

make them smooth and glossy? Thanking you in advance.

SWEET SIXTEEN.  
Wellington Co., Ont.

Many thanks for the "tulip" pattern. As we had had several cuts made before



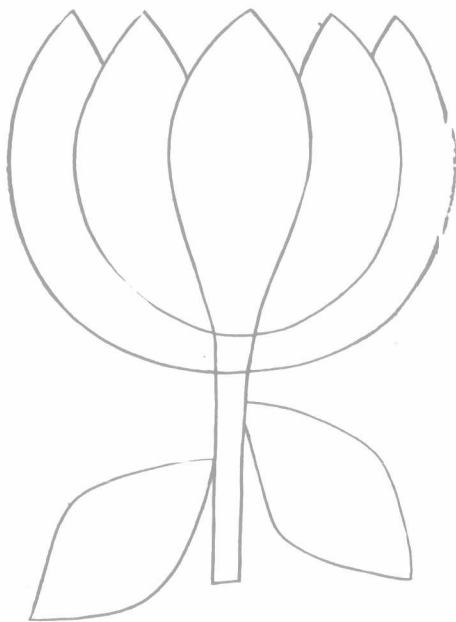
Tulip Pattern.

Sent by Miss Annie Hall, Williamstown, Ont.

yours arrived we are not using it at present. Many thanks also for the recipe for oat-cakes. They certainly "sound" fine.

In one of my treasure-books I find the following directions for laundering collars and cuffs:

Take two ounces of the best white starch and pour over it, without stirring, 1 cup cold water. Dissolve as much borax as will lie heaped up on a quarter in 1 cup boiling water. Stir until the borax is dissolved, and when the mixture is cold add it to the starch. Pour into the starch 1 tablespoon turpentine and stir well. This is enough



Tulip Pattern.

Sent by Mrs. McGurk, Ealing, Ont.

for 4 pairs cuffs and 7 collars. Add a little borax water if it becomes too thick.

Roll the articles in a clean cloth and let stand 20 minutes or more, then stretch and rub well and iron, running the iron first over the wrong side.

#### Fancy Apron.

Dear Dame Durden,—Would it be too much trouble to tell me in next week's issue how to make a fancy apron of two silko handkerchiefs? They are neat and pretty. Perhaps some time you would tell me how to crochet a fascinator. Thanking you.

EVELYN E.  
Brant Co., Ont.

I am sorry that the answer to your question could not appear as soon as requested. Will you kindly read the standing heading to Ingle Nook?

I saw an apron lately made of two large bandana handkerchiefs. Possibly the pattern was the one you refer to. One point was cut off each and the two raw edges joined to a belt with strings, one of the handkerchiefs thus serving for the apron part, the other, on the opposite side of the belt, for a bib. A hole for the neck was cut in the bib portion to slip over the head, and the raw edge faced all round. This apron was chiefly red, the strings and neck-facing (the facing was turned to the outside) being al-

so of red. . . Fancy aprons are also made of handkerchiefs joined together with insertion, but I do not know just how. Perhaps one of our readers will come to the rescue.

Directions for making a crocheted fascinator appeared in our issue for November 30th.

#### About Entertaining.

Would you please answer a few questions for me and publish the answer?

A nice way to entertain a young lady in the afternoon, that is a friend whom you have invited in for the afternoon and for tea?



Master Leslie Frost and His Pony.  
Stockdale, Ont.

A few nice games and contests?

A nice way to pair off couples for a contest or to take to tea?

Could you arrange a programme for an evening which would be interesting and entertaining for a number of young people whom you have invited in for the evening?

Is it proper for the hostess to be dressed in white, or anything expensive, or for her to wear any jewelry when she is entertaining in her own home?

AN INTERESTED READER OF  
"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE."  
Hastings Co., Ont.

I should say that the very nicest way to entertain the young lady would be to just chat with her. You might suggest that she bring her fancywork with her, and the two of you could work as you talked. If you have a piano music, of course, would suggest itself.

Several "games and contests" appeared

tions in two, and proceed as before. Very often, no such device is resorted to, the hostess merely seeing to it quietly, should occasion arise, that no young lady is without a partner.

The hostess may, of course, wear white, or anything that she chooses, provided that she is quite careful not to be dressed any better than the most plainly dressed of her guests is likely to be.

#### Mince Meat.

Dear Dame Durden,—I am asking you if you could inform a writer what Mr. Andrew Carnegie's address is?

Here is a recipe for mince meat: 4

lbs. pork head after being cooked and drained through colander, 3 large apples, 1 lb. raisins, 1 lb. currants, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 2 of cloves, and sugar and salt to suit the taste. Add more seasoning if liked.

Mr. Carnegie's address is Skibo Castle, Sutherland, Scotland.

Here is a fine recipe for mince meat without meat: 3 lbs. chopped suet, 3 lbs. raisins, 3 lbs. currants, 2 chopped lemons, 2 chopped oranges (rind of both is used as well as the inside); chopped apples, peel and spice to suit taste; 25 cents' worth brown sugar.

#### How Balzac Worked.

In twelve years, Balzac wrote seventy-nine novels, besides an abundance of tales and newspaper articles. When in full swing he led the life of a recluse, refusing to see even



Shelling Corn for the Hens.  
Elsie S. Moore, Lakeview, Ont.

in our Christmas number. You have probably seen the directions for them before this.

One way of "pairing-off" couples is to cut so many pictures, clipped from magazines, in two, fill two baskets with the fragments, then let the boys draw from one the girls from another. The boys then search for the girls who have the corresponding parts of the pictures. Another way is to put questions in one basket, answers in another; yet another to divide well-known proverbs or quota-

his most intimate friends. He usually went to bed at eight o'clock, after a light dinner, and got up at two in the morning to resume writing. At 6 he took his tub, lying in the water one hour, after which he drank a cup of coffee. Werdet, his editor, was then admitted to bring proofs, take away corrected ones, and wrest, if possible, fresh manuscript from him. From 9 he wrote till noon, when he breakfasted on two boiled eggs and some bread. From 1 to 6

he continued his writing. For six weeks or so he would keep this up then he would mysteriously disappear for months.—[Selected.]

## The Beaver Circle.

### Our Senior Beavers.

[For all pupils from Senior Third to Continuation Classes, inclusive.]

### The Months of the Year.

The New Year comes in with shout and laughter,  
And, see, twelve months are following after!

First, January, all is white,  
And February, short and bright,  
See breezy March go tearing round;  
But tearful April makes no sound.  
May brings a pole with flowers crowned,  
And June strews roses on the ground.  
A pop! A bang! July comes in.  
Says August, "What a fearful din!"  
September brings her golden sheaves,  
October waves her pretty leaves,  
While pale November waits to see  
December bring the Christmas tree.  
They join their hands to make a ring,  
And, as they dance, they merrily sing:  
"Twelve months we are; you see us here.  
We make the circle of the year.  
We dance and sing; and, children dear,  
We wish you all a glad New Year!"  
—Picture Lesson Paper.

### Lunch Counters for the Birds.

Have any of you, Beavers, ever tried to form acquaintance with the birds by feeding them in winter? Cracked corn, cracked nuts, hay seed, crumbs, and table scraps, and bits of meat, especially suet, are what they like best.

If any of you intend to begin this good work this winter, in order that you may study our little feathered friends more closely, you may find the following suggestions for making bird lunch-tables useful. The extract has been taken from that delightful little paper, "Our Dumb Animals."

"A board, six inches wide and two feet long, should be fastened to a tree; or on a high post out of the reach of cats; or against a convenient window-sill. One trouble that will immediately present itself is the English sparrow. It will be difficult to keep these little nuisances away from the lunch-counter. One would like to be merciful and let them feed with the others, were it not for increasing the troubles of springtime nesting.

"A suggestion that the writer received from one of the Audubon Societies in a small town, and that is reported to have worked well, is worth trying:

"A board the usual size is hinged at one end to a window-sill in such a way as to allow the outer end of the board to drop. The board is held about level by a string fastened to its outer end and to the top of the window. In this string,—that is, forming a part of it,—a thin or light spiral spring is fastened. The food and water dishes are placed at the outer end of the board. When a bird alights, the feeding-board teeters up and down. The report states that other birds will feed at the table, but that the English sparrow will not visit it a second time. If this simple scheme is effective in dealing with the English sparrow, then one of the problems of bird lovers has been solved.

"If the lunch-counter proves attractive, and it undoubtedly will, many birds may be studied at close range. Among the visitors will be the chickadee, the red-breasted nuthatch, white-breasted nuthatch, downy and hairy woodpeckers, blue jay, junco, and an occasional robin.

"Some birds, who are accustomed to search for their food close to the ground, are not so likely to find the table,—notably the juncos; the white-throated sparrows; the white-crowned and the tree-sparrows. For these birds a better way is to spade up a bit of ground, if the frost is sufficiently out; or keep it clear of snow if there are late storms, and place the food upon it.

"All winter, birds must have a good supply of heat-producing food. Most of them are very fond of suet, and the best way to furnish it is to fasten a piece