

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

A PRIZE FOR THE BEST CRITICISM

We of The Guide staff have been taking stock of our paper and asking ourselves in what ways it could be made more attractive to our readers, which has resulted in our decision to ask the readers themselves about it.

So we have decided to offer a prize of five dollars for the best letter of not more than a hundred and fifty words, setting forth clearly and concisely what you would like to have appear each week in the women's and children's departments of The Guide.

Try not to think about what you fancy the majority of our readers would like, but tell us just the sort of thing that you yourself enjoy.

What subjects do you like to have discussed on the Homemakers page and what kind of illustrations give you the most pleasure?

Do you like our new department devoted to Farm Women's Clubs? In what ways do you think this department could be improved upon?

Does the Young Canada Club appeal to you? How do you, as parents, think this section of the paper might be made more interesting to our young people?

Please do not bother telling us to change the size of our type or our page or to give more room to these sections, for those are matters that are settled by the powers that be and are already fixed.

But if you will sit right down and write us a letter telling us exactly the sort of matter you like, we will, as far as possible, try to comply with your preference in the matter.

These letters should be on hand not later than December 1, so that we may be able to put your ideas into practice during the winter months when the paper is largest.

Two prizes of three and two dollars each will be given for the two best letters submitted. All communications should be addressed as usual, to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

LIGHT WARM CLOTHING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I should like to contribute some hints from my own experience for mothers.

When sending our little ones for a long distance to school it is a great advantage to them in walking to be dressed as lightly as possible, yet warmly enough for cold weather. For this reason short coats are better than long ones, using light snug fitting garments about the limbs to take the place of the long coat.

Since canvas slippers are so light on the feet, I find that the boys enjoy them very much in warm weather, but be sure to buy them with leather soles as the rubber soles cause the feet to perspire.

School bags and knapsacks, which are carried by means of straps over the shoulders, give the children free use of the hands and arms, admitting of a freer movement in the whole body so the walk is not as tiresome for them.

The knapsack should be provided with a flat bottle or flask containing milk for the child's lunch.

As the children often require recitations, I make a practice of cutting out all the good ones and pasting them in a book where they are readily found and chosen from when needed.

I keep other books for pasting clippings in, one for historical pictures, as pictures convey so much to a child's mind; one for helpful hints on games or any form of evening amusement; another contains poultry articles. These are very practical and helpful for myself, and I suppose we all keep a book for the excellent recipes found in our Homemakers pages.

I should like to call attention to the influence of pictures in the home. A sea scene may make a sailor of your boy, or "The Horse Fair" may make him a lover of horses. Let us choose pictures that have a noble influence to enrich our homes and educate the coming generation.

AUSTINITE.

A MOTHER'S PROBLEMS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I came to this country nearly nine years ago from

England and am now a mother of four little girls and one baby boy, so my hands are pretty full. Our shack is just 16 x 24, and as we can only heat half of it in winter we are feeling the growing pains pretty badly, too, and will have to have more air space soon. I well remember the first winter on the prairie in 1906. We had about eight months of it, from October till May. Our house wasn't finished off inside and we had only green wood to burn so got plenty of fresh air. It used to drop every day from the roof, but if the weather was too severe to thaw it there was a general downpour when it did get thawed out. I used to put an umbrella over the baby when asleep to keep her dry.

I often wonder how other mothers manage to keep their children's minds occupied on Sunday. It is one of the problems I have to face. One doesn't like telling them not to do this and that because it's Sunday as they will soon begin to dislike the day. I want to try and make it the best day in the week for them, so that they will look back in after years to the Sundays of their childhood with pleasure. I generally manage to give them the Sunday school lesson and they like to learn the Golden Text, and, like every other child, they like listening to stories. I should like to hear what other mothers have to say on this subject.

We are in rather a lonely part and don't see many neighbors in winter and one is apt to think it doesn't matter how one looks or dresses, nobody will see one today. But what about the little children? They are always looking on and learning from our example and they do like to see mother look nice with a clean blouse on, etc.

Another problem which we mothers have to face is getting the children educated. When the schools are open only about half time it doesn't give the children much chance unless they can learn a little at home too. I haven't had much time to teach mine, but find I can teach them quite a bit by asking them questions, giving them numbers to count up and take away while I'm doing my household work. Then they can write a little when I've finished with the table.

I do all my own sewing and like to get all the children's clothes ready for summer

in winter as one hasn't much time to sew in summer with poultry and garden to look after. With best wishes to the page and our editor.

HANNAH.

STENCILED DECORATIONS

Dear Editor and Readers:—The following is a description of a way to make a bedspread, which may be new and unique to some. It may seem like folly to talk of making bedspreads when one can buy the manufactured article so reasonably, but then we all like home handiwork.

The materials required for this spread are, two and a third yards bleached plain sheeting, a bottle of marking ink and a paper stencil.

Hem the sheeting, stretch it on some flat surface, say the table, lay over it your stencil, pat over the perforations with a chalk-filled blackboard brush or something similar. Remove stencil and trace with the indelible ink.

I got my stencils from A. Flanagan Co., 266-268 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, and by glancing at their catalog you will see there is a variety of stencils to choose from. I just used a border stencil of water-lilies, arranging them in a diamond shape in the centre of the spread, with a border running the length of it on each side near the edge.

Pillow shams may be made the same way, with a "Good Morning" and "Good Night" stencil, or just some floral design, splashers and dresser scarfs also to match.

I have cushion tops of a similar style, as souvenirs of social evenings at our home. One design is a wreath of pansies in the centre, with printed wording inside, signifying the occasion, and outlined oblongs, about the size of a visiting card, scattered around the outside, for the guests to each write their names in. Another one has a circular space left in the centre for the words "For Auld Lang Syne," with the outlined oblongs for autographs, to the left, right and top of this space, and the music (a few bars) and words of the old song straight across the bottom. All the outlining and writing on each is done with the marking ink.

These are a few of the things one can make in this way. They look quite neat; wash and laundry well, can be boiled the

same as other white clothes; are more quickly done than with tracing cotton or other thread, and are inexpensive.

ISABELLE.

INEQUALITY OF LAWS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I am enclosing a letter for you to forward to Victorine if you please. I always read your page with great interest and am especially interested in the equal suffrage question. While I personally might never use my right to vote, still I'd like to have that right and feel sure I could use it with as much discretion as the men show. The present laws certainly favor the men too much, as I've learned to my sorrow since I came to Canada. I never gave equal suffrage much thought before, but since coming here I have heard so often that everything belongs to the man and a woman is nothing that I've thought on the subject pretty seriously.

Certainly the mother has more right to the children than the father, who more often than not never gives them a thought till they are actually born and then takes lots of time to learn to love them. I know I always love mine from the time I know they are coming.

I have two little girls and I'd suffer most any indignity before I'd part with them. I don't worry about having to, but I think of other women who might have to and it makes the desire to see a change made in such laws. Thanking you for the expected favor.

Your friend,
(MRS.) E. P. EDWARDS.

HOW DO YOU KILL FLIES?

Dear Miss Beynon:—I would like to add a few words to the letter in the last issue of The Guide, re constipation in infants. I believe it is often caused by the same condition in the mother of the nursing child and made chronic by drastic purgatives taken by the mother.

I wonder if any of your readers could tell me how to kill flies by fumigating? I have heard of and tried such as burning sulphur or carbolic acid, but have found them ineffective. Kindly state time required. I did not have time to swallow them properly earlier in the season and they have now got beyond my control and I cannot kill them fast enough with tanglefoot and poison.

I remember using insect powder at home which killed every fly in an hour or so, but our kitchen now is very large and not air-tight, so it would take a great deal of the powder each time.

DORA.

This advice might be useful for next season.

F. M. B.

THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN

The following sound advice was offered by Dr. B. Wallace Hamilton to the readers of The Delineator.

Did Your Children Have a Healthful Vacation?

Last spring you were worried sick over your children's sudden languor, and when Mary grew peevish and restless, and Johnny's appetite failed, and little Ethel became pale, with dull, listless eyes, you said: "Oh, they all need a tonic!" And straightway you rushed to a drug store and bought a large bottle of patent medicine. You then proceeded to make them more miserable by upsetting their stomachs with what was probably a lot of highly colored trash, not worth the price of the bottle that contained it.

What they needed was Nature's tonic—air, and lots of play in the out-of-doors. If they were "too busy with their school work" to have had enough of it during the school year, you should have seized upon their vacation as your golden opportunity.

Let me urge you not to work your child during the vacation if you can possibly avoid it. If you must, at least let his work be something that he can enjoy, and let him have a part of the summer or a large part of each day entirely free for outdoor play.

Are They Getting Proper Exercise?

Many of the ailments of school children, especially frequent colds, are due to lack

Continued on Page 23

Just a Domestic



Fifteen years drifted along and at the end of that time John Tightwad owned two sections of land, clear, many head of stock, a splendid barn, a fair sized house and six children. All that Jennie owned of this was her rather dowdy wardrobe. She hadn't even a legal share in the children. When she wanted money she had to beg John to let her have it and there was always a scene and a wrangle. He made it very clear to her that the money, and the house and the family were all his, tho she had grown horny-handed in working for them.

Jennie at last declared that she wouldn't stand it and consulted a lawyer. She found that her husband was quite within the law. She had no legal claim on anything. She discovered, to her chagrin, that her position in the home of her husband all these years had been that of an unpaid domestic.