

HOME CLUB

Making "Play" a Business

I HAVE been wondering if there are any other mothers among our folks who live in isolated places and who have an only little girl to amuse and keep from feeling too much the lack of little playmates. My four-year-old daughter has had another little girl to play with only two or three times in two years, and with all the strength of her little heart she longs for one. So mother just has to be a little girl and play with her whether the work gets done properly or not. And I thought some other mothers of lonely little girls might like to hear of our latest game which has kept my baby in the seventh heaven of happiness for a long time. It is very simple, but the beauty of it is that it never plays out.

We cut out some of the paper dolls in the Ladies' Home Journal, with their dresses, etc., and then we ex-

tend the same ad infinitum by cutting out different series of pictures in connection with these little "pretend playmates." We made a house with partitions for the different rooms, out of a box. Then we searched through catalogues and magazines to find the nicest furniture, and we have furnished each room complete, even to the pots and pans for the kitchen. We cut out the biggest barn picture we could find and then we planned our "stock" and found pictures for them all, also all the barn furnishings, even to brushes and curry combs. We also have our beautiful big garden picture and all our garden implements. And sometimes we "gather flowers" and search through magazines for pictures of cut flowers, or of vegetables, all ready for the table. Then other days we plan meals for our "family" and find pictures to represent everything we want to serve and all the dishes too. We have all "Pats" and "Pollys" toys and personal belongings. We have taken them away for trips and hunted for pictures of trains, boats, the things they took with them, the sights they saw. I must not make my story too

long, but you can see that the possibilities are endless, and it has made tires of playing with her "collection," and she has never once expressed a wish for "another little girl to play with" since I have made a real business of playing with her. From one state of happy anticipation and enjoyment with her make-believe playmates. And when our play hour comes she is just overcome with delight. And it can be made of quite an educational value too. Baby has learned a lot of things, and I must confess that it is no hardship for me. I am afraid I enjoy playing with paper dolls about as much as I ever did.

For a long time it seemed as though I never could get time to play with my little girl. I have a lot to do. But finally it came to me that it was all a question of the relative value of things, and this is the way I have solved it. At night when I am planning my next day's work, I divide it into two lists, "Necessary" and "If possible." I have gradually come to see that a lot of things that

I had considered necessary and set myself to crowd into an over-full day, whether I could or not, and at the expense of strength and nerves and peace of mind, leaving me no time to rest or get my little girl's suggestion of a box. A lot of those "necessary" things I have relegated to my "if possible" list. Sometimes they get done and sometimes they don't. But always in planning my day's work I make room in my "necessary" column for this item, "Half hour or more to play with baby." Sometimes the family have a plainer supper, or I hope I will not be too shocked—the pillow slips and towels and even the handkerchiefs are put away unironed, in order that I may have this brief half hour with my baby, in complete abandon and good fellowship, forgetting everything for the time being except that she and I are little together and of her fun we are having.

I had thought a good deal about it and was very dissatisfied with the "mothering" that I had been doing. I never had time, you see. So it really came to me that if I couldn't be both, I might better be a good mother than a good housekeeper. I think when my little girl is grown up that she will remember these jolly playtimes we are having together, long after she has forgotten my sins of omission in the housekeeping line.

Now I feel initiated (I hope I have not talked too long), and quite acquainted with all our Women Folk. I will feel more interested from now on in all the letters and suggestions in Farm and Dairy, as if they were from personal friends. I wish you could all come to visit me. We have lots of room—if not in our cabin, at least in the country.—A BRITISH COLUMBIA PIONEER.

An Informal Introduction

HOME Club members, it gives us much pleasure to introduce to you a new member of our Club, who comes to us under the pseudonym of "A British Columbia Pioneer." I will feel more interested from now on in all the letters and suggestions in Farm and Dairy, as if they were from personal friends. I wish you could all come to visit me. We have lots of room—if not in our cabin, at least in the country.—A BRITISH COLUMBIA PIONEER.

More About Dish Washers

I WONDER if "Merry Margaret" has secured her dish washer yet, and how it is working out. I read her enquiry some weeks ago and as I, too, am interested in anything that will lighten the never-ending task of washing dishes, I would like to be of some assistance. I fear though that what I have to say will not be of particular experience, but can only speak of things I have "heard tell of" as an old man whom I used to know would say.

Not long ago I heard that dish washers could be secured for \$25. That may seem quite a sum to pay out, but here is one way of looking at such an investment. How many implements could hubby buy for that amount? Not very many, and think of the machinery he has, which costs anywhere from two to six times the price of a dish washer. Then too,

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