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The Country Mother

Continued from Page 7

skating, and tell them they may have and attend an occasional skating party. No better amusement could be found than this. Let the growing boys and girls attend a few parties during the winter. Encourage the social spirit, do not keep them isolated, because man is a very social animal and is not happy when kept away from his fellows. Whenever possible organize a literary society in your district. These are interesting and educative. Give the boys and girls time for reading and encourage reading in their spare moments, and, of course, provide the best reading matter possible.

Fostering the Independent Spirit

Give the boys and girls something to work for, make them feel they are getting a little something for themselves, something for their very own. Give the boy a calf or a colt or both. Let him care for them himself and teach him the proper way. Let him have a few acres to crop for himself, and, if possible, let him have a few pigs. He could make a profit out of his grain in this fashion. Soon he would have a nice little income all his own. And lastly do not forget your girl. In too many cases the boy is provided for the growing daughter of the house is left neglected. Why this should be I cannot see. Another instance of the unfair treatment of woman in the world. In many cases she works day in and day out, year in and year out, getting nothing but her board and clothes. You treat your hired man better than that. Soon she develops into a drudge or gets discontented and leaves and I don't blame her. I say again, do not neglect your growing daughter. Give her an animal or two for her own. Poultry raising is also profitable as well as being very interesting and not very heavy work. Provide her with suitable buildings—she has more than earned it—also a few pure bred birds and a few settings and let her go ahead.

Gardening is also interesting and profitable and only moderately heavy work. You could encourage the boys and girls in this by getting them to enter their best in the fall fairs.

Perhaps it would not be possible for the boys and girls to take up all the above occupations but they should take up some. It will make them more contented, self-reliant and independent, all three of which are necessary to make successful men and women.

MRS. B. O. SAMES.

Bowden, Alta.

RAINY DAY PLAY

Dear Miss Beynon:—Being a mother of a "rollicking, noisy, frisky set" of seven, my experience of rainy days may prove of interest and perhaps of help to other mothers.

Rainy days! Why, these are the most delightful of all days to our children, for, clad in an old dress or, potting pants, or, as the wee chap puts it, "kinny," they are allowed to run out in the rain and paddle and puddle to their hearts' content, providing they come in when called and get warmed if necessary and tidied again. It is as unkind to keep children indoors as to put an umbrella over thirsty flowers during these light summer showers.

A favorite amusement on stormy days is to be allowed to storm inside too, but with a difference—castles or dens are made and a big pillow or paper fight ensues. Hold up your hands in holy terror, ye women with immaculate houses, or mothers who don't like noise and mess. Where there are boys, aye, and healthy girls, too, there is bound to be lots of noise and activity. Better to abuse pillows under mother's eye than themselves or each other somewhere else. Better a paper fight than a pool room one. Papers crushed into balls make grand missiles and father's head has to be hastily withdrawn, if he peeps into the children's room to see what all the laughing is about.

Christmas trees need not be confined to Sunday Schools and Christmas Day. Many an afternoon's enjoyment has been got out of a small poplar. The pleasure is doubled in the tiny Christ-

mas tree, for the children have the fun of decorating it themselves with bits of bright paper, their smaller toys, etc. Then, of course, Santa Claus has to appear and distribute the gifts, to the owners, generally, to avoid confusion and disappointment.

After a romping game the quieter occupations come in to keep fingers, which never tire, busy, and of course the cutting and pasting in of pictures, the use of paints, crayons, folding paper, etc., are all grand amusements—mess and disorder to be cleared up by the makers.

But how many mothers bother to teach their boys to sew, knit and crochet. Boys enjoy doing all kinds of things if not teased about its being girls' work, which view of things, I think, is the height of foolishness. Boys can sew splendidly from the kindergarten cards (one cent each) with silcotton, to the most beautiful fancy work. What boy would not like to knit washcloths for the soldiers?

Beads, too, are a never-ending source of amusement. Nice wooden ones, cube, sphere and cylinder, may be bought for ten cents from any kindergarten supply house.

Last but not least I must mention "The Blocks," not the ordinary cubes bought in stores, though they are very good too, but about six dozen smooth pieces of wood 2 in. x 2 in. x 7 in. Everything from a stable to a subway can be built and anyone can either buy them at a planing mill or perhaps father would spare an hour or so for a few evenings to make some. Failing that let the children keep a good big box full of nice odd pieces of board and shingles. Don't use everything for kindling. Happy the children where father and mother play as well as work with them. Not alone for the bairns should the parents work, nor the bairns for the parents, but with one another, each and everyone helping to make home.

Miss Beynon has given so many good topics to write about that one almost leads into another and I hope I am not overstepping mine when I say that the best way in my opinion to keep the boys and girls either on the farm or at home is to teach them from the very beginning that it is the very best place and make it so.

Yours very sincerely,

BONNIEBRAE.

Braided Rugs and their Making

Continued from Page 8

a scattered effect resulting. As a matter of fact, the braided rug has certain features which are characteristic of it and which consequently distinguish it. But it has remained for the modern handicrafter with a knowledge of design to discover them, to realize their importance and to use them to advantage. Thus from being an accidental form, these features advance to the dignity of real ornament and become a characteristic figure in the design. Being made of three strands of muslin sewed in rows, the braided rug shows a form like a little arrow-head on its surfaces, which results from the braiding together of two strands of a darker color with one of a very much lighter tone of the same color, or with a sharply contrasting color. For example, one might choose a medium blue strand, with two strands of white, or two strands of black and one of red, according to the color scheme one has planned. The point is that the contrasting colors come together in such a way that they form this little characteristic pattern in arrow-heads.

Thus a constructive feature becomes a decorative one as well and a surface pattern occurs from the rug's structure. If the rug were made in any other way this particular effect in surface could not result.

"You say you saw a burglar climbing out of a window in the house next door to you, and he had a phonograph under his arm?" asked the tall man.

"I did," asserted the short man.

"Did you call the police?" asked the tall man.

"Police, nothing!" replied the short man. "I called the burglar over and handed him a dollar."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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