

enjoy reading the Ingle Nook so much, and always look for recipes.

Now, there is one important question I would like to ask, how to get rid of ant hills in the lawn and orchard? There is one at the foot of a beautiful cherry tree, and I am very anxious to be rid of it. Can you give me any remedy? Thanking you in advance. FARMER. Leeds Co., Ont.

Three ways of eradicating ants are recommended. (1) With a hoe-handle, or some such round stick, make a hole in the ant-hill, pour in a tablespoonful of bisulphide of carbon, then fill up with earth. (2) Pour kerosene into the hill. (3) Pour in boiling water.

Letter from Mayflower.

Dear Dame Durden,—How are you this lovely afternoon, and all the Chatterers? I am going to the woods, and I wish that you all were here to go with me. It would do me good to run around and pick flowers for Lankshire Lass, if she could be lying down on some mossy bank. It is hard to keep on the sunny side of life against heavy odds, and that is what some of us have to do, but when it is done the better the sunshine.

I love children, and I like the way "The Contented One" wrote. I like her method. I never whipped my three boys and four girls, and they are now between the ages of 11 and 28. They are just as good as they will average the world around. I always talked and reasoned with them.

I tried the dry application on meat, and like it well for ham and bacon. We use plenty of dandelion greens. They are very healthy.

I started this letter the first of May, but it will be June before I get it written. There is sickness in the house, and I haven't time to think, let alone write. Wishing you all many happy hours. Glengarry Co., Ont. MAYFLOWER.

Freckles.

Dear Dame Durden,—It is almost a year since I last wrote you, asking for a cure for freckles. Your advice was "soap and water," used with a camel's-hair brush. I cannot get a brush here. Do you think rubbing with a soft rag would be as effective?

What would you put on coarse, dry hair to make it soft and pliable? Would frequent washing injure such hair? Have any found a remedy for dandruff?

I tried M. E. L.'s recipe for boiling potatoes, and found it very good.

I enjoyed your chat in last week's issue very much, Dame Durden. Certainly we do not take as much pleasure and enjoyment out of our surroundings on the farm as we should. If we only study the flowers and birds, how interesting they become. Thanking each and all for their many helpful suggestions and recipes. MORNING GLORY.

As the answer was given by my deputy while I was away from the office last summer, I cannot answer your query. Lemon juice, if put on every night for a considerable time, will often make the freckles very much paler. It may be mixed with a little milk. I also find the following in one of my books. It seems harmless, and might be very effective. It is labelled "Superior Freckle Lotion":

1 lb. clean ox gall, 1 dram each of gum camphor and burnt alum, 1 dram borax, 1 oz. each of rock candy and rock salt. Mix and shake well several times a day for three weeks, or until the gall becomes transparent, then strain through filtering paper and apply to the skin during daytime, washing it off at night.

While we are on the complexion topic, here is a very good remedy for poor skin which may be easily made in the country. Cut up a cucumber and cover with water. Simmer, strain, add water enough to make a pint, then add 1/2 teaspoon boracic acid and 10 drops tincture benzoin.

To have a good complexion—or, at least, as good as possible, for some skins are naturally clearer than others—very frequent bathing and scrubbing with good soap and soft water is absolutely necessary. Every farmhouse should have a bath-tub; sponge baths are not nearly as effective, either for cleanliness or health.

For your hair: Wash it frequently, rinsing well, and rub a little ammoniated mercury ointment (ten parts pure vaseline, one part white precipitate) into the scalp at nights.

On Child-training.

Dear Dame Durden,—For a long time I have been helped by reading your page, and to me it is more than any Women's Institute could be, for I am sure there is as much information, and we have it right at home.

I agree with a mother who wrote recently telling about being truthful with children. There are also some other things the average mother makes a great mistake in, and that is in not listening to school tales from the very first. Oh, if some of the mothers could see their children after they have learned to lie to them or hide things from them, as other people do. I know one woman who said to me one day when I was listening to a recital my six-year-old schoolgirl was giving me, "I never listen to anything the children bring home from school; I always say to them, 'Run away; I don't want to hear it,' for it's bad to encourage them bringing home yarns," and this woman's children I have known to do things she never dreams they think of.

Now, I am able to guide and direct my little ones by listening to them, and having their confidence, as I could not without. You cannot get a child's confidence without being interested in them. I wish we could form a Mothers' Club through "The Farmer's Advocate." If I see this letter I will know you were not too disgusted with it, and may take advantage of your kindness and indulgence again. SECOND MRS. JIM.

Has anyone else an opinion to offer on this question of listening to tales? It seems to me it would need a Solomon to know when to take the child's part and when to take the part of the "other child," who may be in the right as often as not. It seems to me, also, all right to "listen," but is not the judging the difficult part, taking into account the fact that naturally parents feel inclined to favor their own, and that some parents are unreasonably blind in reference to everything that concerns their own offspring? This is an important question, —a very good one for discussion.

Soot on Lace Curtains.

Dear Dame Durden,—A reader asked help, how to remove black liquid soot from a chimney on a pair of lace curtains. I had the same thing to contend with this spring. I soaked the curtains in cold soft water for two or three hours, then wrung them out and put in more clean water for perhaps half an hour, then washed in the usual way. Mine were white curtains, and by so doing they were just as white as ever.

I wish to thank you, dear Dame Durden, and the many Chatterers, also Hope in the Quiet Hour, for the help I have received from time to time. Having been left without a mother—a girl's best friend—at the age of eleven years, and the only girl, I had a great deal to learn, and found much help through the Ingle Nook and Quiet Hour.

A FARMER'S DAUGHTER. Grey Co., Ont.

Many thanks for the above information.

A Great Opportunity.

II.

By the time this issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" is in the hands of its many readers scattered throughout the Dominion, we shall, many of us, have either used or lost our "Great Opportunity." The new White Star Steamer "Laurentic" will have steamed up the St. Lawrence, her decks crowded with our guests from many lands, the very air vibrating with their exclamations of wonder and delight, in many tongues, as their good ship was borne upon the bosom of that mighty river safely into port.

At Quebec, time and tide permitting, a whole day will have been devoted to their hospitable welcome, the arrangements for their reception, including a sight of the Citadel, and the many spots inseparable from the earliest history of Canada, having been undertaken by a committee of gentlemen. The night train will have taken them on to Montreal, where a full programme was planned in their honor. One on Saturday

evening, June 12, in the Royal Victoria College, by the governors, principal and fellows of McGill University; another on Monday evening, June 14, by the Canadian Handicrafts Guild; a luncheon by Principal and Mrs. Robertson at Macdonald College, Ste. Ann de Bellevue, and an invitation to a special service at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday morning, June 13, being received and accepted, and other special services as arranged.

Although but one formal meeting could be held in Montreal, three very important Sections of the Congress in Toronto were in charge of Montreal ladies, notably that on "Education," by Professor Carrie M. Derick, M. A., of McGill University, who has been an active member of the Canadian National Council of Women from its inception, and had the honor to be one of nine delegates chosen by vote to represent Canada on this occasion, the other delegates being Mrs. Edwards, Lady Taylor, Mrs. Day, Vice-president of British Columbia; Mrs. Thomson, of New Brunswick; Mrs. H. A. Boomer, of London, Ont.; Mrs. Torrington, of Toronto; Mrs. McEwen, of Brandon, and Mrs. Dennis, of St. John, N. B. Amongst the many beneficial results anticipated from this auspicious event, one of the most important is that of a clearer understanding of what a National, and, through the Nationals, the International Council really means.

"It is a federation of women workers, less of individuals than of societies, bound together for the purpose of mutual sympathy and co-operation, women who labor for the uplifting of others through philanthropic, patriotic, industrial or educational associations. These form a vast army, whose work, if intelligently united, cannot fail to wield an immeasurable influence. To accomplish this unity, to prevent waste of energy and overlapping of work, putting at the disposal of one part the knowledge and experience gained by another part, and the giving to one another a loyal, moral support, is the aim of a National Council. It is formed on such broad lines that no class or sect need be excluded. The narrow walls of local environments, the dividing lines of Provincial boundaries, are being levelled to the advantage of one's country, and to the fostering of a more vigorous growth of national sentiment, national spirit, and true patriotism."

To this I would add the claim that a Woman's Council is a gentle, persistent force wherewith to keep before our public men the need of legislating for certain reforms. Sometimes we get a hearing, sometimes we do not; not at first, anyway. But now that we have lived down the initial prejudice which too often hampers all woman's work—i. e., that she seeks to usurp the work of men, rather than to supplement and help it—we can thankfully point to many helpful measures which, on the representations made by our members, have become the law of the land, for the betterment of its people, and in the interests of law and order.

WHAT SOME OF OUR CANADIAN RULERS HAVE SAID UPON THE SUBJECT.

Perhaps, in this connection, it may not be out of place to quote to our readers the opinions which have been expressed by some of our leading Canadian rulers, past and present, regarding the opportunities for national civic and educational service which become possible to an organized and united womanhood, and what applies to a National Council applies equally, if not with greater force and wider scope, to the collective councils of the several nationalities known as the International Council, whose representatives we are to welcome this June.

Sir John Thompson, of honored memory, who was one of the earliest friends of our Canadian organization, thus publicly spoke of it: "Any movement which tends to bring together the people of the various

Provinces, of different opinions, politics and beliefs, will be patriotic in its aim and in its work, and divinely blessed in its results."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said, "That if the National Council had done nothing else than to bring together women from the East and from the West, they had done a great deal towards the unification of the country, with its diverse races and creeds. . . . What we want in this fair country, above all things, is, as a nation, to have peace, harmony and union among all the heterogeneous elements which the Providence of God has brought into it. For this I look, above all things, to the hand of woman, and you will agree with me that the hand of a woman was made for union," an opinion confirmed in the following words by the Hon. W. S. Fielding: "A meeting of Parliament is a great force and power for good, and so, also, is it with the representatives of the Women of Canada. There is a power for good, though you may not see it, in statistics, for the power of organized womanhood cannot be overestimated."

Finally, as one of the oldest members of the Canadian National Council, I would like to offer—and I do so with some diffidence—my own view of the subject. It is that, as there are in the warp and woof of many fabrics some finer, smaller threads needed to their perfect completion, threads which may not show very prominently in the main pattern, but which would be missed if left out, so it is with the work of our Woman's Council. We are, I honestly believe, content to be those lesser threads in the big whole, recognizing that, although ours may not be the skilled labor which brings that "big whole" to its fullest perfection, yet it behooves us to see to it that nothing which we can by any possibility do, shall be left undone, or that, to use the words of a member of the N. C. W. of Tasmania, that, by our human efforts, God-inspired and God-blessed, we should seek to bring the kingdom of heaven a little nearer to this tired world; that we should realize that, whenever there is a child neglected, a home comfortless, a girl astray, a man inebriated, a city insanitary, a mind left uncultivated, a willing hand left idle for want of hiring, then and there should be recognized the opportunity to form, as a sisterhood of loving service, a National Council of the women of the land. H. A. B.

Current Events.

Bubonic plague has broken out in China.

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Pittsburg steel mills are running to the full capacity for the first time in twenty years.

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Three new agricultural experiment stations are to be located in the Canadian West.

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Germany is to be fortified by a chain of airship stations along the French frontier.

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Three boats, the Assiniboia, Perry G. Walker, and Crescent City, were seriously damaged by the breaking of the gates in the canal at Sault Ste. Marie, last week.

My Garden.

A garden is a lovable thing, God wot!

Rose Plot,

Fringed pool,

Fern'd grove—

The veriest school

Of peace; and yet the fool

Contends that God is not—

Not God! in gardens! when the eye is cool?

Nay, but I have a sign;

'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

—Thomas Edward Brown.