

with this subject an effort should be made to secure local talent for this purpose. Many farmers' wives would perhaps be willing to prepare a short paper on some phase of the home life on the farm if asked. It would, we think, prove an attractive feature.

This question opens up a good field for discussion that we would like the readers of this department to give us their views upon. There may be a difference of opinion as to whether a separate Institute for women would be better than combining the home department with the regular Institute. We would be glad to hear your views upon it. Then we would be glad to have expressions of opinion as to the kind of subjects that would prove of interest to women and young people on the farm. An American exchange in discussing Farmers' Institutes says: "The aim of the Farmer's Institute is twofold, to improve the quality of farm production and to make the daily life of the farmer's family more comfortable." To our mind the latter of these aims is just as important as the former one. Let it then be made prominent at the Institute meetings this winter.

Prof. Robertson's Offer to the Boys and Girls.

Every boy and girl on the farm should read Prof. Robertson's letter in last week's FARMING dealing with the grain competition. It should not be a difficult task to select from the grain in the barn 100 of the largest heads, or those containing the largest number of seeds, of the kind of grain grown on any one field, and also ten heads containing the smallest number of seeds per head. The directions as to sending the different lots are not difficult to follow, and the only cost will be a cotton bag. The prizes given are numerous and valuable, and every boy and girl on a farm in Canada has an equal chance of obtaining one of them. We hope for the good of agriculture in this country a large number will compete.

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Exhibitions.

Counting the Cost.

By Megyra.

The fairs being over for this season, we wonder if they have been to us a source of profit. Have we learned any lessons that will help us during the coming year? Have we seen such perfect exhibits that we resolve during the coming year to do likewise?

It were well, like the traditional wise man for us, before beginning, to first figure up the cost. If the exhibitors adopted this plan there would be a wonderful change in the exhibits; if the judges, there would be a great difference in the awarding of prizes, and if the committees also counted the cost many changes would appear in the prize lists. At the smaller fairs we find a larger prize offered for some useless piece of fancy work that is laid away when the fair is over and re-shown for a dozen years than is given for food stuffs, grains, poultry and the really essential and money-making products, which must be grown fresh every year, or, at least, provided with food. In the larger varieties of fowl, as geese, turkeys and pea fowl, the cost of crate required to carry them is greater than the prize, while dozens of fancy articles can be carried in one small basket. The men (they are never women), who manage these things should endeavor to encourage the production of such articles as are really among the useful industries. The Industrial Exhibition sets a good example in this respect, with its handsome prizes in dairy, apiary and other departments, but even it, in some points, encourages the ornamental rather than the useful. This is especially striking when we notice that the prize is just twice as large for a five o'clock tea cloth or for a centre piece that one could carry to the fair in the pocket or send in a small parcel by mail than it is for a turkey, which, in order to gain the prize, must weigh in the neighborhood of forty pounds, requiring a large crate to carry it, and which must be shipped by express. We would infer from this that the manufacture of tea-cloths and centre-pieces needs encouragement and the raising of turkeys not so much. Yet, anyone with money can embroider, and it takes brains to raise turkeys. We hope the day will soon come when even agricultural societies will not discriminate against the farmers.

In the departments in which women are interested, I would give large prizes for poultry, fruits, apiary and dairy products and bread making. Very often larger prizes are given for cake, biscuits and pies than for bread, yet the latter is more important, and harder to make—also for maple sweets and canned fruits. Yet, at Toronto, the maple manufactures are considered unimportant.

Very much smaller prizes should be given for the woollen, carpet and quilt home manufactures, for these should

all be made in factories, and still smaller prizes for the expensive fancy work. The painting of beautiful pictures should be encouraged, also what is seldom seen in the lists of the small shows—natural history collections. Would not the women of the country, village and cities advance physically and mentally if they adopted the study of entomology, geology, ornithology, anthropology or botany, instead of embroidery and fancy work? If Canada were a silk-raising country, there would be some excuse, for then it would mean encouraging home industry.

If judges would give the prizes in these departments to the article that looked the prettiest and was most appropriate, irrespective of the cost of material or fineness of work, then we would see the soft, downy sofa cushion,

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