

## INGLE NOOK CHATS

### HOUSEKEEPING FOR BOYS.

A recent visit to a farm home has deepened the impression I always have had that genuine family life is to be found to a greater extent in the country than in the town. In both places the members of the home are separated during the day, father at work, children at school, and mother keeping the nest cosy. But with the setting sun the resemblance between the urban and the rural home vanishes. In town Johnny skims over his books and races away to the rink, Mary goes to do her lessons with a schoolmate, father and mother go their various ways to club or concert, or if the latter is a stay-at-home, she spends a long evening by herself. In the country, except on rare occasions when the evening chores are done within and without the house, the family, an unbroken group, gathers round the evening lamp; and there is time for sewing and singing, reading and games, and interchange of the day's experiences.

You will be wondering what that paragraph has to do with the text. Not very much I confess, and apologize, but the two were impressions made on my mind during the visit referred to. That family to whom I intended to introduce you so many sentences ago, consisted of father, mother, five boys and one tiny girl. The mother is a delicate little woman physically but with the spirit and heart of a female Goliath. Her desire has always been to make the house a real home, to be interested in what interests her boys from the violin and hockey of the heir to the marbles of the small chap.

But as many a homemaker can testify, to so freely give herself and also to neglect none of the household duties proved too much for her slender strength and an attack of nervous prostration was the revenge her body took upon her spirit. The enforced rest developed a germ of inspired common sense. She was not willing to give up her share in the boys' lives—it was her life as much as theirs—but why not ask them to share hers, to help in the house with those tasks which when done ministered to their own comfort?

The boys had missed "Little Mum" dreadfully during her illness, and in the joy of getting her back received the details of her plan with acclamation and to their credit be it said, did not do any complaining after the glamor had worn off. The two older boys helped considerably with the farm work and so were excused from regular domestic service; "a little too old to be taught new tricks" their mother said laughingly. But the two school boys and the chore boy were pressed into service and did nobly, as my own eyes witnessed. We two women could go to town on Saturday morning because Jim would scrub the floor and polish the kitchen stove, and Frank had the table set for tea when we returned hungry and tired. Ross felt no shame when he went late to school on Monday mornings, carrying a note explaining that he stayed to run the washing machine.

Girl-boys! Tied to mother's apron strings! Not they, you couldn't find a quartette of boys anywhere more interested in the things that attract boys, or more capable of holding their own in boys work or sport. Do you suppose the one who plans to take a medical course is going to find his career as a doctor hampered because he will know a great deal about the strain and difficulty of the life led by the majority of his patients? And the boy who is to be a carpenter—well every woman holds the belief that no man should be allowed to build a house in which a woman must live and move and have her being, who has not taken a course in housekeeping broad enough to enable him to put hooks and shelves and cupboards and closets in their proper places. And surely the rudiments of cooking, housekeeping and sewing will never come amiss to the host of our western lads who leave home to take up a quarter-section and who are forced to "bach." They realize what comfort a little

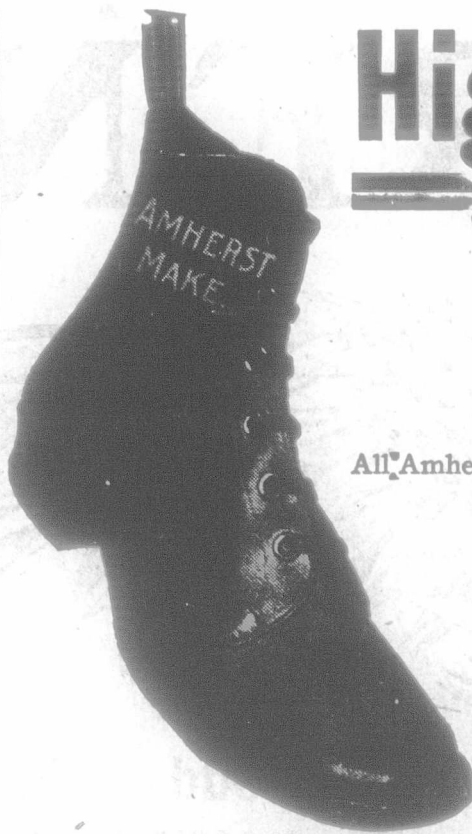
knowledge along the line of Home Economics brings under those circumstances.  
DAME DURDEN.

### COOKIES.

One cup of sugar; one half cup of butter; one-half cup of sour milk; two tablespoonfuls of clear, strong coffee; one tablespoonful of soda; one-half teaspoonful each, of cloves, ginger and nutmeg. Mix with as little flour as possible and roll rather thin. Lay each one top side down on a plate of granulated sugar before putting in pan. Bake in a quick oven.

### SPIDER CAKE.

One pint of sour cream; one half cup of butter; one-half teaspoonful of soda and as much salt; one tablespoonful of sugar and flour to make a soft dough. Mix lightly, roll very thin, cut into rounds, place them on a hot spider, brown on one side, turn and brown on the other. Serve hot, with butter and syrup.



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