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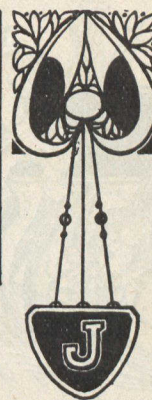
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CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL

Subscription Price

By subscription for Canada and British Isles, \$1.00 per annum; United States, \$1.25; Postal Union Countries, \$2.00 (8s.) post paid. Single Copies, 10 cents.

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Published on the 25th of each month preceding date of issue by

THE CANADIAN WOMAN'S MAGAZINE PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

WILLIAM G. ROOK, President

59-61 JOHN ST., TORONTO, CANADA

Edited by JEAN GRAHAM

The Lady With the Lamp

DURING the month of August, there passed away, at the advanced age of ninety, one of the most famous women of the Nineteenth Century, Miss Florence Nightingale. Perhaps there is no department of feminine activity which has known such marvellous development in modern times as that of nursing. It is, indeed, a great transformation, since the days of the dishevelled and bibulous "Sairey Gamp" to the neat and scientific trained nurse, who fights more than half the battle, in the case of the modern patient. It is a far cry to those cruel Crimean days, when the men in the hospital at Scutari had neither care nor help, when it seemed as if England had forgotten entirely the men whom she had sent out to fight. Miss Nightingale's heart was stirred to sympathy, and, with a band of noble women, she set out for the foreign hospital, where the soldiers soon had cause to bless her name. Longfellow's poem on "The Lady With the Lamp," telling of her midnight passing through the wards of the wounded, will long be remembered as one of the sweetest tributes which a poet has paid to womanly worth.

For the last fifty years, Miss Nightingale has devoted herself to her chosen calling, showing, even in her days of decrepitude, a deep interest in the progress of professional nursing. She also devoted her means and the nation's tribute, to this work, so near her heart, and left a record of a life singularly given to the service of humanity.

One of the greatest results of Miss Nightingale's Crimean mission was the attention drawn to the necessity for educated and well-bred women in this work. In the early part of the last century, the women who were in this profession were too often ignorant, untidy and even cruel in their treatment of their helpless charges, deserving fully the depiction given by Charles Dickens. In the present day, especially on this continent, we find women of the highest intelligence and finest breeding, entering with enthusiasm on this profession. It is pleasing, to notice in this connection, the high place won by Canadian nurses, who are accorded by the New York authorities a position of which their native land might very well be proud, and of which we may hear more.



A BEAUTIFUL HOME—SUMMER RESIDENCE OF J. J. WRIGHT, ESQ., NIAGARA

The Fall Fair

THE days are approaching, when the fall fair, in both city and township, becomes an all-absorbing topic. How we have all rejoiced in childhood days over the "pop" and the pumpkins, to say nothing of the purple balloons! The development of Canada may easily be traced in the progress of the "fair," and its present prominence is an indication of how the various exhibitions have assisted in making known the resources of the country and the revolution in industry.

In the National Exhibition at Toronto, we see the best that is being produced in all departments of invention and industry. But the country fair is no less important, in its own sphere, and should receive the support of the whole community. The women of the neighborhood, especially the members of the women's Institutes, can do a great deal towards making the local exhibition a success by taking an interest in its advancement and endeavoring to make the aesthetic features a finer attraction.

A Present for the Playgrounds

MISS McCORMICK of Chicago, who, some years ago, bought "Oaklands," a beautiful hillside residence in the northern part of Toronto, has lately shown her appreciation of her adopted home by giving ten thousand dollars towards a playground on

Cottingham Street, a section which sadly needs such a provision for juvenile recreation. The cry which continually comes up from all the crowded sections of our cities is, "Give us a place to play!" It is beginning to dawn upon the civilized community that it is cheaper to provide clean amusement for the children than to support jails and penitentiaries. Nothing is truer than the old homely proverb: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is easier and more worth while to prevent the fall than it is to raise the fallen. Boys and girls must have an outlet for the natural desire for fun and wholesome amusement, or there comes a resort to that which is unhealthy or demoralizing. Miss McCormick has set a good example, and it is to be hoped that other citizens will follow in the path of playground generosity.

* * *

The Boy Scouts

I N keeping with the movement for providing healthy development of the rising generation, is the formation of bands of Boy Scouts. There are sensitive souls who are eternally on the lookout for militarism and who are so afraid that this movement means an encouragement of this spirit. It is nothing of the kind. In fact, it would be impossible for us to have in Canada such a spirit as is manifest in Germany or Russia. All that is best in the militant ideal is found in the organization of the Boy Scouts, while nothing that would encourage the spirit of idle defiance or mere bravado is to be discovered. General Baden-Powell, the founder, is now visiting Canada, with a band of the English boys, of whom he is virtually commander.

The virtues, inculcated by the principles of this movement, are those of cleanliness, industry and obedience. Discipline is strictly maintained, yet a spirit of comradeship is also encouraged. We hear frequently in these days of the vanishing of chivalry and the absolute disappearance of the old-time reverence. This age is hardly so lacking in desirable qualities, as its critics would aver, and it is pleasing to observe that a deference to age and a courteous attitude towards weakness are part of the Boy Scout training.

An exceedingly valuable precept is to do at least one kindly or helpful act every day. Those who saw the review of fifteen hundred Boy Scouts in Toronto last June, when the Chamberlain Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire presented them with standards, have no doubt as to the efficiency of the young members of that organization, or as to the valuable work being accomplished by the Boy Scouts. It has been frequently deplored that so few men enter the profession of teaching. Will not such training as that given the Boy Scouts supply the alleged deficiency of masculine influence?

The objection is frequently made in these days that boys are too much under the control of women teachers, and are therefore in danger of losing those qualities which are desirable in manhood. While we do not insist that Canadian boys are perfect beings, we think that they will compare favorably with the younger masculine generation of any other country. Most of them receive their education in public schools, where the majority of the teachers are women. Hence the proof of the training may be found in their character. However, if there be any danger to the boy in the constant guidance and discipline of women teachers, such a movement as the formation of the Boy Scouts will tend to counteract what a writer in the United States has called "The Feminisation of Education." Boys will enjoy the semi-military form of this instruction, and will find in the "officers" those who understand thoroughly boyish needs and aspirations, and who are anxious to develop in the youth of the land the essential virtues of manliness.