"ve been gone so long! Some days I 'most got up out o' that little narrow bed and ran away—when no one was near! I could've done it, I know I could've! I'd have crept on my hands and knees. They're such dear, good little children to leave all alone! And then they made me stay a fortnight longer—a fortnight o' fourteen days!

'Maybe—" the Kimmey mother's smile was a piteous thing—"maybe when they weren't looking I wouldn't have cried if I could! But I couldn't—you think o' that, I couldn't cry! They had to keep me there longer still then. 'Remember you mustn't fret!' they said. And I did my best." She laughed out suddenly. "And here I am going home!"

Diantha's bewildered thoughts were clearing. In the dazzle of the illumination she saw, a little distorted, yet familiar, another woman beside the Kimmey mother—so small and unworthy a woman that she shuddered.

"Me," she groaned, "me! you could cover me with a hat! But I didn't know—I never dreamed—" She got to her feet and went ahead into the other woman's seat. She folded her shawl and slipped it behind the other woman's shoulders.

"You lay back and rest," she said, conscience-struck. Tenderness was in her tone. "There! Now tell me about it."

At a junction a little farther on a wait of an hour was necessary. Diantha established the convalescent as comfortably as possible and went in search of a telephone. She was conscious, in the press of many other regrets, of being sorry she had never tried to laugh Alethea Potts out of having the telephone put into her little house. Now how glad she was that she had not succeeded!

"Alethea? Yes, this is me, Diantha, waiting at the Junction. You listen to what I say and then put on your hat and run! The Kimmey mother is here, too, going home from the hospital. That's where she's been. She knew all the time she'd have to go, but she kept smiling and kept the children happy—half the time she was too sick to get up. She had to do the work any time the strength was given her. That's why she played go visiting—so the children needn't feel bad. She's told me everything—Alethea Potts, I can't be ashamed in a telephone, but maybe you know how I feel. I want you to send the easiest cushioned carriage in Peace down to the depot to meet us. And the more you have the time to do at the Fox Place the better. Get everybody to help. Don't stop to talk, but run! Good-bye."

She could safely trust Alethea. With a measure of relief to her overburdened conscience she went back to the Kimmey mother. There were still a few precious hours for Alethea and the rest to work. Diantha knew her little Peace; she was not afraid. There would not be little cracker-pies for the welcoming supper!

"Mercy, did you bring that cup o' tea to me?" The Kimmey mother stirred, rousing from an uneasy little nap. "How good you are, Miss Whittaker!"

"Don't!" Diantha said, entreatingly. It's station tea, boiled, but it's hot. When you get home you can have a better cup."

"Tilly makes it real nice," murmured the happy little mother between boiled sips. But Diantha was thinking of Alethea's fragrant tea and a little banquet of Peace.

A Brant County, Ontario, Home

Brant County, Ontario, seems to have many fine farm homes and we are fortunate in being able to show such a good illustration of the home of Mr. Oscar A. Waite, as well as the plans of the interior, including the cellar plan. A glance at the illustration of the house, shows immediately that it is roomy, commodious and comfortable. Mr. Waite writes us that when building the house, it was his aim to have it as compact as possible to facilitate the problem of heating the home.

A Modern and up-to-date farm home owned by Mr. Oscar A. Waite, Brant Co., Ont.
(See floor plan; page 16)

WATER-WORKS

In the cellar is found a force pump to send water to a tank in the attic, which in turn furnishes the water to the other parts of the house. Water connections are made with the range in the kitchen, and the hot water boiler is situated in the bathroom. This placing of the hot water boiler in the bath is indeed a very good plan. It is surprising how much extra heat is thus supplied to the bath room, that would be not necessary, if the boiler were placed in the kitchen. The kitchen is usually warm enough without the extra heat of the boiler. Hot water is also conveyed in this home, to the pantry, as is also the cold water, a convenience which the women of the household must much enjoy.

Mr. Waite has built a septic tank in his yard, with connections to the bathroom. "This tank cost me about $35," writes Mr. Waite, "and is a very great convenience. It is a good investment."

LIGHTING THE HOME

Mr. Waite's home is lighted with gasoline lamps, which Mr. Waite has found to be economical and safe. The plans herewith of the house speak for themselves.

The exterior surroundings of Mr. Waite's home are very inviting and are not shown in the illustration above. The illustration was taken soon after the erection of the house, before the lawn and other improvements of a horticultural nature had been completed.

We should be pleased to publish illustrations of other homes with plans, if sent to our Household Editor

Books and Readings

(Continued from last week.)

Some of you live in rural districts where it is difficult to get at the cheap books or cheap book-stores. To such girls I would suggest that you save your money until you can buy five or six volumes at a time. Then write to some department store which has a book department, or to some large publishing house which publishes cheap uncopyrighted books, and get their catalogue. Make your selection, send for several books at a time, and have them expressed to you. I will be glad to give the names of several publishing houses to any girl who cares to write for them.

Besides owning a few of the best books, one must also own a taste for reading. This is not to be had by a great amount of reading so much as by the right kind of reading. Keep on like, to read when you are too tired to read the more solid kind; but make it a rule to read at least fifteen minutes a day in some book that requires a good deal of careful and even close attention on your part.

The next thing I would have you do is to keep your reading varied. Vary your reading of novels, for instance, with the reading of simple science books; biography with poetry; history with essays. My own plan used to be to keep three or four books "going" at the same time. In this way I never tired from too long a continuance of one kind of reading. Read for a certain length of time each day. This establishes a habit of reading.

Another good plan is to keep a notebook. Enter in it the name of the book you are reading and when begun. Jot down in it any thought of your author which strikes you as true or especially beautiful. Also set down in it the best ideas of your own which the book you are reading has prompted. This is one of the most helpful and valuable methods I have ever followed. I have always made a habit of marking my books, and so long as the books are one's own, I think it is a good habit.

One other rule I keep in my reading; I try to come unprejudiced to every book I read for the first time. Generally speaking, we hear too much of an author and his books before we learn to know them for ourselves. Mildred has told you she is not fond of Stevenson. Never mind that. It is not fair of you to be prejudiced in the matter. Stevenson may have a great deal to give you which he has not to give Mildred. It is pleasant to have others introduce to you new book friends, but let your book friendships win their own way, and stand on their own merits. Above all, let your books share your life with you.

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