England, though the beautiful chafing-dish seems to be almost unattainable, we can still do much, if we wish, with a good spirit-lamp of tin—ones of those made for travellers—and one or two of those delightful fireproof saucepans which are so easy to handle, and clean. The dressing of eggs is quite within our powers, and of mushrooms, and tomatoes—excel with curries of cold meat. There are so many recipe books now for people of small means and purses, that it is easy to select some to try, as they are very easy, and only the bones and stalks are all possible, even the renowned pork chops, and tomato sauce, so fatal to Mr. Pickwick.

The following is a simple way to make curry with either a spirit-lamp or a chafing-dish. Slice a small onion and half a small apple in the kitchen before you need them, if you were going to cook in the dining-room, and if you are not a great lover of any colour with half an ounce of butter. Add a teaspoonful of gruyère, a squeeze of lemon-juice, and a tablespoonful of good curry-powder, and make a good hot curry towards a dessert-spoonful of it and the same of flour will be sufficient. Stir all together for a few minutes, and then lay in whatever cold materials from books, however good they may be. If you need the rice which, to my mind, is necessary with all, boil it first, and have it kept hot in the kitchen, or keep it hot by covering it over while you make the curry.

HOW TO MANAGE A BAND OF MERCY.

"Well, Mildred, I must say I thought your Band of Mercy entertainment a great success. I expected it to be dreadfully tedious when you told me that every item on the programme would be in some way or other appropriate to the work, and I groaned inwardly at the prospect; but really quite enjoyed the whole thing.

"Praise from Miss Eleanor Richmond is praise indeed," said Mildred, smiling; "but what I know is the sincerest flattery, and that is the kind for which I am anxious. Why not have a band of your own, Nelly?"

"Truth to tell, I have been thinking about it, and so has Kate; she suggests we might work on the line of a Women's Band.""I am very glad to hear you circle of sympathy and help, and, in the first place, that there is really almost the only way of drawing in the upper classes. They will come to perform when they would not dream of coming to listen.""And they may pick up an idea now and then," remarked Kate. "It is often harder to reach rich people; they are such slaves to fashion, and have such a dread of betraying serious or original opinions. At least, I find that the case with temperance work.

"And what about your action piece, "The Animals on Strike"? I thought that especially good, for the children were much in earnest and so delightfully comic when the servants come in one after another and tell Mr. Muggles you cannot have milk or butter or eggs for breakfast. When the cows and the hens have departed, or drive to the station, because the horses are off strike, and so on. Did you write that yourself? for, let me tell you, I am not equal to that kind of thing.

"Not I indeed. It was written by Miss Julia Goddard, and you will find it in The Humanitarian Monthly, March."

"If you start a Band, I would certainly advise you to have that book, you will find so many helps in it, such as addresses which you can send until you are sufficient to, suitable hymns and prayers for opening and closing meetings, and an immense store of picture decoration. With that and the Melodies you will be well provided, so far as the more showy part of the work is concerned. There remains, of course, the actual teaching on the subject."

"Just as I have to be in order to avoid drinking-songs at our temperance concerts," said Kate. "Would you not prefer to have the whole programme given by children, if you could get plenty of pieces?

"My dear, a few pieces enough to carry it on till midnight, but the adumbration of adults seems to me far better. I want to interest the grown-ups, and have a really good entertainment. The little folk do their part very well, though I say it as shouldn't, and audiences are always kind in applauding the dear little souls; but a song from a lady or gentleman musician is pleasant variety, and is appreciated by those who haven't children, and are perhaps not yet enlisted in the cause. I am very glad to see our circle of sympathy and help, and, in the first place, that there is really almost the only way of drawing in the upper classes. They will come to perform when they would not dream of coming to listen.

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"I was going to ask whether you had anything of that sort, over and above what is taught in songs and recitations."

"Certainly; we look upon the singing and so on as merely recreation, for we appeal to reason and reason as well as to sentiment. Get Miss Brandon's "Our Own Band," and begin with; it has useful chapters for reading to the children, and questions to ask them. But of course you will not be satisfied with what you obtain from books, however good they may be. You will have to take an active interest in the habits and ways of creatures, and to learn how to deal with them. Animals should be treated, for you will find that as the boys grow older, the boys in particular will ply you with plenty of questions and expect you to be a walking veritable encyclopaedia of natural history."

"It always appeals to me," said Nelly, "that natural history is a deadly enemy to mercy teaching, and I am sorry for it. If I tell a boy what a dissected caterpillar is like, I am sure he will want to dissect one for himself, and if he is told to classify birds' eggs or butterflies, he will at once be out stealing the one and pinning the other.""I don't call that natural history," said Mildred. "I think it is un-natural history. Pay leave dissections to the learned people who build up clever theories; the ghastly idea of them is utterly out of place in a child's mind. And with the aid of pictures you can study birds and butterflies and every other creature without meddling with and injuring them. What one wants till vector, that each children is all about how birds, animals, and insects live at home, their ways of obtaining a livelihood, their skill and cleverness, and their care for their young. Help them to care for their young, and they will learn to regard them as conscious and intelligent beings, I believe boys and girls will soon cease being afraid of them. They can be taught the uses of the lower creation to man, how they are fellow-workers as well as fellow-creatures, not only directly, as the horse, cow, etc., but less obviously, by giving us beauty and food. We can save our crops by destroying injurious insects, and many other little beings which help in ways we never consider to make the world fruitful so that it may bring forth grass for the cattle and green herbs for the service of men."

"Children sorely need teaching to be kind,"
said Kate, with a sigh. "They are dreadfully cruel by nature."

"Do you think so?" said Mildred. "I do not.

"At least, I think they are only naturally cruel as they are naturally ignorant—until they are taught better. So far as the nature of it goes, it is surely natural that children, themselves helpless and weak, should be the friends and champions of those more helpless than themselves; and the most benignant and the most womanly girls feel that instinctively. With the rest, want of thought produces cruelty, and, still more, the example of the grown-up folk: remember, they are right."

"You are right there," said Kate. "One really ought to begin with the mothers," she added laughing. "They let their children, the boys especially, and in some cases, the girls, with frightening and frightening—now without the slightest interference, while they beat them for accidentally breaking a teacup-halfpenny jug."

"But to return to business," put in Eleanor. "You have these lessons at your meetings; are they always in the form of lectures with questions?"

"The very best things are lectures in nature, which always delight children and keep them quiet and good. You can borrow slides, and readings too, from the R. S. P. C. A.; but if you have a little apparatus among your friends—and most of us have nowadays—you can soon learn to prepare your own slides, and write or select your own lectures, throwing in plenty of anecdote to make them amusing, but having at the same time a solid basis of instruction. The children can have marks for answering questions, or for writing papers on the subject. In course you will have essay competitions on set subjects—such as the treatment of cats, uses of the earthworm, birds as the gardener's friends, and so on—for which you will have year-end cards if you carefully account for incalculable lessons of kindness. You will find a list of books in The Humane Educator."

"I thought you gave medals?"

"Medals can be added, if you like; or they can be reserved as rewards for definite acts of kindness, such as finding home for stray animals, or for length of membership. This is one of our medals."

Gold, on a crimson ribbon; very pretty. One side, I see, has the Royal Arms and the words, 'Justice, kindness. Be merciful after thy power'; and on the other side is 'Band of Mercy, R. S. P. C. A.,' and a group of animals—cow, donkey, dog, cat, sheep, goat and fowl."

"The cat was added by the Queen's command; it was omitted from the original design, and the omission was discovered by her quick eyes. You can buy the medals for a shilling a dozen, from the Society, or with ribbons and pins for two or three shillings. The medals with ribbons cost a dozen."

"They are very handsome too; quite fit for framing."

"Yes; and so, Nelly, encourage the members by means of your power to have them framed. I often give frames as rewards; for instance, if one child brings in half-a-dozen new members, I have his or her card framed."

"And they will bring in another dozen," said Kate. "That is just my experience in Band of Hope work. A nicely framed card keeps clean, is never lost, and is a certainly a very valuable reminder to the member of the pledge; and, besides that, speaks splendidly to fathers and mothers and all who see it. If I could afford it, I would have every card framed as soon as it is signed."

"What is your pledge?"

"Very simple. 'We agree to be kind to animals, and to do all in our power to protect them from cruelty and promote their humane treatment.'"

"And what is the first step to take to form a Band, now that we have some idea how to work it?"

"Well, I should say very much what Kate told you with regard to the Band of Hope. Have a meeting of two or three friends who will help you; settle upon a distinctive name for your Band; appoint a committee and secretary; and adopt rules. Then proceed to interest everybody you can, particularly parents and school-teachers. Point out the necessity for teaching boys and girls to be kind and humane for their own sake, as well as for the animals; that is tremendously important, and would be reason enough for any number of Bands of Mercy, even without considering the feelings of the lower creation; nothing is so demoralizing and hardening to the moral nature as cruelty, and no one who can torture an animal is to be trusted with the care of a human being, either as parent, nurse, or doctor. Finally, affiliate yourselves with the Ladies' Committee of the R. S. P. C. A., and send for their little pamphlet, supplied gratis, 'The results of Band of Hope work.'"

"Well, I will try," said Eleanor. "The work is wanted. I only hope it may do some good."

"Hope!" cried Mildred brightly. "The time has gone by for merely hoping. You may be perfectly certain it will. When a society has a history like ours, and hundreds and thousands of eager boys and girls members—the coming men and women—in all parts of the world, you may trust, not hope. Besides, Nelly, don't you think our Heavenly Father's going to use the children especially for his work for His creatures, done without thought or promise of reward; in some poor little feeble way, a saviour's work for the helpless. Only, I must remind you of one thing. We must be consistent and practise what we preach. There must be no aigrettes or bird corpses in our hats; no bearing-reins or docked tails on our horses; no fierce game on our tables and caged finches and larks in our rooms; no going to races or meets of hounds! It is no use working half-heartedly, as Kate said."

"I will try to remember," said Alice, "and for the heart's sake, for, as Dean Stanley has told us, 'Any act of mercy, even to the humblest and lowest of God's creatures, is an act that brings us nearer God.'"

LINDA GARDINER.

A CHILD OF GENIUS.

By LILLY WATSON, Author of "The Hill of Angels," "In the Days of Mozart," etc.

CHAPTER VIII.

Mr. Lovell had returned to London in order to become the English partner of the great Australian firm of Lovell & Jackson. He had selected his home upon a breezy hill in Surrey, in what seemed to him the most agreeable and healthy of the suburbs. To enter "society," strictly so called, spelt with a capital 'S,' he had no ambition whatever; on the contrary, he was democratic in all his tendencies, and was not, as democrats occasionally are, in the least ashamed of his opinions. He meant to live happily, luxuriously, and as safely as he could, in a sphere he could not reach, no pretence of assuming knowledge of things he could not understand. His wife, and his daughter when she came out, were to queen it among their social equals and inferiors, rather than to struggle to find a place among great people, who would tolerate them for their wealth, but scorn them for their middle class origin and for their trade. Such was his scheme of life.

He was a thoroughly honest man and had perhaps an exaggerated scorn of shallow social pretences. His views as to the education of Nora and Katharine were plain and practical. He had heard there was a specially good High School in the neighbourhood of Clevedon Hill; here he meant to send the girls, while for the musical part of her education, Katharine was to go to the "National School of Music," where she would receive the best of teaching, without overstrain for the present, he informed his wife.

Mrs. Lovell's easy soul, was only too well contented to let her husband settle all details connected with the matter, which, indeed, he proceeded to do as soon as they were established in their new home.

He congratulated himself, and with reason, on acquiring so charming a property, so secluded, even in the midst of a suburb, as Clevedon House. The avenue, by which it was reached, led to a large lawn shaded by oaks, while a sharp turn to the left disclosed the house, facing the lawn and the fields beyond it. The kitchen gardens and hot-houses lay on the right of the avenue, and the small flower-garden was on the other side of the house. In spring and summer it was a delightful country-like home, where the birds sang all day long. Even in winter it had its attractions, for a large pond offered good skating as soon as there was ice anywhere.

The servants, the furniture, the food, were all of the best; and Katharine, in Mr. Lovell's opinion, ought to have considered herself a very fortunate girl.

"But upon my word, Margaret, I believe we shall have to send her back again to Switzerland!" he uttered in great vexation to his wife, a few days after Katharine had arrived. Sunday was the day, and he had been irritated to note tears streaming down his niece's check all the time of the morning service. He added: "I hope, I like to see cheerful faces round me. One would think we had kidnapped the girl. I'm sure she seemed to want to come, when I proposed it; I half repent, upon my word I do," said Mrs. Lovell comfortably. "Elizabeth told us she wished to come, from the first. I think she feels a little strange yet. You see, it's a change.""Good gracious! I should think so, from that untidy shabby house and that Swiss Professor with all