

HOME CIRCLE COLUMN

Pleasant Evening Reveries dedicated to tired Mothers as they Join the Home Circle at Evening Tide.

WOMAN'S WORK

The quiet faithful way in which a woman often of superior intellect, and decided talent for higher things, will dish-wash her life away for her husband and children, is a marvel of patient endurance. Here the servitude of women is the heaviest. No sooner is her work done that it requires to be done over again. Men take contracts of work on them, finish them, and they are over for all time. The prospect of ending them and drawing pay for the labor is alluring. And woman's work holds no such promise. She washes on Monday after Monday the same garments until there is no more of them to wash; then they are replenished by new ones like old, and the rubbing and wringing goes on until the worn-out hands are folded for their eternal and only rest. She mends stockings with tireless fidelity, week after week, and year after year. Every morning the same rooms are to be put in order, only to be in the wildest disorder by evening. The same stockings, the same washing, the same cleaning and cooking in endless rotation, which, if done promptly and properly, leaves no time for reading and self-culture which, aside from the pleasure it affords the woman, is the only means of fitting one-self for the intellectual culture of children.

What wonder that women are not thinkers, or that the daughters of successive generations are rapid, uncultured creatures, incapable of forming an opinion on the most important subjects of human consideration.

There is too little brightness in the lives of women. They have too little help in their domestic occupations.

The crowing grace of home is cheerfulness.

In nine cases out of ten, man's life will not be a success if he does not bear burdens in his childhood. If the fondness or vanity of father or mother has kept him from hard work; if another always helped him out at the end of his row; if instead of taking his turn at pitching off he stowed away all the time—in short, if what was light about fell to him, and what was heavy about the same work to someone else if he has been permitted to shirk, until shirking has become a habit, unless a miracle has been wrought his life will be a failure and the blame will not be so much his as that of his weak and foolish parents.

Invite your friend to church. You invite him to your home, you invite him to your lodge, you invite him to your political meetings, your parties, your lecture courses and your entertainments, why not invite him to your church? Tell your pastor to preach a little better and the choir to sing a little more sweetly next Sunday and then invite

IMPORTANT TO WHEAT GROWERS.

This is important to you because it means dollars to you.

In a short time you will be preparing for the seeding of your fall wheat, and it is necessary to keep in mind the danger of loss from smut. Especially last year, smut was very general in Ontario. Grain dealers advise me that it has meant a difference of as much as 10c. per bushel for the grain delivered at elevators, aside altogether from making some of the wheat unmarketable. This means a loss of \$3 to \$5 per acre, while the cost of treating to prevent smut and prevent this loss is only a few cents per acre. Be sure this year and

TREAT YOUR SEED FOR SMUT.

The method usually adopted is as follows:—

Mix one pint of Formalin with 40 gallons of water, or two tablespoonfuls to one pint of water. Place the grain to be treated in a heap on clean canvas or floor. Sprinkle the formalin solution over the grain, then shovel. Repeat this until every grain is moistened by the solution; then cover the pile with sack and leave for three or four hours. At the end of this time spread the grain out thinly to dry; shovelling it over three or four times will hasten the drying. Forty gallons of the formalin solution is sufficient to sprinkle thirty or forty bushels of grain; smaller amounts in proportion. Bags, machinery, or anything with which grain comes in contact before being put in the ground should be thoroughly treated.

Immersing the grain in a bag is sometimes practised and is equally effective. Of course smut is not as prevalent some years as others, being influenced to some extent by weather conditions. Treatment, however, is a form of insurance. You do not expect to have your barn burned down every year because you pay the insurance every year, and it is equally important to keep up your insurance on your wheat crop. This is important at the present time, not only on your own account, but on account of the Empire, which requires the maximum supply of high quality foodstuffs. The shipping of smutty wheat not only gives this Province a bad name but reduces the price you receive for your wheat.

Further information on the subject may be secured for the asking, either from the local office of this Department in your County or from the undersigned.

Hon. Jas. S. Duff,
Minister of Agriculture,
Toronto.

your friend to your church home to worship with you.

The life of the world is strenuous, and the door of the home should shut out the storms and stress but should not shut out new and wholesome inspiring influences. It should stand wide in hospitable welcome to friends. The home life that is narrow and selfish is dull and enervating.

Why should hearts spend years on earth growing into one, knitting life into life, blending soul into soul, for a union that is not to reach beyond the valley of shadows? Husbands, you are the head of the home, why not be the head of the home for eternity?

As king over the stalwart oak and lofty pine, the fig tree would have been a dead failure and as much out of place as some of our politicians are in congress; but for bearing figs the oak and pine are its inferiors. Bearing figs is the grandest thing in the world for a fig tree. It shines in its own sphere, but stripped of its fig-bearing power it has no excuse for existence. Sometimes a mother, who reigns a magic queen in her own household, forsakes her quiet sweetness of home rule for a noisy, rough, public career, for which she has not the slightest qualification. Of course there are no such mothers who are readers of this paper, but we have seen them and so have you.

On the shores of the Adriatic sea the fishermen's wives come down at sunset and sing to guide their loved ones home. On the mountains of Tyrol hundreds of women and children go out nightly and sing their native songs until fathers, husbands, brothers and sons answer on their return home. What a beautiful home-coming. Is it not worthy of imitation by our most polished citizens? A type of that welcome we hope every reader of this department will receive when they reach the golden gates of Eden.

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." This is a saying as old as the hills, but were it true our great men in our great cities would not be on trial and sent to prison pens for "boodle" and "graft." When the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world there will be "a school house on every hill top and no saloon in the valley."

In the race of life, in the contest of physical endurance, in the moral tests that come, that child has not a fair chance who has sprung out of the mud of the streets. To know the breath of lilacs and the rustle of autumn leaves, to be up with the lark, to bathe one's feet in the dew of the pasture, to go to bed with the song of the whip-poor-will—these memories are like guardian angels.

Fresh Air Needed.

The process of re-breathing air that has already been used, if long continued, leads to asphyxiation and death. Much of the so-called "delicacy," susceptibility to cold, languor, headache, and nervous depression are due to the same cause. The secret of ventilation is to renew the air in a room at least three times each hour, day and night, without creating a draught.

A Very Ancient Pension Case.

It is reputed that the Swiss Government is trying to find the living descendants, if any exist, of Hans Roth, of Rumsberg, who was granted a pension by Switzerland in 1382. Hans was a farmer who overheard enemy soldiers talking of a plan to sack the city of Soleure. He gave information and saved the town. Thereupon the canton voted a perpetual fund to provide an honorary robe and an annual pension to Hans, and, after him, to the eldest of his descendants. The last Hans Roth, of Rumsberg, died recently.

Most Costly War in History.

Never before were British soldiers so liberally paid as in this war. Never before was such provision made for the dependents of fighting men. In the Napoleonic war press gangs took men by force to fight on Nelson's ships, and the dependents of those taken were left to starve at home. In the present war the British Government is paying a million dollars a day to the wives and other dependents of soldiers serving in the army. This amount is entirely independent of the regular pay allotted to the soldier himself, the cost of his equipment and all other expenses incidental to his support. Enormous as it is, this amount represents merely a fraction of what the British Government is actually doing for those who have joined the colors, and it is safe to say that in the history of the world no army has ever been raised on so expensive a basis.

Pte. John Farrell, who spent the winter with the 59th Battalion, returned to Perth from England where he contracted fever and rheumatism which rendered him unfit for further service.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

Scientific Farming

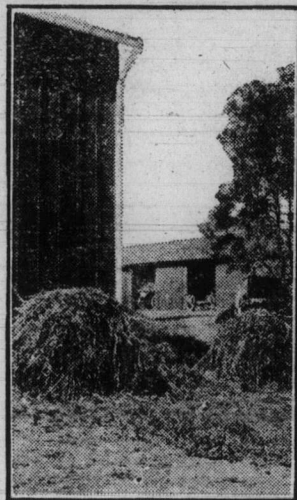
BEFORE SPRING WORK BEGINS

It Is Wise to Scatter Barnyard Manure Over the Fields.

It is a wise practice to scatter barnyard manure over the fields before spring work on the land begins. If this is done little plant food will be lost either as the result of washing or of fermentation.

Greater returns per ton are secured by light, evenly scattered applications over a large area instead of heavy, irregular scattering over a smaller acreage. For this reason the spreader will soon pay for itself on farms of 100 acres or more simply by increasing the returns per ton from the manure, to say nothing of the saving in labor.

If possible it is better to use the spreader because, first, it saves work; second, it makes it more likely the manure will be saved and scattered promptly, and, third, most important of all, it makes possible the even scattering which is so desirable if the



PILES OF BARNYARD MANURE.

full value of its plant food is to be secured at this time of the high cost of commercial fertilizers.

The loss is not very great if stock is fed in barns, sheds, or lots and the manure hauled every day or even every week. If this plan cannot be followed the stock may be fed in an open shed and the manure allowed to accumulate on the floor where it will be trampled down and kept compact and moist enough to prevent fire fanning or rapid fermentation. Even in the open shed a great deal of the fertilizing value will be lost through leaching into the ground unless the floor is of concrete or similar material. Entirely aside from the fact that it helps to insure a dry sleeping or feeding place, the concrete floor helps to pay for itself by the saving of manure which results.

Probably the least possible loss in manure value results if the animals can be allowed to run upon the fields which need the applications. If the feed lot is located on a hillside the value of the manure may be largely lost through washing, but if it is located on more level ground and moved from time to time better results will be obtained. Fields that are too far from the barn or feeding headquarters can hardly be handled in this way, and long winters or continued bad weather make it much more difficult, but if the ground remains frozen so that it is not injured by tramping and the weather is not too severe it is usually possible to take advantage of this plan, and every effort should be made to conserve the valuable soil fertility in barnyard manure.

SOME POULTRY NOTES.

The wing feathers of young chicks frequently grow so fast as to weaken them. Particularly is this so with the smaller breeds of fowl. Some poultrymen pluck out these long feathers, but there is danger of weakening the chick by this method, for they are apt to bleed. The better way is to clip the tips of the wing feathers when the chicks are about ten days old. This will send the strength back to the body.

Variety of feed always brings the best results, and if the hens are not doing what they should toward filling the egg basket a change of food will remind them of their duty.

Make the pens as early as convenient will permit in order that the birds may get acquainted with each other, all "scrapping" be over, and the eggs be fertile when wanted.

Thousands of young chicks are killed by the mistaken kindness of poultrymen who insist upon feeding them during the first few hours after they break from the shell. Do not feed until they are from seventy to seventy-two hours old. Keep them in their brooders until that time, and let them remain there for at least another day after the first feeding.

Weeds should not be permitted to grow in the poultry yard. If there are weeds the young fowls get wet from the morning dew and after showers. It is important to keep the fowls dry.

Profitless Potato-Growing.

A year ago the Brighton Town Council planted ten acres of potatoes. The expenditure was \$232 10s. 6d., and the return only \$29 3s. 7½d.

TOO MUCH FERTILIZER.

When fertilizer was first used farmers got wonderfully increased yields even from very light applications. Each succeeding year the soil requires more fertilizer to produce the same results until after awhile the soil becomes worn out.

Malnutrition is the name applied when the crop is abundantly supplied with plant food, yet in reality is poorly nourished. Every farmer has seen crops which were heavily fertilized and yet didn't grow. This result is due to several conditions which may result from constant use of commercial fertilizers. The soil may become sour, residual salts may have accumulated or the humus supply may have been neglected.—American Agriculturist.

SPRING CARE OF BEES.

There Should Be Strong Colonies at Beginning of Honey Flow.

The duty of the beekeeper in the spring is to get plenty of bees in time for the honey flow. If this is not done his work is a failure. The population of the colony is reduced during the winter, especially where wintering conditions are not the best, and this must be corrected if the colony is to get the full honey crop. It is poor beekeeping to have weak colonies at the beginning of the honey flow from which the surplus crop is obtained.

After brood rearing gets under way bees need three things—room for heavy brood rearing, an abundance of stores and protection. A common error is to cram the colony by failing to provide empty cells for the reception of eggs.

If in early spring the weather is suitable and if nectar is available the bees will add considerably to their hoards of honey, but they use it so rapidly that it is seldom that any gain in the stores occurs even during fruit bloom. However, since the weather is uncertain at this season the beekeeper should not depend too much on incoming nectar to supply the needs of his bees. If they are short of stores feed a warm thick syrup made of granulated sugar and feed lavishly.

On some warm day the hives should be opened and given a spring house-cleaning. At this time one wing of the queen should be clipped so that when swarming time comes she cannot fly to the woods with the swarm. If any queenless colonies are discovered (having no brood) they should be united with colonies having queens. This can be done simply by setting the queenless colony on top.

The stimulation to heavy brood rearing should occupy six to eight weeks previous to the surplus honey flow, and every beekeeper should know when that comes in his locality. If he is a beginner any beekeeper who is older in the work can give him that information. If a colony has a good queen and plenty of empty cells for egg laying, is well supplied with stores, and is protected from cold and wind one may expect a colony which is capable of storing the maximum crop.

Having gone to all this trouble to get plenty of bees in the hive, the beekeeper will readily see that he should do everything in his power to prevent swarming. Swarming just before or during the honey flow is the greatest drawback to a good crop. Experienced beekeepers have worked out methods by which this can largely be prevented, and every beekeeper should study these methods.

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