

More Room for the Home Departments

The woman's department of The Guide has for several months been suffering from growing pains, but it was not until lately that the editor saw his way clear to relieve the more acute symptoms by allotting additional space to the home departments.

In view of the fact that we are to have more room our first thought was that it ought to be devoted to that very large and invaluable group of our readers—the mothers. We have planned to conduct a department expressly for them, or rather to allow them to conduct it for themselves after this fashion: We will pay fifty cents for each of the letters that appear in this department. What we want is brightly written practical experiences of mothers. The magazines, of course, are full of such advice, but too often the writers have no conception of the make-shifts to which the woman on the prairie farm is driven and their suggestions strike wide of the mark.

So we are planning to make this a mother's department in every sense of the word. It is to be written by farm women for farm women and it is to be practical. No limit is set upon the range of subjects that may be covered and we hope that the letters will cover every difficulty that will rise up and face the most inexperienced of mothers.

This department is to begin as soon as we receive enough contributions. There are no rules to be followed in the mailing, except that letters should be written as plainly as possible in pen and ink, a good sized margin left and at the top of the first page put the words "Mother's Department." Let me suggest here also that those writing for this department confine themselves to topics of interest to mothers, not making references to letters or subjects that are up before the House on the Homemakers' page.

Another department that will appear at regular intervals is the Country Cook, being made up exclusively of recipes or hints for the housewife, and these will be the most simple and practical that can be found. The need for some such department has been impressed upon us by the frequent reference in the letters of our contributors to the recipes, and the fitful appearance of it in The Guide has been due not to lack of willingness, but to lack of space.

The annual Mother's Number will appear on April 1 this year and for it we will use the first and best contributions submitted for the Mother's Department, with other suggestions from outside, and we hope to make it much the finest mother's number The Guide has ever published.

We feel, as I have already said, that the mothering is to the nation the most important part of a woman's work and that every help towards that work that it is in our power to give should be lent to the end that this duty may be performed more effectively.

So we are setting out to make it the most practical, readable and attractive number we have ever published. To accomplish the last feat, namely, making it attractive, we are going to ask you to

Lend Us Your Baby

In other words, we are going to have a baby picture contest, giving prizes of five, four, three, two and one dollars for the five most attractive pictures of babies which are sent to us by March 10.

We will accept pictures of individuals, twins or triplets under the following conditions:—

It is preferred, but not absolutely necessary that pictures be unmounted ones.

A particularly cute picture of a child in a group will do if the figure is large and distinct enough.

About twenty odd pictures will be needed and none that are used can be returned as they will probably be destroyed in making the cuts, but any that are not used will be promptly returned at the close of the contest.

The pictures should be of children not over three years of age and the name and age of the child should be written on the back in ink, together with the address of the sender. This is absolutely necessary to secure the return of the picture if it should not be available for use.

Address all pictures and all letters for the Mother's Number to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

If a sufficient number seem to be

completed. It is entirely wood finish inside and out.

What would be best for ceiling, proper ceiling lumber or narrow matched lumber and then papered? Please understand that we cannot afford anything expensive, besides my husband intends to do the work himself, so no use suggesting lath and plaster. What color would you suggest for wood-work—base board, window casing, doors and floor? We can not afford carpet nor floor covering of any kind except a few rag mats. This room is intended for dining room and sitting room, as we have only kitchen, with bedroom and pantry off besides.

Which will be best, green or yellow blinds, and what can I get inexpensive for curtains, not lace, in a cream or ecru shade that I can make myself? I want the room to look nice and yet I have very little furniture, just a table, lounge (which I must recover) and a few chairs and small bookshelf. Would be very pleased to have benefit of your taste in this matter at your earliest in The Guide, as I have only very little time each day, and when work on the farm begins I will not have so much. I often think how much help we might both get and give if we only knew who to apply to or who would need our help.

"SHAMROCK."

Answer

I would make the ceiling of ceiling lumber and stain it with a stain just a little lighter than the walls. The floor should be still darker. Be sure and finish the walls and ceiling with a dull varnish so that there will be no irritating gloss. Use a fairly light brown stain for the wood-work. To brighten the room have the blinds yellow and use cream scrim curtains. We can get a good quality of scrim at from twenty-five to forty cents a yard here. Make them to come just a little over the window ledge and finish with a deep hem, allowing them to hang straight down.

There is no need to apologize for the rag rugs. Stain and varnish your floor and then rub it with wax. If you have the time you could make yourself rugs of rags which you have dyed in soft shades of yellow, brown and dull greens, and I venture to say you will have as pretty a room as one could wish for. If you feel that you can afford it, over-curtains of yellow and light green madras would add a touch of color to the room, but if not, bring in a bit of orange and green in your sofa cushions when you get around to them.

F. M. B.

The
Bake-Day
Smile
of
Perfect
Satisfaction

PURITY FLOUR
More Bread and Better Bread

WESTERN CANADA FLOUR MILLS COMPANY, LIMITED
MILLERS TO THE PEOPLE

