

BIG **+** PLUS

VALUE

EXERCISE
BOOK

Mr. Wm. H. W. W. W.
Flat 4 Park Lane West
Tipton
West Midlands
DLY 1 2P

Infancy

I was born in 1884, the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria, who had reigned as a beloved Queen for fifty years.

Babies, born in this year, were proudly known as Jubilee babies, and indeed, many girl-babies were christened "Jubilee".

A silver crown, (a five shilling piece) was minted to mark the occasion.

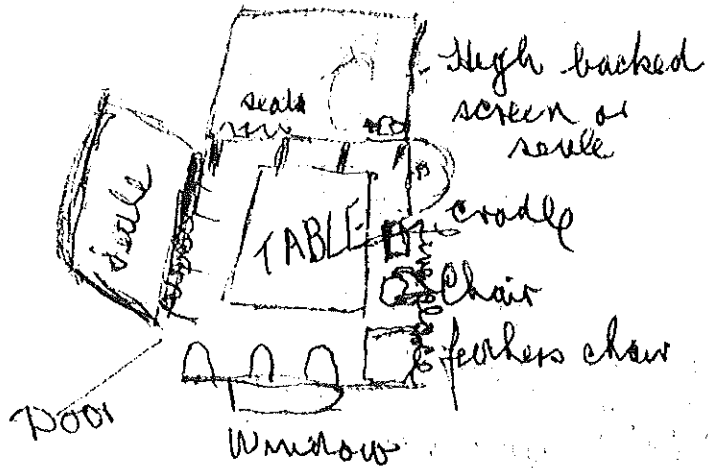
I recently gave my 1884 coin to my eldest grandson, also an 1884 double florin. 4/.

There was a lot of poverty amongst ordinary people, but as my father was a plumber, and we also kept a shop, we were comfortably off.

Waste was a sin in our home.

I often watched my father with his small pot of mixed lead and tin, which he heated on the kitchen-fire, and then proceeded to "wipe a joint", with his skilful bare hands, only protected by a piece of thick material called mole-skin.

Although families were large (my mother bore seven children - three boys and four girls) every baby was nursed naturally by its mother for the first nine months.



I can
 She o
 "off his
 getting

was a

a piece
 a bar
 milk a

the fam

One bo
 by fro
 one cla
 So

who ar
 thy
 two of

during
 the fire,
 eye of

I can still visualise my mother feeding the baby.

She often remarked

"Whilst he is feeding, I am resting, and we are getting to know each other" - my dear mother!

At the age of nine months each baby was spoon-fed with "sop".

Every utensil was kept very clean. A piece of bread (home-baked) was scalded in a basin with boiling water, and broken with milk and sugar. How the baby loved it!

There was no mention of Vitamin A, B or C.

As the baby's teeth developed, he fed with the family on ordinary food.

So far, my mother's seven children fared as - one baby died at the age of 8½ months, another son boy from cancer, another son - heart failure at 86, one daughter heart failure at 86.

I am healthy at 91, and I have two sisters who are well and active at 86 & 79 years.

My mother died at the age of 78, and two of her sisters lived to be centenarians.

We had two large tall screens with seats, and during the day, baby rested in the corner next the fire, and away from draughts, under the watchful eye of the rest of the family.

Many families could not afford to buy

furniture, and men made a rough sofa of wood, which was covered with material.

This was called a squab.
Until about the age of four, little boys & girls were dressed alike, except that the boys were distinguished by wearing a plaid dress. No pants or trousers were worn at this age, evidently, as a help towards cleanliness.

Children were sent to bed soon after teatime, all except baby who lay in a rocker wooden cradle by the fire, as mother sat with her endless sewing, mending and darning.

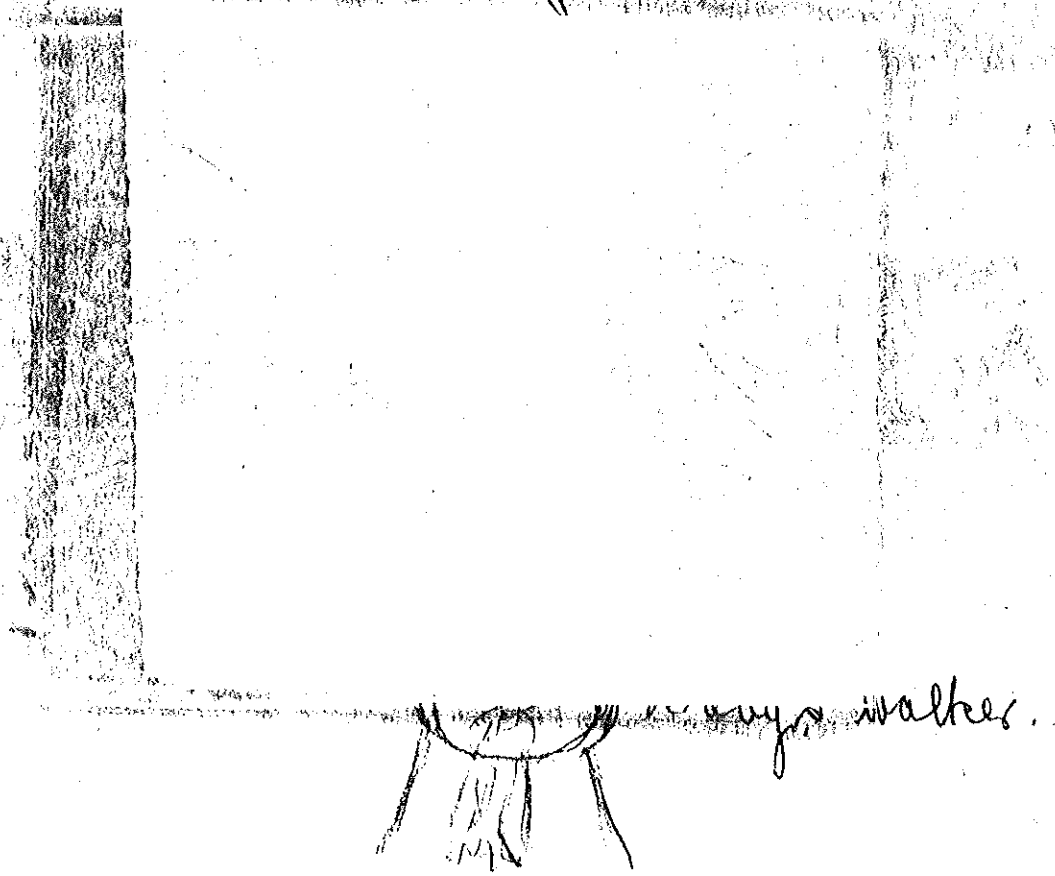
She soothed the often restless baby, by gently rocking the cradle with her foot, thus releasing her hands for this very necessary task. At this time, we know not of gramophones, radio, or television, as mother sang a lullaby in the lamp light, there being no gas-light (except in a few homes) nor electricity.

The children slept in a large bedroom with two large brass bedsteads, and lay on leather beds, boys in one bed and girls in another.

Oh! the fun of it! when cousins stayed the night, and we slept in "apple-pie beds" lying top, bottom & sides.

To us, our parents' bedroom was a palace

Here is a piece of the same bed-material.
It must be a hundred years old.



many walks.

m
ca
mo
as
an
wo
fo
mit
an
sl
wa
tr
uc
leg
th
Ch
fro
a s

with a huge mahogany bed, beautifully carved, with a canopy at the head, and side curtains of white material. Valances draped each side.

Around the bed was a path of drugging arranged ^{as} to protect this wonderful carpet.

How we little ones delighted in jumping up and down on this bed, beneath the feathers of which was a box spring mattress.

Our bedroom floor was scrubbed, and we had only mats. There was no linoleum at that time neither was the staircase carpeted - just scrubbed.

In the poorer homes, with large families, and only one bedroom, parents and children slept together in one bed, and at times the baby was overlain and killed by the weight of the overtaxed parents.

As the baby began to walk easily by himself, he was put into "The Walker" which was usually constructed by his father.

This was made of very stout wooden legs, on top of which was a wooden ring.

The baby was carefully placed through this wooden ring, which he held with his hands, (his feet reaching the floor) and he enjoyed propelling himself across the floor. There was also a small fixed gate placed on each ^{door} ~~side~~ for baby's safety.

Baby is now two, and out of hand, so it is time for the arrival of yet another baby and time for me to begin another chapter of my life.

The Infant school.

Schools were very different from what they are today. The only schools for ordinary children were "Dame" schools, and Church schools, built by varying denominations, to enable people to read the Scriptures themselves without the aid of priests.

Parliament passed a law in 1849? called The Education Act, which enforced every child over the age of five to be educated in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The Liberal government, headed by Mr. Ewart Gladstone, carried through that act, in spite of great opposition, ^{from the opposite party} who claimed that free education would bankrupt the country.

The new free schools were called Board schools, as they were managed by a Board of local important men, who set up the schools, raised rates to help meet the cost, and appointed teachers, whilst attending to all other duties concerning education.

At the age of four, I went with my six-year old brother to a "Dame" school, which was a large

My sister Nora about 1906.
a girl of about 18.



Wear the large hat - the one I see
the same, especially

hours
used
who
We
great
A
the
course
I will
up to
to know
mean
and
block
separ
by a
what
info
clear
hours

house owned by a clever lady, one large room was used as a schoolroom, for a few small boys and girls who each paid sixpence a week for their tuition.

With such low wages as were paid, this was a great drain on the family-income.

A director of education was appointed by the board to attend to the outside duties connected with the running of the schools.

Each child used a slate and slate pencil (neither paper nor pen)

We were taught the alphabet and numbers up to a hundred, by the aid of a frame of coloured beads.

This was a great advantage when we entered the Board school at the age of five years.

The Infant school, the girls' school and the boys' school were all built in one block, but the boys' school and playground were separated from the girls' and infants' school by a very high wall. There was no communication whatever between the boys- and girls' and infant school.

The schools, being newly built, were very clean and airy. They were also well lighted by having a high ceiling and well ventilated windows.

The large playgrounds were completely paved and very large. Toilets were sited at the far end for obvious reasons, as they were never flushed with water.

All "night" soil, from whatever area, was collected in large deep carts, which rumbled through the streets at night, whilst doors and windows were tightly shut.

The infant's school had one large main room, with the head-mistress's desk placed in the centre, with a clock on the wall above.

Three classes were taught in this large room which had no dividing partitions.

Each classroom was heated by a single coal-fed stove, fitted into the corner of the room, and light during the winter darkness was provided by gas jets.

There was no electric light at this time.

The two cloak rooms were very small, and coats were hung one upon another.

There were only two wash-basins, and one roller towel, and they were seldom used.

A baby's room was provided for the youngest children, and an extra stove or even fire-place was installed here for extra warmth.

There was also a cot, covered with a wool blanket for the use of any sick child.

as by
teach

emp

warm

high

and

the

further

near

culture

comin

and

entire

were

money

as

which

very

The Head mistress was always addressed as "Governess" by both staff & children, whilst the teachers were known as "Teacher, Mary, - Annie &c". Married women (except widows) were never employed as teachers.

In spite of much poverty, most children were warmly clad in thick wool dresses, covered by highly starched, white cotton pinafores, heavy shoes and home-knitted black wool stockings.

Most shoes had a second ice-cap of steel as a further protection. All clothing (for boys & girls) reached below the knee.

Sensible parents took the precaution of cutting short the children's hair, to prevent them coming home with undesirable intruders (Hair lice).

The three R's were the main subjects taught, and slates and pencils were used throughout the entire school for numbers and writing.

The reading books, (indeed all necessaries) were very worn from constant use, as tax-payers' money had to be very carefully spent, especially as "The School Board" were all taxpayers.

Girls learnt to use a needle, cotton and thimble whilst the boys did a little drawing.

The nursery rhymes were learned, and we sang very delightful short songs, as we danced around.

the maypole, which was fixed to the middle of the floor of the main room

Each boy and girl, one behind the other, held a different-coloured ribbon, in order to flax and unflax the maypole, whilst a teacher played a pretty tune on "The harmonium" - a sort of combined organ and piano.

School hours were from 9 am to 12 am with a break for dinner (never called lunch) and again from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

We had no religious teaching, but we sang children's hymns, and with closed eyes and folded hands we said our prayers.

There were no school dinners, and every child had to be off the premises during dinner-time.

All teachers went home to dinner

Children who came late after dinner, were called on the hand by the governess

The attendance officer (usually carrying a stick) continually paraded the streets, looking for children not at school, and warning parents that children must attend school regularly and punctually, or they would be summoned and even imprisoned.

Reaching home, the first cry of a child was "where is mamma" for mother was an important and dearly-loved parent.

Playtime

Children made their own games, entirely without supervision of the teachers.

We, small children liked to play mostly in groups. "In & out the windows" was very popular.

A ring of boys & girls held extended arms, whilst a boy chased a girl, threading their way in and out, all singing.

"In and out the windows, in and out the windows as we have done before."

Reaching the centre of the ring the boy & girl stood, whilst we all sang.

Come and face your lover, come and face your lover
as you have done before"

so the game went on.

Ring a ring of roses was also often played with song, as "Ring a ring of roses, a pocket full of posies, all fall down and each child slid to the pavement saying 'ash a booo'".

"Blind man's bluff" was another great favourite.

As now, some children preferred to play alone with a ball ~~either with a ball or~~ a skipping rope.

The streets were very quiet and safe, as there were no cars, buses, trams nor bicycles. Only horse-drawn vehicles. Often, six huge horses, side by side in twos, would be drawing a waggon loaded with a mighty tree-trunk to be sawn up at the local saw-mill.

My mother and brother in law
1939



God
are
sam
man
as c
hen

with
abo

and
every
being

with
and

I a
fam
the
for
of

were
scho
St

addr

The Girls school

Today is a big event - at seven years of age we (the girls) are moving into the girls school. It has much the same lay-out as the infant school, but with a few (3) more rooms, as class-rooms. There are required as children must stay at school for another six years hence the six classes.

Each classroom had a (step-up) gallery with rows of desks on each, which were filled with about six children

There were about forty girls in each class and teacher (now to be addressed as Miss etc) taught every subject. Now we used pen and ink, an ink well being inserted in a hollow of the desk.

There was very little or no connection with parents. The girls were in entire charge of teachers and discipline was very strict. Girls had to be obedient. "Familiarity breeds contempt" it is said. There was no familiarity between teacher and pupil, and strangely, there was very little punishment.

Governess was respected, feared and loved.

Teachers never took children on outings and there were no open-days for parents. Apart from play-time school-time was worktime.

The multiplication tables were thoroughly taught, as also addition, subtraction, multiplication & division of numbers, money

to the best advantage.

As the girls grew older they tended to develop individual friendships, and they played in smaller groups.

Hop scotch was a favourite game, hence the provision of the steel band of the toe-capped shoe.

Rounders. (similar to base ball) was another game, and of course skipping, when many girls joined the game using a long, very strong, camel-barge rope.

Perhaps I was a "loner", for I liked throwing a ball as high as possible up to a gable-end and catching it, but best of all I liked Fire stones or Jacks. This was a game played in the desert with five small rounded stones, as these children had no toys.

As we went home, the boys played with marbles at Jack in the hole, taking home marbles as their winnings.

We tumbled along large wooden hoops using a stick, but boys whipped large iron hoops with an iron handle attached to the hoop.

There were no swimming baths, but most boys swam in "the narrows" of our vast network of canals, also in a pool called "The swag".

Girls were not allowed near (absolute taboo). We had no park until 1894, laid out in celebration of Queen Victoria's ^{diamond} jubilee, but we had plenty of meadows, where children played in safety all day.

There were no works canteens, and the elder boys and girls hurried home to take father's hot dinner to him at the Works (never referred to as factories).

It was put hot into a warmed basin, meat placed on top of hot vegetables, and a sauce on top holding a slice of bread.

This meal was wrapped in thick flannel, placed in a basket, containing a bottle of home-made beer.

Mothers, even with small dwellings did not go out to work. Father had to be well fed, as he alone brought home the only means of subsistence.

There was little or no compensation for injury or death at work, and when father was ill unable to work all the family suffered privation.

The unions at this time, were very scarce and almost powerless, and very ridiculed by the employers. Many firms refused to employ a "union" man.

We had no health service, no nurse, but some people paid the local doctor therefore a week all the year round for his medical attention.

"The poor helped the poor" in these circumstances. There were no old-age pensions, & grand^{now unable to work}parents usually shared a home with the family - grandmo mind the babies and granddad beating coal & chopping wood amongst other necessary chores.

the streets

to Dudley

Smaller canals branched off to service many works but many are now derelict & out of use.

Dudley Post

The "Black Country" members are now busy cleaning out these many canal basins

An aqueduct

another smaller aqueduct

The Main Canal

to London

to Manchester

An aqueduct

another lower aqueduct

The old embankment

Coke Hill engines

now moved as part of the embankment as of no use

men o the of dying

from about

canal embankment this town,

from 1000

works

Dudley the m the n at the

W barge to the

When a couple become old and decrepit, they were often obliged to end their days in "The Workhouse", the old man and the old woman living, and eventually dying apart, from each other.

Often, they were buried either by money collected from neighbours, or by ^{their} children in common graves above others of similar circumstances.

I often came home from school along the canal towing path. We had a very high canal embankment, which joined up with "The Main Canal". This main canal runs through the centre of my home-town, connecting London with The Manchester Ship Canal.

The engines at Ocher Hill, used to pump water from low level to high level (The embankment) and were once visited and admired by the late Henry Ford.

Lipton has so many canals, serving so many works, that she is often called "The Venice of The Midlands".

In fact I live quite near Victoria Park, and Dudley Port, which boasts two viaducts carrying the main railway line, and two aqueducts supporting the main canal. The canal & railway line are very close at this point side by side.

Walking along the towing-path, we met the barges mostly filled with coal and iron-goods. The barge ^{gaily tinned} was pulled along by a heavy horse attached to the barge by a very thick rope. Like our skipping rope



Striking custom

Black Country chainmakers will be remembered on May Day with a parade to Mushroom Green, Dudley.

And members of the Black Country Revival Society will be performing an old custom - ringing the anvil.

Pictured rehearsing is Councillor Lucy Hingley with some of the children who will be taking part in the ceremony at the Old Chain Shop.

A band will head the parade.

Mr Frank Billingham, a leading member of the society, said they would like to hear from anyone who could provide a Staffordshire bull terrier. A dog, complete with regalia, used to take part in the parades of old.



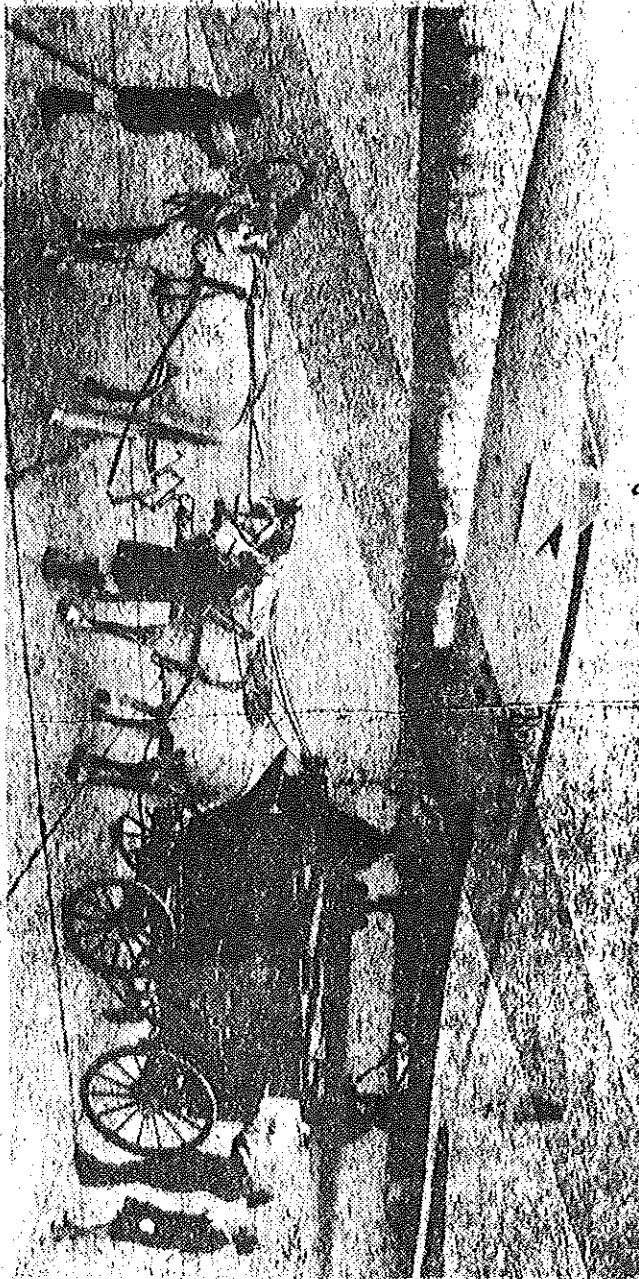
It is
tails

The coach houses were at the back in a large yard
there is a fine coach house & stables at Bridgwater Str. Mine

The toll house which I remember has now been demolished
The money was paid for the maintenance of Limple Road

It is May Day, and the horses are ribboned with plaited tails, pretty earcaps and gleaming brasses.

The mail-coach was used before my time, but I lived on a road for many years which used to be known as the White Road and I saw many mile stones from Dudley to Birmingham. Alas, they have gone, but there are still several coaching houses left and I remember seeing the posts to which the horses were to be tied - also a mousing block for horsemen.



The mousing block used by John Wesley was at Woodbury where he was arrested by Anti-Wesley Church people.

Post - from coach to Concorde

Two hundred years of postal transport stand side by side. Last century, the fastest mail service was the 18-hour stage-coach trip from London to Devonport, at an average speed 10 miles an hour.

Today, post flown on Concorde arrives at New York 75 minutes "before" leaving London because of the different time zones. And this time the average speed is faster than a bullet. The world's first supersonic mail run

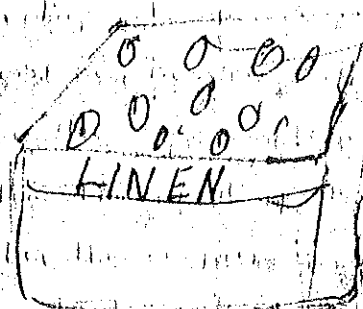
was launched by the Post Office this month. London postman Dennis Eyres is pictured handing over the first mail to use the supersonic service to Concorde captain Leo Budd.

The coaching houses were at the back in a large yard. There is a fine coach house & stables at Rodney in St. Pauline.

country remem- with a n Green, the Black city will custom sing is Hingley children part in the Old and the sham, a of the ould like ne who ordshire complete to take old.

the post

Recently, my daughter, a head mistress took her children
to Aston Hall, and saw such a mangle there.
The curate was impressed to learn that Phyllis's mother as a
child had seen a similar one in operation



Heavy stones

I do not know how it was
operated

Arthur J. Singer

A cousin in the
First world war.



6 m
dear
held
doll
a re
I do
fre
up
iron
the
of m
towel
a b
who
H
sc
the
1000
freed
man
we lib

One day I met Korah carrying a large basket of folded
cleanly, fairly sized linen. Taking hold of one handle (she
held the other) we went to Mrs Calloway's cottage for the
clothes to be mangled. In the stone flagged kitchen stood
a very large wooden box covered with huge heavy stones.
I do not understand the mechanism of it, but the stones
pressed on the washing - thus mangling them.

My mother, and even I until about 1930, had an
upright heavy iron mangle on castors, with a heavy large
iron wheel, which we turned by hand in order to revolve
the rollers, beneath which went first wet clothing to be squeezed
of water and when dry to be mangled for pressing, such as
towels which now did not need ironing.

On the way home we met Mrs Allen carrying
a bag of coal on her head (unsupported) whilst Mrs Jones
who walked with her, carried a large white linen bag of flour.
Mother told me that they were stately women.

Frequently, the scissor-grinder called to sharpen
scissors and knives on his grinding machine, as well as
the glass-man ^{who} would cut glass which he carried on a
wooden frame across his back. He then securely
fixed the new pane into the window frame with putty.

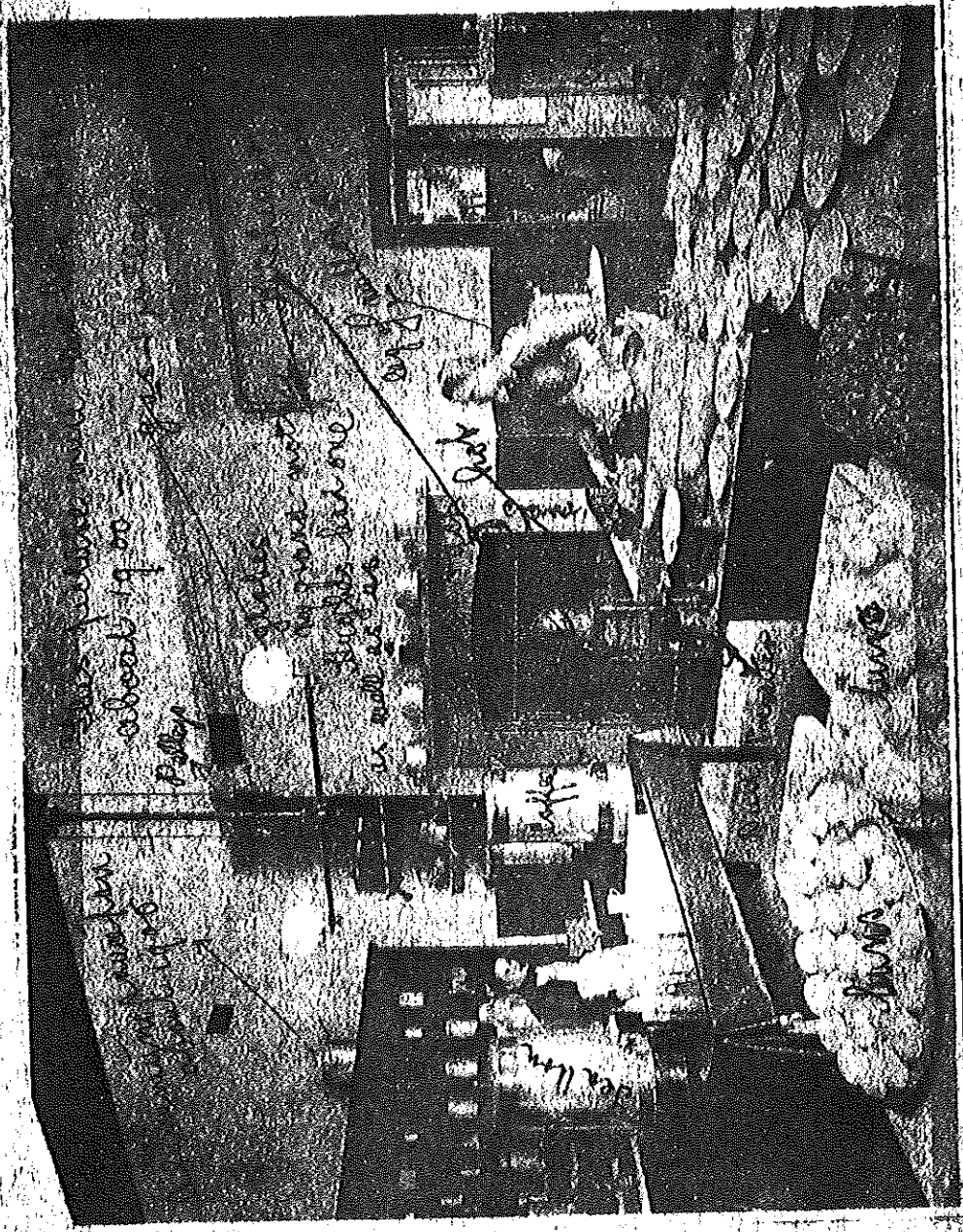
We were very abuzzled, although a little scared, when a
man came into the street with a dancing muzzled bear. but
we liked very much The Punch & Judy Show.

SPECIAL DISH

FOR
FRIDAY

- Pea Soup
- Beefsteak and Kidney Pudding
- Potatoes or Beans
- Cold Salt Beef
- Jam Puffs
- Jam Tarts
- Custard and Fruit
- Tapioca (Wintery)

A. C. C. for Diners must be produced by the same day in order to receive the same.



The company, under the patriarchal
tion of Jeremiah James, received mi-
benefits. It opened a works ki-
1868 where Norfolk dumpings (abc
other cheap nourishing meals (abc
offered. Over the years the Carrov.
has become the Staff and Works car-
is now the Abbey dining room, but
remains cheap. The menu above c
with today's which offers onion sou-
and grilled steak at 19p. And though
mousseka strikes an exotic note.
item, 'rice at 13p' has the same

Notice the dignity of the chief waitress, as well as the order & cleanliness

dist
mat
dist
dise
ad
loos
on
to
I fou
mou
austi
wakes
mold
wher
The
top
can
hri
of a

There were hundreds of so-called "doggy pits" in our district. Coal was mined and sold for ^{half} a cent, until water was reached. They were then abandoned, as our district has a large underground lake, and the mines drainage failed to cope with the water.

These small collieries were sometimes not adequately bricked over, and children, climbing on the loose core of bricks sometimes fell in and were drowned.

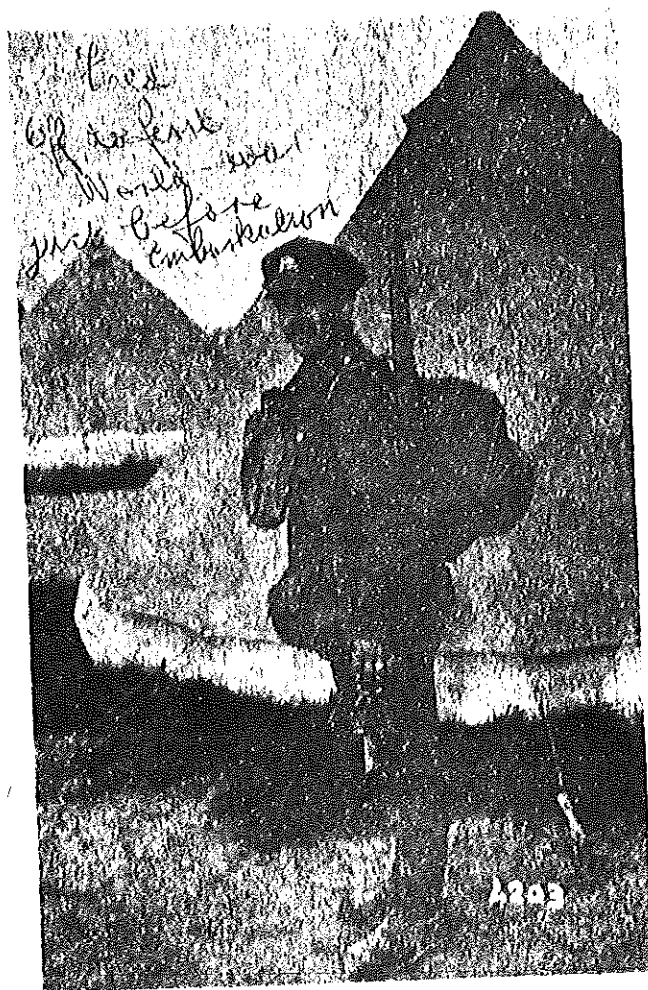
Only recently, a huge subsidence occurred on a busy motor way, and it took many tons of earth to fill up the crater.

Reaching home from school one afternoon I found that auntie had come to stay with us for a month, "but where is mother's back? She is not well" auntie replied. Auntie is very busy preparing hot water upstairs in stone buckets in order to warm mother's bed. She takes the water from the kitchen which always stands on the left hob of the fireplace. It is a very heavy iron pot with a lid, and a brass top which is turned on to release the hot water.

After tea, Mrs Knowles comes, and goes upstairs carrying a large black bag. She must be bringing us a new baby in that black bag.

Auntie quickly ushers us to bed - all five of us, the eldest being eight. I am 6 years old. During the night we are awakened by

Notice the dignity of the chief waitress, as well as the order & cleanliness



My brother in law off to France

mother
the de
and se

stream,
bring

she wa
was b

mother's
the dea

year-old

our po
hearse

in the
Heaven
as a l
quills
church

money
no mon



My brother in law off to France

mother
the d
and n

reason
bring

she w
was

mother
the d

year-

our p
heav

in th
Heav
as a
girl
chur

money
no m

mother screaming. We jump up that minute is barring the door. Father comes into the bedroom - tells us to be good and says we have a new baby. brother.

I lay awake, wondering why mother should scream, when Mrs Knowles had been kind enough to bring us a new baby. (20 years later I knew the answer).

During my mother's seven confinements she was never attended by any doctor, and each child was born in her own home.

Eight months later, I was again awakened by mother's cry of anguish "My child - my child" as she witnessed the death of this loved baby.

(Again I suffered 28 years after when my six year-old daughter died.)

A few days later, my brother and I went with our parents in a horse-drawn carriage, following a hearse in which the dearly-loved baby lay.

Why? I asked, had baby been put into a hole in the ground if, (as mother told me) he had gone to Heaven.

As I grew older, I was often in demand as a bearer to some dead playmate, but the little girls carried the coffin through the streets to the churchyard.

The parents of these children had not the money to pay for a hearse, and I believe that there was no money to be paid for burial in a churchyard.

Dec 31st 1899 A letter from Queen Victoria was read
in St John's Church ordering collections to be
made for help to the families of soldiers
fighting in The Boer War.

Patriotic song of Boer War

Dukes son, cooks son, son of a hundred kings,
Fifty thousand horse and ~~foot~~^{men} going to Table Bay.
Each of them answering his country's call
Who's to look after the kids
Pass the hat for credit's sake
And pay, pay, pay.

Will you kindly drop a penny in the little
tambourine
For the gentleman in khaki going south?
He's an absent-minded fellow, but he's heard his
country's call

and
We have
and
The
and
songs
of the
(D
How
for
for
of this
I am
in
beco
child
ment
These
I e
yet m
she h

It is 1897, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and there are great celebrations for the occasion. We have a huge bonfire. Victoria Park is planned & built and streets are named in honour of the beloved queen.

But now comes the news of "The Boer War", the propaganda machine of hate is set in motion, and we are awfully learning and singing patriotic songs at school. The red-coat and full-brim hat of the soldier are replaced by an outfit of khaki.
(There is much said in "The Traitor").

Now "Tommy" is a fine fellow, and we are asked very forcibly to "pay, pay, pay" by Rudyard Kipling, for "The kids" Tommy has left behind him.

It is now 1900, and I am nearing the age of thirteen, and the end of my school days.

I have passed through all the seven classes, and I am the only girl sitting alone in (5th).

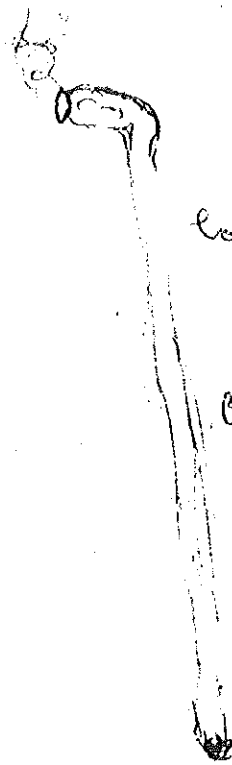
Everyday provides me with a special book in which I write essay after essay on every subject.

Occasionally, I help teacher of the youngest children, for in this class, whatever the age, the mental children stay all their school days.

There is rule or no provision provided otherwise.

I cannot leave school until I am thirteen, yet my mother decides it, so that I may help her as she has just acquired her last baby.

a
be
dears



long smoking pipes

Chuschwaddens

you
and
will

Fall
not
chil
ale

a hi
with

a no
were

will
will

bench
that
is s
spitt
in

Governess asks for an interview with mother and father, and it is decided with my consent, that governess will propose me to The School Board as a future teacher.

Our New Home

Father has decided that his wages as a plumber, are not adequate to support his adored wife and children in comfort, so he buys a home-brewed ale-house - a village pub!

Now we have many rooms, a large sitting-room a kitchen, a scullery, a wash-house, and a passage with a window for serving outdoor beer.

Beside the bar is a smoke room, in which a rack holds many long pipes) I think that they were called "churchwardens")

Father tells me that only rich men in top-hats will be in a pipe smoking club, and that they alone will sit (not in the bar) but in the smoke room.

The bar has uncovered wooden tables, and long benches - only father has a large chair in the corner, so that he can keep an eye on his customers. The floor is sprinkled with clean sawdust each morning, and spittoons are placed in various positions on the floor in which people spit. Spittle!

Along
Shoe
stilts

Up
a bed
- The
office
occas
W
hocke
6
vat
a pr
with
in the
and
wear
thou
which
who
early
the

Upstairs, we have a large bedroom for mother & father, a bedroom for the boys, and another for us four girls.

There is also a very large club room where the officers of societies hold meetings and the customers occasionally have a dinner and a get-together.

We also have a hop room, where long round pockets of hops are kept for brewing. also the malt.

Outside, we have a large loft with the brewing vat (raised above some steps) installed.

There is a large yard (mostly paved) with a pig sty, and to mother's delight, a hen house with a long chicken-run. Father built us a swing in the yard.

Now, auntie lives with us permanently, and Mary comes in daily to help.

I am fascinated with the pattens she wears when dwelling the cobbled yard.

They are iron shoes, tied on with a leather thong, and they have stiles underneath through which, the water flows and so keep her own feet dry.

We also have two large cellars in which the beer is fermented and stored.

Tommy the brewer, arrives at our house very early one morning for the brewing.

Father, being a plumber, has connected the extremely large brewing boiler to the water system.



1908 My class of eight year olds

Notice the high boots & strapped pinafores

air of
the hot
mass

prode
yard
into

barley
and

the s

the r
leone

anot
for ba
also

into t
with
clean

As the day wears on, a pungent smell pervades the air, of, not only our dwelling, but of the adjacent streets.

I climb the steps, and father lifts me up, to see the hops and barley boiling rapidly, as he stirs the brewing mass with a large wooden shovel.

He explains to me, that this mash will produce fine ale to be sold at 3 pence a pint.

A wide pipe has been constructed under the yard and kitchen, and this pipe will carry ale into a large zinc-lined wooden vat in the cellar.

Following this operation, the same hops and barley will be reboiled (the second mash) as "Two-penny" and sold at 2 pence a pint.

This second mash is ^{to be} channelled into a vat in the second cellar.

The days brewing is over, the beer is safely in the separate vats, and Tommy and Father leave everything as clean as a new pin.

My brother and I take a large jug each to another ale-house which had a previous brewing for beem. This is the froth from beer which has already fermented - yeast.

Sometime elapses, and I go with father into the cellar to suck off. He skims off the beem with a clean wooden ladle, and fills the waiting clean wooden barrels with the beer.

The children were kept solely to our private rooms in the house, and it was father who usually served his customers.

I was opened at 6 o'clock in the morning, and stayed open without a break, until eleven o'clock at night.

This was the time of 'The Industrial Revolution' and the Midlands had a great influx of Irish cheap labour. The men had no permanent homes, and usually lodged with the local people - hence their need of drink. The railways, canals, bridges, roads, aqueducts etc were built with barrow, coal-pick and shovel - There were few mechanical aids.

I never saw a woman sitting with men, ^{in the bar} indeed, she only was served from the window in the passage and never drank on the premises. The police frequently came into the inn unexpectedly to see that the licensee was fulfilling his obligations, declared before the Magistrates - no gambling or other evil practices.

The
and
and
and
is so
Not
Dun
enters
a bar
This
be in
a su
and
mur
Now, a
section
anti
divid
dema
measur

The bands of bees stand for some time to mature, and now comes (to me) the crucial moment of tapping.

Father skillfully removes a plug in the barrel and inserts a pipe, which carries the beer upstairs and to "The Pells" on the counter-top from which the beer is sold.

Note It is strange, but not one of my father's children have drunk alcohol or smoked tobacco.

During the brewing, an excise man, came several times entering particulars in a book, after testing with a brass gauge for strength.

This gauge in a wooden velvet-lined box must not be interfered with, as it always lay in one place on a side table.

When I was sixteen, we moved from this pub, and father went into another form of business, much more satisfactory to my mother.

The Home and its food

Now, Auntie prepares us for school, and mother stays watching until we have departed, for mother believes that Auntie should be in full control at this time, with no divided loyalties. She serves each child with porridge, umassa sugar, and milk, and we trudge on our way, meeting many gypsies who have come to the wake

Whenever there is a church, there is a fair (market) with side shows, Punch and Judy - a roundabout and many other brightly-lit, colourful attractions.

Today's baking day. The large earthenware bowl called a "jowl" is almost filled with flour, and a handful of rough salt, (no packet salt yet) and all mixed together by hand. A quantity of yeast is also mixed in, and ^{covered with a clean cloth} the jowl is placed in front of the fire for the mixture to rise.

Meanwhile, the large baking-oven is flushed with wood. Until removed the hot wood from the oven, and the loaves in tins, are baked as the aroma of baking bread fills the house.

Today the large table is laid on our return from school - mother has boiled a brisket of beef, with carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and potatoes.

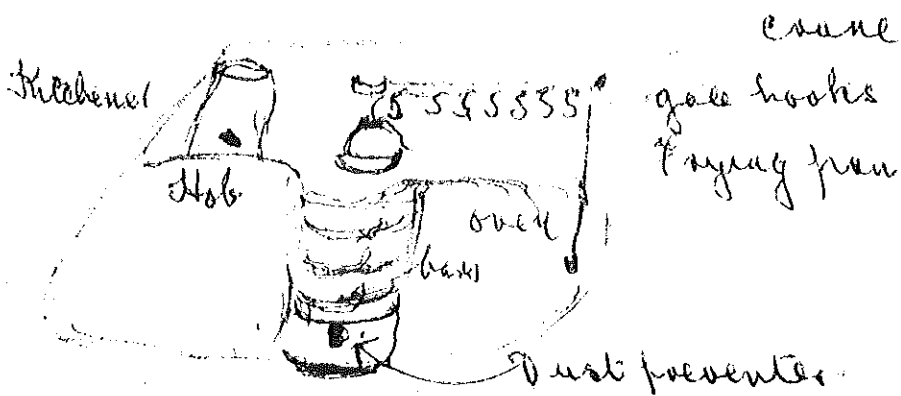
But first, we have broth-soup, powdered over cubes of bread and sprinkled with parsley.

Tomorrow, we shall have pork-tea soup, but with this, we have chopped mint leaves, and afterwards potatoes, pea-pudding and chopped carrots.

We always have a fish-dinner on Fridays usually boiled cod with potatoes, peas and parsley sauce, and this is often followed by apple-tart and custard.

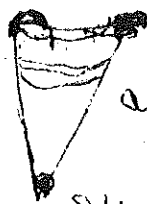
Mother does not believe in fried food for children.

It is Tuesday. Pancake Day and we have a half-holiday from school. We rush home, and on the hob is a "mountain" of pancakes. Mother looks very hot and red in the face, as she cooks the last one, in the frying-pan over a bright red fire. The frying-pan has a hug at the top, which is fastened to a gale-hook which swings from a crane fastened to the grate.



Mother and Auntie have sausage, eggs and tomato cooked in the Dutch oven before the fire.

The strides



are hooked to the fire bars and the Dutch oven is placed on them

It is (the ^{to} oven) often called the toaster

Father prefers a mutton-chop grilled on the gridiron (a latticed wire pan) over a smokeless red fire, but mother says "yes it is sweet, but what a waste of good mutton-fat, which I could use for

sealing the corks of jars, holding, cooked plums
and dahsons which are required in winter,

Pig killing

For pudding today, mother makes prementy
with ripe ^{growing} wheat which she boils in a large pot,
adding to it a couple of eggs from our hens.

She says, that with milk and sugar, (served)
it is more nourishing than rice.

It is an easy dinner, for "Jack. Jack" the large
bacon-pig has been killed, whilst we were at school.

It is hanging upside-down in the out-house.

A couple of days later, Grandma, who is a
wonderful cook, comes to stay with us all day.

The pig has been cut into joints by
Mr. Springer the butcher, and one cellar has been thoroughly
cleaned to receive the fitches (sides of bacon -

They are placed on the hardt shelves around the
cellar. The shelves have been covered thickly with salt
and salt-petre (The cellar is dry and well-ventilated)

The two boxes and two chauls, are very thoroughly
sailed, and placed in clean pillowcases. These are hung
from large hooks in the ceiling of the kitchen to dry.

After a time, the fitches of bacon are brought
up from the cellar, covered with sheets of linen, and
placed on the walls of the staircase - to dry.

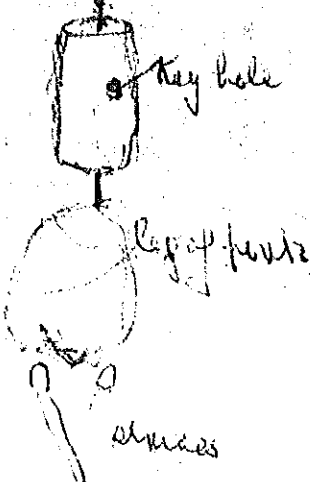
a pe
but h
a bag
the
[
?]
2 par
cove
- 3
Lins
to be
clean
-
And
as s
boilin
The

Father admires his "pictures"

A porker (a young pig) was killed at the same time as Jack Jack but he is cut up to ^{be} eaten. For Sunday dinner,

a leg of pork will hang from "the Jack". This is a

Sheet
Shank



brass instrument turned with a key, and the meat revolves, round and round cooking each part evenly & perfectly.

A tin below, placed on the strides catches the fat and gravy.

Father has made a hastener

This is like a small clothes-horse but it is lined with zinc to reflect the heat from the fire onto the meat, & so save coal.

Grandma is very busy making a large meat pie, covered with pie pastry - from the odd pieces of meat

- She also makes lard with the inside fat. Leaf This lard is now sprinkled with rosemary, and left to set. Meanwhile Mary is in the scullery cleaning out the intestines which are boiled in salt water

The grown-ups are very fond of chitlings

Auntie is scarcely visible in the steam-filled kitchen, as she places the rubbed linen into the boiler of boiling water with soda added.

The clothes are taken from the boiler, and swilled in

I had evening humble roots for us to "The
Opera House" We travelled on the ^{tram} and at
the stop at the end of its run, we watched the driver
and conductor, clean out the dead ashes, and replace them
with fresh coal. The two boys climbed the staircase,
and sat without cover, on the top seats of the tram.

humble grumbled, because they were covered
with soot from the chimney.

Wash Day.

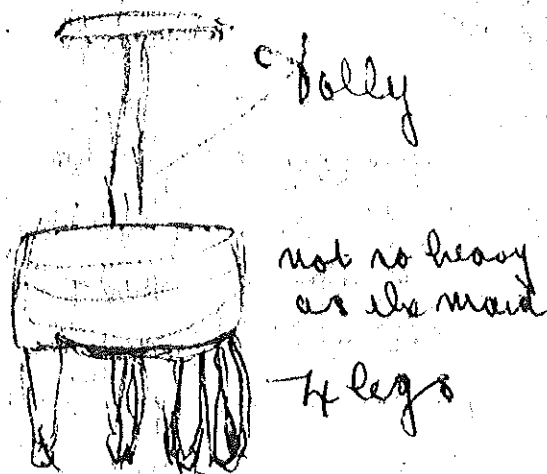
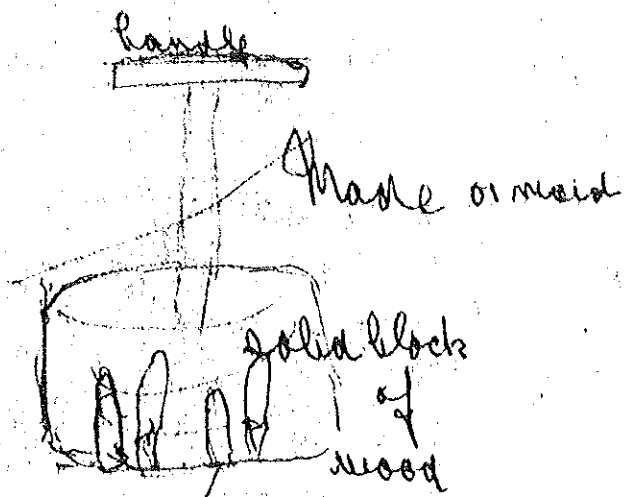
The day before wash-day, mother sorts out the dirty
linen, - such a heap - and with my help (I have
learned to use the sewing machine) repairs any
damage, and makes several patches.

Early in the morning the huge coffee boiler is
filled with water, and a coal fire is built in the
furnace underneath. When the water is hot enough
it is taken by bucket, and put into the mangle tub.
Soap powder (no detergent then) is added. The
dirty linen is either punched with a made or swirled
with a dolly

from large hooks in the ceiling of the kitchen to dry.

After a time, the fitches of bacon are brought
up from the cellar, covered with sheets of linen, and
placed on the walls of the staircase - to dry.

such o
Get it
After
or has
huge
basket
hot
Soa
which
tub
covered
And
as sh
boilin
The



with open rollers to

let the water through

After mangle, the clothes are either wrung by hand, or passed through the large iron mangle with huge wooden rollers to release surplus water.

The clean clothes are thrown into large clothes-basket, but the very soiled ones are placed in very hot water to which soda has been added. The rubbing tub. Soap is liberally rubbed into the persistent stains, which are rubbed by hand, and also rubbed on the rubbing-board which is a wooden board covered covered with deeply ribbed ring.

Auntie is scarcely visible in the steam-filled kitchen, as she places the rubbed linen into the boiler of boiling water with soda added.

The clothes are taken from the boiler, and mangled in

clean water, then again in bleed water, because as mother says "Whites are only white when bleed".

The clothes are once more wrung, to free excess water and then hung to dry in the fresh air, on lines tethered to posts in the big yard - if fine otherwise they are hung in the scullery and hatched from overhead lines.

The ironing.

And what ironing? The clothes are dampened and again passed through the mangle to spread the moisture. Text articles such as towels are not ironed.

Most things are starched and dampened before ironing. A clean fire is made, and Annie brings out three heavy flat irons, two of which are permanently leaning in the iron slung hanging on the bars of the grate. There must be no smoky fire, and ironing goes on until all clothes are finished.

The home and its accoutrements

~~It is~~ ¹⁹⁰³ and we have moved into a large house. It is modern, with a bay window, a long hall with a staircase, a big verandah, many rooms and a garden but not yet, either electricity or deep drainage.

In the front room (parlour) there is a beautiful chandelier with many lights (still jets). We still have to cook with coal-fires. There were no dust-fans at this time - an open ash-pit held all refuse which was taken

away
The m
and to
made
Even
in the a
of the
few m
where
These
men's
I was
of the
who ho
There
Occur
The pa
Road
with a
The m
were to
appear
cabin
So on
women
houses

away periodically in the dust east ^{The ark pit} I was called
the meslin. There was no linoleum to cover wooden floors,
and kitchens were paved with square quarries. People
made warm rugs (cut in strips) to cover the cold quarries.
Even large houses had no bath-room. Water was heated
in the copper and the family, every Friday, bathed in front
of the fire. Fresh fruit was very cheap, and there were very
few uns of food. Many poor people lived in square courts
where only one water tap and one toilet was used.

These people frequently covered the legs of the table with
men's wooden stockings to protect them from damage.

I well remember hearing of the first pensions (the beginning
of the Welfare State) given to men over 70 years of age
who had no more than 7/6 a week coming in.

There were no tiled grates - they were black leaded.

Occasionally, a travelling theatre came to the town.
The pawnshops did a thriving business in the poor quarters.

Roads were made of 'Rusky Rag' a very hard stone, covered
with cinders and rolled smoothly with a traction engine.

The sight of a policeman frightened most people - people
were taken to prison mostly for debt. As the bailiffs
appeared in the street, people ran, warning people,
calling out "The Bums The Bums". The doors were
soon locked. There was very little employment for
women. Most were employed as servants in the large
houses. They worked from six in the morning until

midnight for a few shillings a week. They were compelled to wear coloured cotton dresses and cap early in the day, and change into black dresses and white apron and cap afterwards. They slept in the attic, and were usually allowed one half day holiday a week, and a whole day holiday once a month, receiving about five shillings a week to cover the cost of uniform's etc.

There were no factories for women, and men deemed it a terrible disgrace for their wives to go out to work.

Every Sunday, the local cemetery was full of people visiting the graves of dead relatives, on which they reverently placed flowers. Almost all children went to church or chapel (Methodist). There were no widows' pensions, and these widows often went cleaning or washing to better-off neighbours for a shilling a day and food. About 1899 I saw a man riding a penny-farthing bicycle, and sometime afterwards, the crowds were on the street to see a girl riding a cycle.

Many houses had oil lamps, but girls learned to crochet and embroider, whilst women searched the rag-bag for pieces to make patch-work quilts.

There were many coal-yards, for people mostly fetched coal, half or even a quarter of a cwt in a barrow.

People did not travel far, and most inland inhabitants never saw the sea. Boys usually married local girls and lived near their parents.

The
board
their
at
face
f
alas
He
Moth
Note
What
to wh
"I
count

The last Christmas at home.

The year was 1929, and gathered around the festive board, were father, mother, sons, daughters and their spouses. In all, with grandchildren 23 of us.

At the end of the meal, father stood up, ^{with} his face beaming, waved across to mother saying

Look, mother - all ours.

Alas that year following, father ^{at 46} was called home.

He was the head of the house
and

Mother was the heart of the home.

The story of my early life ends here.

Note: A short time ago, a beautifully-groomed, young divorced, childless wife cynically asked me,

"Whatever did women do, when they did not go out to work?"

to which I replied

"They bore children, who laboured ^{and fought} to make this country great, so providing the amenities which we all enjoy

Another chapter.

I stayed at school until I was 13 and a half, when I received a letter from the education secretary saying that I am chosen to begin a teaching career as a monitor. I had to work a few months (without pay) to be assessed by the Head Teacher for my qualities etc.

This secret report was favourable, and for ~~the~~ ^{two} years after I was a candidate receiving 3/6 a week at first. At the age of fifteen, I passed Candidates examination and was appointed to the School Board for three years, until I passed at 18, the teachers unclassified examination receiving about 18/- a week. I am now qualified to teach no more than a class of fifty children.

I studied, (paying all my tuition fees, and cost of books etc) for a further two years under Cloughs College - teaching all day and studying at night + week ends.

In April 1909 I received my patent, announcing that I am a fully certificated teacher, gaining distinction in English language, English literature, and English composition.

I am now eligible for a headship, ^{gain status} - should my salary ^{at a salary of 5 a year} and can teach a class of 60 children +

But in 1913, I am happy to leave the profession, and marry my dear husband whose life I shared for 52 years.

Whilst paying tribute to the fact,

One should be generous to ones own generation.

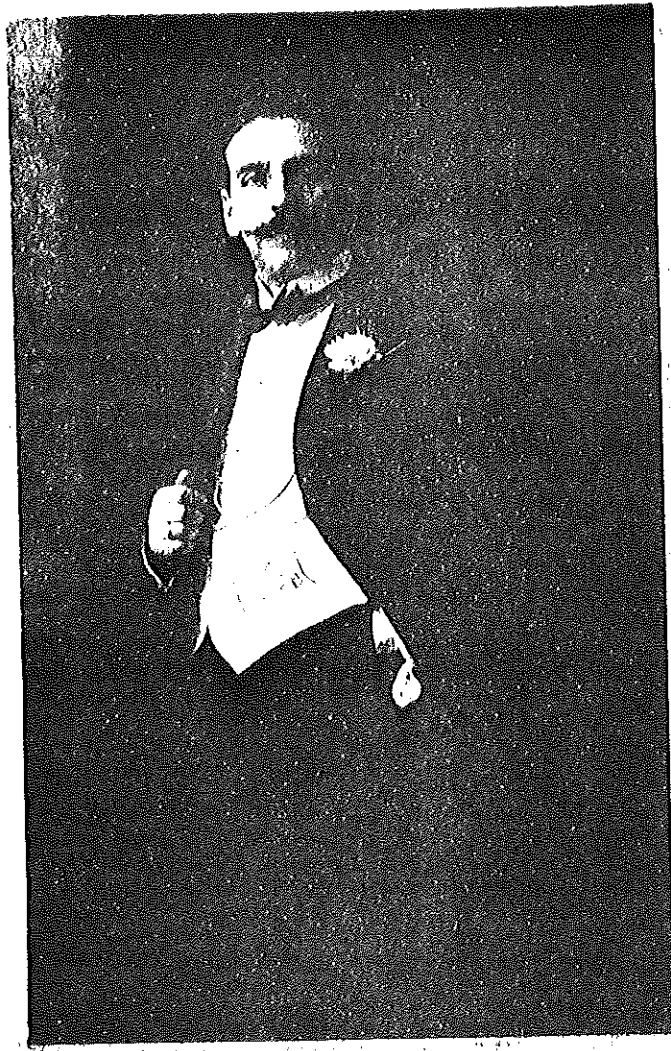
This is a photograph of the main room of a school built
 about 1900. It is my old educational school, but one
 very peculiar. The big main room had partition doors
 which could be closed and tiled (they were)
 covered (having what water pipe) which ran around
 the walls. The walls were tiled.
 The room was heated by the steam of hot water
 from the boiler underneath the school. There was a great
 deal of light. The desks were very simple
 (like the desks in the concentration they are now)
 and very simple (and the cleanliness
 of the school).
 The bench at the top of the room is called from a desk.
 It was used as a dictation session.



at
 used
 and
 s
 you
 ch
 of
 cege
 us
 sub

about 1900

My brother-in-law dressed in his
Wedding outfit 1915



right
empty
stock
of
English
and
of
and
a wa
now
favo
of
don
butter
mess
at
my
which
gift
had
plain

Domes

Teaching in the early 1900s.

As a very young child I remember taking ^{2 or 6} 3 pence each Monday morning to "A Dame School". There were about a dozen of small boys and girls and we were taught by two maiden sisters. I do not remember what we were taught.

~~and~~ except numbers.

At the age of five I entered the infant school of a Board School, where I found boys and girls as fellow scholars. This school had not long been built and had a high ceiling and large windows. There was one main room accommodating 3 classes with the head mistress's ~~room~~ ^{desk} in the centre. There were two separate rooms and a "babies room" which had an open fire and a cot for resting any tired child. The other rooms had only a coal stove for heating, and they were lit by gas - with a naked flame. Nearly every day some child sat near the stove suffering either from a cold, toothache or earache. I must have learnt to read and write, but I remember best of all

dancing around the maypole, each child holding a coloured ribbon, "Happy days"

At the age of seven we were moved to the upper school - the girls to the "Girls School" which was in the same ground as the Infants. The boys went to "The Boys' school" and boys & girls were now quite isolated from each other. The "not so bright" children went to standard one, but fortunately I was placed in standard two.

Personally, I was very happy during the whole of my school life passing through 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 classes. The school-leaving age was thirteen, but as three of us had completed the run of classes, we had a class of our own (ex 7).

We were indeed privileged, and often helped teaching the "awkward" children. My mother was anxious for me to leave at 13 as we had a new baby, and she required help in the home, but fate stepped in.

The Year 1900 One day, my headmistress called me to her desk, and asked "Would you like to be a teacher?" I readily answered "Yes". The "governess" as she was called, interviewed my mother, and I stayed on until I was 13½.

One day, I received a letter announcing my appointment as a monitor to a newly - built mixed school, also enclosed was an invitation to a dinner, where we met most of the important councillors (Board members) and fellow guests.

The following Monday morning, duly armed with my essentials, I walked into this grand new school, where I met my new head-master.

- Looking down at me he asked, "Well can you teach?" and I readily answered "No, but I can try".

I stayed with him for 15 years, and the day that I left to get married, he reminded me of my self assurance.

This school had central heating - hot water pipes. a large vestibule entrance

and a bell tower. There were two separate playgrounds, one for boys & one for girls, and separate cloak rooms and wash basins at each end of the school. There was also a small private room for the head master. The main room could be partitioned for three separate class rooms, and there were three enclosed class rooms. The latter rooms had dual desks and there was much more space for the teacher's desk, blackboard & table &c.

A modern house had been built in the grounds for the caretaker and family, for he had to be stoking the boilers in the underground cellars for the hot water pipes which ran all round the school - infants and mixed.

How well I remember that first day! The workmen were still in & all was confusion. The head was interviewing new pupils & there was only another monitor and one man and one woman teacher.

The head gave me a blackboard and a stick of chalk, and about a dozen boys

and girls stood around, the nucleus of standards one and two,

I had a brain-wave.

I wrote each child's name on the blackboard & when I came to Arthur I wrote Arthur like lightning, Arthur called out:

"Please Miss you can't spell."

Humiliated, but nothing daunted I carried on.

At length chaos became order, and we settled down very nicely.

In a short time, we had altogether 3 male 3 female teachers, and 2 boy monitors ^{& 2 girl monitors} with

"The Head" completely the staff to serve the 336 boys & girls.

The school board mostly made up of local worthies promised a sum of money to meet half the cost of a piano. This money coming of course from the rates.

All the staff set to work - a platform was erected at the end of the main room and one teacher painted the scenery back-cloths.

The actors were chosen from the staff and the best singers in the school + "Dick Whittington"

Before this examination "Candidates" at the
age of fifteen, our fathers had to undertake
to care for us - a kind of apprenticeship
which was signed in the presence of
The School Board

was well at
Now we had
For two mo
pending app
us for an t
an examina
geography &
The success
weekly sala
studies un
the age of
examined
the student
For the next
received in
at a large
and girl t
We had f
Scholarship
specialists
"Scholarship
examinatio
qualified to

was well attended by parents + friends for several nights.
Now we had a piano.

For two months the monitors received no pay pending approval by the Head, who also coached us for an hour before school in preparation for an examination in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography + history. + we had to make a garment also.

The successful candidates were retained at a weekly salary of 3/ (15/-) and continued their studies under the Head until they reached the age of fifteen when we took "Candidates" examination.

Failing this examination, the students were denied access to teaching. For the next three years the young candidates received tuition at "The teachers training Centre" at a large distant town, where they met boys and girl teachers from the surrounding schools.

We had first year, second year and Scholarship classes, and we were taught by specialists in all subjects.

"Scholarship" at the age of 18 was a government examination, and they who passed were qualified to teach a class of 50 children

at the
the
hip



a few weeks before Certificate examination
all candidates were compelled to be
examined by a medical doctor, as that year ¹⁹⁰⁸
superannuation payment was ^{for the first time} compulsory,
and the dues were stopped from our salary.
If the medical was unsatisfactory
candidates were not allowed to take
Certificate (This after studying for 2 years
at our own expense.)

My
157
entire
we had
give
of
then
& very
requir
Some m
at col
on obli
very f

← almost
boys
in ord
I join
spent
and
I had
etc. all
books

My salary now at 18, was approximately
15⁰⁰ / 175⁰⁰ a week. It felt grand to be
entirely in charge of a class, for previously,
we had only assisted, often being required to
give some lesson to meet the approval
of the staff.

There were no grants given for further study,
& very few girls went to college for the 2 years
required for study.

Some male teachers borrowed the cost of study
at college, and repaid it by instalments
or obtaining their first post. This kept them
very poor for a considerable time.

For the next two years, I studied
almost every evening, after teaching my 50
boys & girls for five days a week
in order to qualify as a "certificated" teacher.
I joined a correspondence college, and
spent a gruelling time for the next two years,
and apart from paying the fees of the college
I had to buy many books, paints, Trappes
etc. although I was able to borrow many
books from "The Public Library"

mination ←
be
1908
that year
time
isory 1
salary
take
2 years

The women had to work a sampler showing every kind of stitch and embroidery used in hand sewing.

For five days (mornings and afternoons), we sat in the examination room presided over by government & M Inspectors

I knew nobody, for I was the only candidate from our schools, ^{in a town of 76,000 inhabitants} who took the examination.

3 months later, I received my "parchment" announcing my success in achieving distinctions in "English Language" "English Literature" and "English Composition". I received a very teacher bound book of "Lennyson" from the college, & they begged me to continue with my studies.

Alas I was very satisfied for the time being. Now I was responsible for a class of 60 children, my salary was doubled, and I was eligible for a Headship, and what to me was more important, I had a better status. I received the same salary as a college trained woman for now the teaching profession had become very crowded. ^{was} the maximum

as the larger authorities like London, were giving grants for college training to women.

On release from college, these girls were unable to get posts in London, and indeed, many worked in the schools without any salary, just waiting for someone to get married & leave.

Our Board members thought up another way of getting teachers "on the cheap".

They found posts for ^{married} women teachers who agreed to work for £26 a year less than the others. The N.U.T soon put a stop to this.

I stayed at school for another five years, enjoying teaching, but I left to get married in 1913.

It was a great wrench to leave the children and the school, where I had been so happy for thirteen years, but I have never regretted leaving, for I have been very happy caring for my husband, children and my home, and I have been fortunate, as I have not needed to earn money all these years, and the memories of those happy teaching years will stay with me forever.

Over the years, I have met many of my pupils, who always receive me with affection and understanding, and many have personally thanked me for helping them to understand, and I trust that some seeds have fallen on fertile ground.

An anecdote.

I had been giving a lesson to my 8 years olds on the plague and the Great Fire of London, explaining, that the fire, although disastrous at the time, had wiped away many old buildings, mostly made of wood with overhanging upper rooms

Concerning an essay on the history lesson I came across this literary gem,

The reason that the big fire burnt so quick was because "all the houses were ^{together} jobbed in a ruck"

Thinking it over, that boy was not so far wrong. jobbing is working, doing a job - built, and they were rucked (pleated) closed together, just as material is rucked (gathered together)

When a child learns to read, he enters a magic garden where he can pick the flowers.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

It is not always wise of parents to encourage children to flout authority.

It is the mind which is master not the body.

A person exists to be the agent of creative
goodness.

It is more important for the student to know where to look for information rather than to acquire facts.

Acquire in youth, that, which will requite you for the deprivations of old age.

If one is in a position to influence others one should influence them for good.

Love is a better teacher than
sense of duty.

We limit our affections for a few people
(mostly relatives) nearest to us, but we should
widen our circle of compassion to embrace
all living creatures and all nature
"I would like to put my arms around the whole world."
General Booth
So care for nature and wild life, and yet not
care for the needs of people is neither
human nor humane.

Marriage is not just spiritual communion
and passionate embraces. It is also 3 meals
a day and work both inside and outside the home.

Every human being has two needs.
The need for love, the need for at least one
person to love him, and for one person
for him to need and love.

It is just as important to learn what
you cannot do, as to know what you can do.

A child learns a good deal more from encouragement
and rewards for good behaviour than he does from
reprimands + spankings