

## Father and Son on the Farm

Why is it that so many of our farm lads conceive a dislike to the farm, and seek a precarious livelihood as clerks, or in the overcrowded professions? The answer is not far to seek. Overwork and the evils resulting from it; lack of leisure for healthful and congenial recreation; the relaxed muscles, the strained, disordered nervous system, refusing the spontaneous action of body and brain necessary to mental, moral and physical development.

It is not uncommon to hear a parent remark: "Yes, Johnnie is growing up. He can do a man's work almost anywhere you can put him." But poor, five-year-old Johnnie's stooping shoulders, lustless eye and dragging feet, tell a very different story.

It is nothing less than cruelty to ask or expect a boy from twelve to fifteen to do a man's work, or even the half of it. Even up to the work, and there are few boys that will shirk or neglect his share. If he prefers chores, let him be chore boy; if he would rather work in the field, well and good. But if you want your boy to stay with you, don't send him to the field all day and attach as much work, in the shape of chores, morning and night, as should comprise his daily task.

### LET THE BOYS REST.

Getting up in the morning at an unreasonably early hour is one of the things that the average farm boy dreads. Nor is he to be blamed for this. A growing boy requires a great deal of sleep. What is the use of tumbling the whole family out of bed at 4 o'clock in the morning and prowling about in the dark for two hours, waiting for it to get light enough to work, just for the sake of being ready when daylight comes? Of course, there are certain seasons when early

rising is a necessity, such as planting, harvesting and husking times, but two months, and at most, three months, out of the year, will cover the period when man, woman, child and beast can do as much between sun-up and sun-down as it is good for their physical well being.

### SPENDING MONEY.

Pocket money is another problem which our country lad—God bless him—is almost certain to stumble against sooner or later. The method that prevails to a great extent of allowing a boy to cultivate a certain amount of land for his own benefit, or of giving him a colt or a calf to have for his own advantage. But for various reasons, we do not approve of it so well as another plan. In the first place, the cultivation of almost any crop to profit is uncertain, and disappointment to a boy is not only bitter, but discouraging as well.

If the boy prefers, give him a reason. Let him be the under-stander that he is working for all, and that all are working for him, without any cash basis, placing the whole case on the basis of mutual helpfulness and affection. Then, on days when he really wants money, First of July, county fair days and stream days allow him a generous outlay. What if he does spend it on things that seem foolish to us; they are not foolish to him. Let him spend it as he likes.

Remember, the country boy, unlike the city boy, has his world all around him, the fields, the woods and the streams. He is not a creature of expensive journeys and exhibition hotel bills to be planned for him before he can enter in to his own. All he needs is to be acquainted with the wonders which Nature constantly reveals to those who study her, and leisure for these revelations to develop. The result is nine cases out of ten will be a healthy contented boy.

### SYMPATHY WITH THE BOYS.

After all, sympathy is the keynote of success with our boys, and if we want them to love the farm, we must give it without stint. We have always heard a great deal about the duty of children toward their parents. Turn it the other way round, and let the parent consider his whole duty toward his son, and we believe farm life will assume an entirely different aspect to the average boy. To feed and clothe the creature for whose existence we are responsible, is not enough. We should study him, play with him, work with him, laugh with him, and grieve with him.

Blessed is the boy whose father retains enough of his youth to enter understandingly into the dawning manhood of his son; who will share with him all the simple sports dear to boyish hearts, and who has no secrets, business or otherwise, which his son cannot share.

## Likes her Washing Machine

Good words for the washing machines that have been advertised from time to time in our columns, continue to reach us. Mrs. J. K. Leslie, of Peel Co., Ont., has written as follows:

"I have been using a washing machine for about three years, and must say that I am well satisfied with it. So much so, that I would not be without it for twice the money I paid for it. I can do my washing in one half the time that it would take to do it by hand. It is not so hard on the clothes as the old way of washing with a washboard, and it is well built and does not get out of order easily."

Why not look up the advertisements of washing machines, write for catalogues, and get a machine on trial? It is evidently a labor saver that every farm home should have.

## A Medicine Closet

There should be a medicine closet in every house, and every such closet should have a firm lock upon it, that no small member of the family may have a chance to gratify his curiosity as to the tastes of the various bottles contained therein. For the same reason, it is well to have such a closet high up out of reach, to guard doubly against accidents.



The cut shows a very convenient medicine closet set in a corner—it may be in the laundry or kitchen.

Such a closet could be made by sawing an empty dry goods box diagonally from corner to corner, or as near the second corner as would insure both sides of equal. The interior may well be arranged as suggested in the cut, there being all kinds of accommodations for all sizes of bottles, including a small drawer where "pills and powders" may be kept. It might be well, if there are small children in the family, to paste this notice on the door, "Keep this door locked!"

## Window Curtains

The fall cleaning seems hardly complete and satisfactory unless there is something new for the house. New curtains brighten up a room as much as anything, and there are many simple ones that can be made at home. Batiste or scrim with designs made to represent leaded glass, striped scrim in various colors, and barred scrim at prices to suit any purse, can be found in nearly any store.

Simple and pretty curtains can be made of good firm cheese cloth in a deep cream or ecru color. Lay a hem along the side and bottom about two inches deep. Cut square or diamond-shaped pieces from a finer piece of cloth of any desired shade. Baste firmly in place, just inside the hem, about two inches apart. These can be stitched or feather-stitched firmly in place. Such curtains are suitable for bedrooms or where some color scheme is to be carried out. This can be varied by using narrow strips of material, in place of the squares.

Another good bedroom curtain is made of plain heavy scrim. Baste a deep hem on the edge and bottom, and fasten by feather stitching or working three or four rows of cross-stitch in different colors. Curtains should be chosen and hung with reference to the room. If there is little light or if there are few windows the curtains should be of some thin material, hung straight from the rod and pushed back to each side of the window so as to admit as much light as possible.

Windows are for the convenience of the family and should not be hidden behind elaborate lace curtains which obscure the view and shut out the light. If the view is objectionable or if you desire to keep people from looking in, hang shades over the window. Otherwise leave them open to the sunlight and air.

It is a nice thing to have a thermometer down cellar. Hang it on a post where it will be handy to look at. Then regulate the temperature of your cellar by opening and closing the windows or the door on days when you can. Apples will stand it down to 32 degrees, but potatoes ought to be kept a little warmer than that.

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