

# The Home

Conducted by MARY FORD

My dear Readers:—I am publishing quite a large number of letters this week and I want my readers to answer these letters and give their opinion on them. I have always felt that it was very easy for me to write and tell you what you should do and should not do, but would prefer that my readers themselves would write up their actual experience on any matter that would be of interest to the other readers of the page, so if I do not give an answer to any letters sent in on the Page, it is not because I do not think the letter is not interesting or that it does not deserve an answer, but I want the other readers to give me their opinions first. There are many live issues opened up in these letters, and I do hope my readers will, one and all, rouse themselves to take part in making this page more than interesting to us all.

There is a little talk given by Mrs. A. V. Thomas, better known to my Western readers as Miss Lillian Laurie, of the Free Press. I can very well remember when I first started to write in Winnipeg the kindly support and helpful suggestions given to me by Miss Laurie; her broad sympathies and wide experience of the wants of the women of the West made her an invaluable friend indeed to thousands of women throughout Western Canada. When reading her talk on "Pioneer women of the West," I feel inclined to say:—"Hear, hear, thim's my sentiments intirely."

I cannot but feel grateful to my readers for the kindly messages they have sent me, and I trust that, as the days go on, we will become closer friends, and feel more assured that we are working together for the ultimate benefit not of ourselves alone but of all humanity.

## THE PIONEER WOMAN

The Lord Selkirk chapter of the Daughters of the Empire met at the Y.W.C.A., when the feature of the program was an address by Mrs. A. V. Thomas on the "Pioneer Woman of the West." The regent, Miss Edna Sutherland, was in the chair.

"With the thought of the pioneer woman," said Mrs. Thomas, "comes to me some conception of the loneliness that is hers to bear. It is something of which city dwellers can never know, for it is the longing for the sight of human faces and the sound of human voices."

Speaking further, Mrs. Thomas told of the sacrifice of the pioneer woman in seeing her children growing up uneducated, for often the homestead was far from a school.

Sickness was a horror to homes 20 to 35 miles from a doctor and nurse.

"We may not feel our cold," she said, "but the strenuous climate drives people, Prairie dwellers wear out young."

Mrs. Thomas scored the educational system which sends women out ignorant of the cares of a home or children. Her work on the Free Press had brought her into touch with the women of the far

places, and often their hardships had root in ignorance.

## Proud of Pioneer Mothers

After discussing her experiences as organizer of the Homemakers' clubs of Saskatchewan, Mrs. Thomas said: "We are proud of our pioneer mothers, but what have we ourselves done to boast of our Canadian womanhood?"

Canadian laws in regard to women were as backward as those of any British possession, and in this field at least the present generation might interest itself.

## A LETTER FROM BONNIEBRAE

Dear Mary Ford:—I am afraid I am tardy in writing to thank you for my prize, Hurlbut's "Story of the Bible," received some time ago, but I can only plead "measles" as an excuse. The book is certainly a valuable one and the children appreciate it even more than I do. It is so simple, yet so accurate and the pictures are beautiful. It has been



The Farmer's Friend

of great use to us while shut in from church and Sunday school these last few weeks. However, I'm glad to say all the children are better.

I enclose fifteen cents for which please send two pamphlets "Teaching Life's Truths to Children" and one copy of Henry Georges' "Protection or Free Trade" work advertised at four or five cents. Please send me a list of the pamphlets or tell me in which Guide I can find a list of them.

Spring will soon be here and garden work will be beginning. Perhaps some of the ladies writing to the page could give hints on the management of various flowers and vegetables. There are many beautiful greenhouse plants which can be easily grown from seed and one can then have many different kinds of plants for a very small outlay. Geraniums, abutilons, primulas, etc., are very little trouble if one has patience to wait for them. Will anyone writing the page give some hints as to roses in the West, the best time and place to set out for outdoor flowering, treatment in the fall, etc. I see Mr. Stevenson recommends the Baltimore Belle and Crimson Rambler as climbing roses. Will they withstand the cold as the Virginia Creeper does or do their branches need protection in the winter? I am sure any hints on such things will be of value to all. Those on children, etc., are splendid. I cordially agree with Rose Turrell in the issue of Jan. 24 as to the feeding of children, except that many children seem to require extra cream or butter.

Yours,

BONNIEBRAE.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS FROM SEED

By Charlotte Bodine

Among the easiest greenhouse plants to grow from seed are the geranium and the coleus, a foliage plant. Now is the time to sow the seed if you would have fine plants for the fall and winter window garden. A sunny window, a box about three or four inches deep filled with some good garden soil mixed with one fourth its amount of sand to make it porous, are the necessary requirements. The geranium having a long pointed seed germinates better if pushed point down-

ward into the soil until hidden, then covered with a very little sand, which should be kept moist. The coleus germinates easily and without special care in about eight days. A piece of brown paper made moist and laid on top of the soil of all seeds sown and kept moist by sprinkling, aids in germination and prevents too rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil. By so doing it is not necessary to water the soil often and probably wash away small seeds. All seedlings should be transplanted as soon as the second leaves appear, and continue shifting the plants as they grow. The geranium and coleus are both sun-loving plants. The cyclamen is easily grown from seed, but requires about a month to germinate, and two years from time of sowing seed till plants bloom in the average home, while only eleven months are required in greenhouse. The various begonias, both tuberous and fibrous rooted may be grown easily from seed. Some of them have very small seed which should be mixed with an equal amount of sand in sowing so they may not be lost and may be sown regularly. The primula, a continuous bloomer, may be grown from seed by sowing in light sandy soil, but slightly covered; the Japanese and Chinese are best varieties to grow.

## About Roses

Among the roses which do well in our Western climate may be mentioned the Cabbage or Damask roses, which our grandmothers loved, which come in white and pinks. Though they bloom but once a year their fragrance, perfect hardiness, beauty and abundance of flowers should make them a place in our gardens. The Rugosa or single fragrant roses, which form sturdy bushes with glossy leaves and bloom a great part of the summer, are also hardy. Our springs with the hot sun and continual thawing and freezing at night render it difficult to grow most of the hardy perpetual blooming roses. Among those which may be grown with fair success are Mrs. John Laing, a soft pink; Ulrich Brunner, a bright cherry red; and Prince Camille de Rohan, a crimson; also Soleil de'Or or Golden Sun, a hybrid yellow briar rose. I have not seen any of the climbing roses doing well here. The pink rambler, Dorothy Perkins, is one of the hardiest. Only those who have had some little experience with roses in other places should expect success with the above mentioned roses. But with a good protection of earth banked around them and then covered well with snow, should do well. It is always best to obtain roses grown by nurserymen here in the West.

## FEEDING BABY

Dear Mary Ford:—I so often see articles advising mothers to avoid all so called "patent foods," to "give only pure cow's milk," etc., that I have at last decided to give a little of my 21 years experience in feeding babies and small children, feeling sure it may help some young mother. We could not get cow's milk when it became necessary to wean my boy at 3 months old and he was raised very successfully upon bread crumbs sweetened, over which boiling water was poured, giving him the juice only until he could take the bread. He is the strongest, best natured child I have, and now at the age of 21 still enjoys bread and water. When the next boy came to the same age we had a lovely fresh cow. I employed a nurse to start me just right feeding "cow's milk." Well, I must take up space telling all I went through to raise that boy. The milk got his stomach and bowels in such a state that I tried nearly every "food" on the market, until in despair I said I will try just one more and leave the "cow's milk" out entirely. It worked like a charm, though his stomach has never been as strong as his brother's and I charge it all to experimenting with him, for he was a perfectly healthy baby. I had learned my lesson, so when a girl baby reached the same point (I never was able to nurse any of my children after I was strong enough to be about the house) I began at once with food and raised her without any trouble, she was never sick, strong, bright and happy as a lark. That was 18 years ago. Now, having forgotten some of those old experiences, I am just recovering from the effects of a bad blunder. I have a beautiful baby 18 months old, she has practically been raised on "food," but it is very expensive, and we have 20 cows. I thought I must be very foolish to be so afraid of cows, milk and she so big and healthy. I gradually began feeding her milk or milk

and water, even trying the bread and water plan, adding a little milk. For a week I have had a very sick baby, nothing caused it but milk, she is all right again, but clear food, with every bit of milk left out, was the only thing that broke up her fever and stopped the vomiting. A great many children cannot take milk in any form and it is a dangerous thing to persist in trying.

MOTHER OF FIVE.

## A MOTHER'S LETTER

Dear Mary Ford:—I was greatly surprised to receive a letter from you and now as I am alone for an evening I will write you just a personal letter. There are so few that you can really speak to on things nearest the heart, or they misunderstand or do not sympathize with you. Your letter made me feel as though I had known you for years. You ask what I think of the vote for women. Well, of course, being an American, a fact of which I am proud, although I have learned to love and respect many of my Canadian sisters, and coming from the state of Colorado, where we have the vote, I, of course, believe in it, especially do I think it would help us out in school matters. The women have so much to do in the schools in Colorado, but I notice we are not listened to at all here. Don't you think all mothers have a right to be interested in their children's school work? We know more what they are doing than the men as we help them more, but I do not get much sympathy in my views. Now what are we mothers to do on this question unless we have some say in school matters at least? Are we to sit by and watch our children hurried over their school in order to make so many grades without any thorough knowledge of what they are doing? Working at nights until they fall asleep and then punished for not having their home work. I think children sitting in school from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. have enough study. They are not capable of putting forth their best efforts unless they have their proper rest and hours for play. I am speaking of little ones from second grade to the sixth or seventh grade. I have been very much interested in your articles "Sex Hygiene." I have been wondering how to explain these matters to our two oldest boys, or whether they were too young, age 9 and 7. I wish I could have a copy of the pamphlet "The Most Beautiful Story in the World." Yes, I firmly believe that we should demand the same moral responsibility from men we demand from women. If there is one thing upon which good women should stand firm it is in recognizing the fact that whenever a woman sins a man sins also. Why should we demand one standard for our girls and another lower one for our boys? Does not God require the same purity from both? We hear a great deal about the women vampires of society. The male vampire has never been given his merited fame. Until we demand that the man must bring a spotless character to the marriage altar, instead of a full pocket book, we cannot expect to protect our daughters.

Wishing you success in your noble work.

I remain,

NEEPAWA.

## FASHIONABLE MODELS



Price of Patterns 10 cents each

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