

# Woman's Sphere

## CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE-CLEANING.

For years the "men folks" had helped each other during the busy season, had co-operated to the extent of using one tractor plow, one hayloader and other expensive farm machinery and had found that this in a measure solved their farm help question. Last spring their wives decided that co-operation would work as well inside the house as out, especially at house cleaning time, and the experiment worked out so well that it will become a permanent plan.

There were five women, living each on a farm but at no great distance from each other, and as time for the annual spring cleaning arrived they met and discussed the problem as women will.

Finally one suggested, that as no woman can go into another's house and clean exactly as that one wishes, in fact, if the truth be told, that no woman likes to have even her dearest neighbor poking into unused closets and sweeping dark corners, that another and better way of helping could be devised.

Every woman knows that uninterrupted cleaning is a pleasure, but that the stopping to get meals, to put the baby to sleep, or to watch the older children is nerve wracking when she is trying to get mattresses beaten and bedding in before night.

The plan devised by these five gave each a week in which to clean and dates were arranged ahead. The first two days the women cleaned bureau drawers, cupboards, closets, etc., work that did not interfere in any way with meal getting. The third and fourth days were given over to real house-cleaning. On the third day one neighbor entertained her and her family for dinner, the provision being that she should not dress but should come exactly as from her work, the men were under the same obligation, and the children came directly from school.

The second day another neighbor was hostess, the guest going back to her work rested and refreshed.

In two families there were children under school age, and these were taken to the home of one of the women (not the one who entertained for dinner) and kept during the day, being returned to their own home by the one who cared for them, instead of the tired mother going for them.

At the end of the cleaning these five women found that what had been most dreadful tasks, under the new way was a real pleasure, and that her house cleaning week had put no severe strain upon either her strength or the patience of her family.—Mrs. L. M. T.

## CONFETTI WEDDING BELLS.

To shower confetti from bells is a novel and charming idea for a wedding. The bell is shaped from cardboard and covered with silver or gilt paper; or it could be covered with flowers. The bell is filled with confetti and a circle of paper is fastened across the base. Ribbon streamers

## The Fly Campaign.

The house fly seems to have been born in the world with the single idea that its greatest utility was to plow through the most loathsome filth to be found in the neighborhood, then with its hairy legs and sucklerlike feet reeking with disease breeding bacteria, it enthusiastically darts for the nearest open door, scampers rapturously over our dining equipment, dives headlong into our food, marches sedately over the lips of sleeping babies, leaving a trail of disease-breeding filth in its rear!

As a medium for propagation the laurel wreath should be draped over the brow of the common house fly. At the age of two and one-half days she is able to deposit approximately 750 eggs. These eggs, deposited in its ideal breeding bed, which, owing to the heat it generates in fermentation in horse manure, will hatch into maggots in eight hours. The maggots reach the pupae stage in three days under favorable conditions. The pupa becomes a full grown fly in from three to six days. Think of that, an individual ten and one-half days old being the grandmother of several thousand at the end of sixteen days, and the great grandmother of better than a million in the course of a month.

While various remedies, such as screens, sticky fly paper, poisons and traps, prove effectual in reducing the number to an appreciable extent, the logical point of attack should be at its source. While it is far more economical, both as to retaining the full fertilizing value of the manure, and drawing the fly menace, to draw the manure to the fields each day, the average farmer finds himself, during the busy time of the year, unable to spare the time for this purpose.

While numerous experiments, such as manure pits constructed of cement, and made flyproof, slatted racks where manure is piled, the fly maggot crawling down between the slats and dropping in a water tank placed below, have been tried and found effective, it would seem that such equipment would be beyond the scope of the average farmer. It would seem for him

are attached to the sides of the bell underneath the paper, which is ripped apart when the ribbons are pulled and releases the confetti on the bridal couple passing beneath.

## VOTES FOR WATER SYSTEM.

I believe the majority of women living on farms will agree, that while there are dozens of conveniences, time savers, and labor eliminators for the home, that by installing a water system with proper drainage, more time can be saved and more downright drudgery done away with, than could be accomplished by any one method.

Think of the time and back-breaking energy expended between the pump and the kitchen table, to be followed by carrying all waste water still farther away. What an exasperating way the water pail has of being empty when one is in a great hurry and fagged to the breaking point.

What a safeguard to the health of the family and the improvement of conditions in the back yard, could be accomplished by the expenditure of a few dollars invested in drain-pipe, and a kitchen sink.

A water system would lift a load of weariness off the shoulders of the busy housewife, that cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents.—Mrs. C. F. P.

## HOW TO MAKE KNIT RUGS.

I am knitting rugs and have made a very serviceable one for the bathroom from the heavy mottled blue and brown work socks cut around and around. Cast on four stitches, widen one at each end until you have ten or twelve on the needle. Knit plain the length desired, then narrow one at each end until there are four stitches left, and bind off. The strips to go around this are knit plain with ten or twelve stitches on one side taking off each time without knitting, making it curve. The last strip is knit in points. Cast on four stitches and widen one each time until you have twelve, then narrow one each time until there are four again and repeat. On the side opposite the points the first stitch is taken off each time without knitting.—Mrs. E. H.

## IS THE OVEN TOO HOT?

The proper oven temperature is an important consideration in the successful preparation of food. Many a last minute failure in a carefully prepared recipe is due to too slow or too quick an oven. Oven temperatures for various foods suggested by the home economics department at South Dakota State College are as follows:

Custards and meringues require a slow oven which ranges in temperature from 250 to 300 deg. F. Sponge cake, angel cake, bread, ginger bread, plain cake and cookies are baked in a moderate oven with a temperature of from 350 to 400 deg. F. A hot or quick oven, 400 to 450 deg. F., is best for parker house rolls, popovers, baking powder biscuits and some quick breads. For biscuit and pastry, a very hot oven of from 450 to 500 degrees is required.

that the most logical solution was the chemical treatment of the manure. Experiments where a half pound of powdered hellebore was mixed with ten gallons of water, stirred well and allowed to stand twenty-four hours, then sprinkled thoroughly through ten cubic feet of manure, was found to destroy from eighty-eight to ninety-nine per cent. of the fly larvae. As this solution is slightly poison it should not be left standing where it might be drunk by cattle or horses. It was found that hens picking over the manure that had been treated suffered no ill effects. Experiments where one pound of powdered borax was sifted over the surface of about sixteen cubic feet of manure, then sprinkled with water, was found to destroy about ninety per cent. of the larvae, while a large proportion of borax over the same amount of manure destroyed ninety-eight to ninety-nine per cent.

It was found that mixing with each bushel of manure one-half pound of calcium cyanamid with one-half pound of acid phosphate then wet down with water not only added to the fertilizing value of the manure, but destroyed approximately ninety-eight per cent. of the fly larvae as well.

## Minerals for Pigs.

"Good clean pasture, plenty of water, a little corn and some minerals are the things most needed by pigs to bring them through the summer in good shape," a successful farmer declares.

"I never ring a hog. When I find hogs rooting I know they want something they are not getting in their ration, and I give them a mineral mixture. During the summer I feed them only a moderate amount of corn, just enough to keep the pigs growing nicely, and finish them up the following spring, weighing around 250 to 300 pounds."

Most of the poultry profits are made in the first six months of the year. Where oxen are the crib is clean but much increase is by the strength of the ox.—Prov. xx, 4.

## ECLIPSE FASHIONS



1029  
A Nightgown that is Practical as well as Dainty

Almost every home sewer delights in making her own dainty undergarments. There are so many beautiful lingerie materials in the shops that there is no difficulty in finding the right material, whether it be fine nainsook, silk mull, French voiles, cotton crepe or crepe-de-chine. The gown illustrated is very easily made. It may be finished at neck edge and armholes with narrow binding and tied together on shoulders with narrow ribbon bows. The pattern includes a berth which may be of all-over lace if a more trimmed garment is desired. No. 1029 made in sizes 36, 40 and 44 inches bust. Medium size requires 3 3/4 yards of 36-inch material without the berth; 5/8 yard more with berth. Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 20c in silver, by the Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St. Toronto. Pattern mailed same day order is received.

All successful agriculture of the world has been developed around legumes.

The farmer plows in hope, plants in faith, harvests in prayer and markets by accident.

## The Rock Garden.

The rock garden is worthy of more appreciation than it receives. Often trouble is taken to remove rocks in the vicinity of the dwelling to make way for a level lawn or flower plantation. Many on the other hand who have studied the possibilities of the rock garden will haul rocks for long distances to build up one of the most interesting features that can be added to the home grounds. Steep banks are difficult to maintain. They are torn and washed by the rains and are seldom beautiful. These, however, are easily converted into attractive rock and wild gardens. Stones and boulders may be inserted in the bank to give the appearance of a natural rock outcrop. Pockets of good soil can be made in which to plant flowers, of which there are many suitable kinds. Rough stone steps and a winding path add attractiveness and interest.

After the rock garden has been constructed little can be done in the way of fertilization of the soil. For that reason whatever soil is used in the construction of a rock garden it should be made at least moderately fertile. Many of the plants most useful in the rock garden need little special manuring. Some of them indeed flourish best on rather poor soil so long as it is well drained. Rock gardens are usually best adapted to plants requiring dry and well drained situations. There are many plants very suitable for rockery purposes. The larger the rockery the more robust and luxuriant plants can be used. Where large rocks make up the rockery two or three masses of herbaceous perennials should be set in. These if chosen to come into bloom at different times, add variety and contrast. Between these can be filled with ferns and low growing flowering plants, and in the open spaces still remaining low creeping plants should be used. These will cover most of the rocky surfaces, although some of the stones should be left exposed to give a rugged beauty to the garden.

Many of the native plants are suitable for rockery purposes. The Bitter Sweet vine would hang over or climb rough surfaces. The Virginia Creeper and Wild Clematis are also useful where rocky spaces of considerable size have to be covered. Many herbaceous plants are entirely suitable for the rock garden, and the more of these that can be used the greater will be the charm secured, because variety is one of the desirable features of a garden of this character. For sunny positions the moss pink and wild geranium are particularly suitable. The Columbine, Wake Robins, Fox Gloves, Violets and Ferns are among the plants that will succeed even in partial shade. The Sedum, also called Stone Crop, of which there are many kinds, are particularly useful for rock work, as they are low-growing and have a creeping habit. Most of them are evergreens, adding greatly to their attractiveness. In the early sum-

mer the plants are smothered with panicles of small yellow, white, pink, or scarlet bloom.

Every nurseryman supplies these and scores of other plants suitable for rockery work. They are usually classed as alpine. Two of these in particular are especially desirable. The beautiful little rock-rose, Helianthemum vulgare, and the hardy candy-tuft, Iberis Sempervivens. These are low-growing evergreens with handsome foliage and flowers.

The rock garden when once attempted and undertaken in earnest offers no end of possibilities and interest that grow with the return of each recurring season.—Can. Hort. Council.

## FARMERS' FAVORITE COLORS

BY THE PAINTER.

White seems to be the farmers' favorite color for houses. In a recent survey of many farm districts 78.7 per cent. of the farmers expressed a preference for that color. Red is nearly as strong a favorite for barns and is well in the lead for outbuildings and machinery. Gray, cream, brown, green, yellow, slate and blue come next in preference in the order in which they are given. There seems to be no special reason for these choices of color, merely a question of preference. Some farmers believe that red, gray and brown "do not show dirt." Tradition seems to have a strong influence in their choice of color schemes.

More country people are beginning to recognize the value of colors in connection with trees and shrubbery, and to paint their buildings to harmonize with the landscape. There is considerable success in farm life and undoubtedly the cheeriness of bright colors strongly influences farmers to paint their buildings with bright, inspiring colors.

In going about our countryside and our suburban districts, it is apparent that as a whole houses do not possess any particular distinction and charm; that for the greater part they are uninteresting, and give us the feeling that something about them is wrong. When we look at them critically, we see that this is due in part to architectural faults and lapses; but the main it is a matter of color. We give scant thought to the colors that we paint our houses, to the tint of the body color, to the contrast of the colors of body, trim and roof, and to the relation of the colors to the surroundings, natural and artificial.

The strong contrasts of deep brown, green, yellow, slate and blue come next in preference in the order in which they are given. There seems to be no special reason for these choices of color, merely a question of preference. Some farmers believe that red, gray and brown "do not show dirt." Tradition seems to have a strong influence in their choice of color schemes.

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## Stir Until Done.

"What makes the butter so white?" asked one city maid, accustomed to the yellow creamery kind. "Don't you know?" said the other city girl wisely. "They left the egg out."

## Xuxu's Advice.

"Oh, dear! I'll never catch a fish!" exclaimed little George Hart. He had been fishing all the morning, with never the faintest nibble. He was confident his bait was all right, for he had drawn it up, examined it nearly a hundred times, and he could not understand why the fish would not bite. The other boys could catch plenty.

When he started out early in the morning, his uncle warned him that if he didn't bring some fish home for dinner he would punish him severely. Consequently, George was in the pangs of despair, because he could catch none. He never once thought that his impatience which led him to pull up and inspect the bait was really the cause of his failure. Every second or two would come his hook— with no fish, of course. When he threw it back he scared away those that were congregating in front of him.

"I may as well give up and go home, and get the whipping!" he finally exclaimed.

"Don't think I would, just yet."

The boy turned quickly and beheld the oddest little dwarf he had ever seen or heard of. He was dressed in green, from top to toe, with small, twinkling emerald eyes, and such a winning, good-natured expression that George did not feel a bit afraid of him.

"Well, my lad, what seems to be the trouble?" questioned the pigmy in green.

George poured out all his troubles to his new friend.

"I can help you out of your difficulty, if you will do as I tell you."

George assured him he would be only too glad to obey his suggestion.

"Then," said the dwarf, "throw your line in the water."

George obeyed.

"Now hold it there till I tell you to pull it up," continued the dwarf.

George left his line in the water for quite a while. Finally he remarked that something "must be the matter with the bait, and he would pull it up and examine it."

"Let it remain in the water," said the gentleman in green, quite sternly.

Pretty soon the cork dipped under the surface, and the boy became all excitement.

"Now pull the line up, quick!" said the dwarf.

George did as directed, and drew in the largest fish he had ever caught.

"Now I must leave you," said the dwarf. "If you will always keep your line in the water long enough for a fish to bite, and not jerk it up every five minutes, you will catch all you want."

George told him he had learned something worth knowing, and he would follow the advice given him.

"But I would like to know your name," said George.

"My name is Xuxu."

"That's a queer name. Haven't you any other?"

"Xuxu," said the little fellow with a sly wink, as he started off, "is another name for Patience!"

"Now I understand it all," said George. "Patience is the one thing I lacked, but to-day I have discovered that no one can succeed to anything in this world without patience."

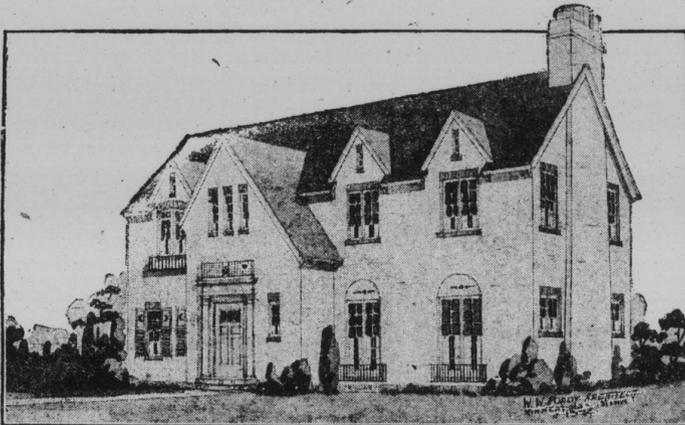
## Heavy Horses in the West.

An indication of the demand for well-bred heavy horses in the West is furnished by the success of a sale of pure-bred Clydesdales at Brandon winter fair. A two-year-old first prize animal brought \$6,000, another two-year-old \$3,000, and a four-year-old weighing 2,440 pounds also \$3,000.

## A HOME WITH A BROAD FRONTAGE

DESIGNED BY W. W. PURDY

No. 1924



The design here shown is that of a home with 48 feet frontage, requiring at least a sixty foot lot on which to build. The plan is exceptionally well arranged for one who does considerable entertaining. Entrance is through the vestibule, direct into the center hall, with the stairway to the second floor in the opposite end. Wide plaster arches separate the living and dining room from the entry hall. In the end of the living room is a fireplace of tile design and carried to the ceiling. French doors open on a small iron balcony in front and rear. The kitchen

portion is complete with cupboards, breakfast alcove, and rear entry in which is located a refrigerator which is iced from the rear stoop. There is a small pass pantry which contains additional cupboard space. The stairway to the basement leads to the street door and on down into the basement, which contains the usual laundry, fruit and vegetable room, large storage room, and an amusement room with an additional fireplace underneath the living room.

On the second floor are three chambers. The owner's chamber

in front over the living room has a fireplace and a private bath. Two additional bath rooms are located on the second floor.

The exterior is white cement plaster over metal lath, with a soldier course of brick at grade. Roof is variegated slate. Floors throughout are hardwood with tile in bath and linoleum in kitchen and pantry. The woodwork is ivory enamel.

It is estimated that this home can be built, exclusive of heating and plumbing for from ten to twelve thousand dollars.

