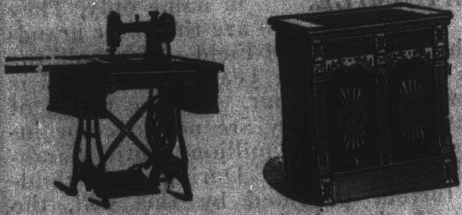


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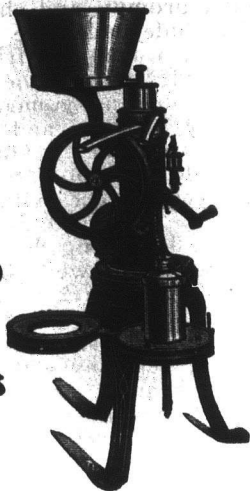
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Motto for the month.

The daily round, the common task, will give us all we ought to ask. Room to deny ourselves, the road that brings us daily nearer God.

THE MOTTO. I am sure the month of August has brought the women all over the Canadian west "room to deny themselves." Through the long scorching days when the city seemed red hot my heart has ached for the women who have toiled all day in hot kitchens cooking for the harvest hands. This work is hard enough in ordinary August weather, but the exceptional heat must have added tenfold to the weariness of the days. I can only hope that the latter half of the motto has been equally true, and that the strain and stress of these days has drawn the tired housewives nearer to the source of all comfort.

August was a month of unusual trial for the editor of the page, so perhaps for that reason my thoughts have gone out more than ordinarily to those who are troubled and burdened.

Day after day I found my mind dwelling on those lovely lines of Whittier's—

"Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease.
Take from our hearts the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace."

"Breathe through the pulses of desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm.
Let sense be dumb, its heats expire.
Speak through the earthquake, wind
and fire,
Oh, still, small voice of calm."

To me there is no more perfect or heart-expressive prayer in the English language. When we remember that Whittier was a man and a bachelor, it is the more surprising how often his poems seem to fit into woman's need. Perhaps the explanation is, that there is something of the mother in every good man. Somewhere I have seen the expression "the mother heart of God," and no doubt there is a connection between the two.

CANADIAN AUTHORS. I see from the publishers' lists that there will be a perfect "rist" of novels by Canadian authors on the market this fall. Sir Gilbert Parker, Robert Barr, Arthur Stringer, Norman Duncan, who are Canadians abroad, have all books that are due between now and Christmas, and of the Canadian novelists still content with their own land, Ralph Connor, R. E. Knowles, Marion Keith and W. A. Fraser also have new books on the way or about to arrive. There are several others, perhaps not so well known, but equally good, that have books in the publishers' hands that will make a stir about Christmas time, and one of these is by a Manitoba woman.

A charming reprint of a quaint Canadian novel is already out; this is "The Curious Career of Roderick Campbell," by Jean McIlwraith. Another novel by a Canadian writer that is new on the market is "The Spanish Dowry," by Lily Dougall, erstwhile of Montreal, and now of Oxford, England. This story has not the strength of either "Beggars All" or "What Necessity Knows," but it is nevertheless a book well worth the reading. The character studies, which are Lily Dougall's strong point, are exceptionally well done and realistic. The principal character is that of a cripple and his whims and fancies make interesting reading, and show that the author has lost none of her early power along this line.

Once upon a time I wrote and asked her if there was not to be a sequel to "Beggars All," to my thinking one of the cleverest character studies of the past twenty years. In a reply she told me that some day she would write a book which, though not a sequel, would give the working out of the after career of "Star" and her burglar husband. So far this book has never appeared. I am sure all who have read "Beggars All" will hope that some day we may have it.

A recent commentary on Canadian novelists quite took my fancy. It pointed out that Canadian writers were eagerly read by Canadians, and this not because they were Canadian writers, but because they had something good to offer. This is as it should be, but I confess it was news to me, as I have always rather feared that until of very late years the Canadian writer was not without honor save in his own country and among his own kindred.

A LONDON WOMAN IN CANADA. This last month I had a call from a woman member of the staff of the Dominion Immigration Office, London, England. Her object in coming to Canada is to grow familiar with Canadian conditions, more especially in the west, in order that she may be in a better position to give intelligent advice to intending immigrants when they apply to the London office. Truly this is a move in the right direction, and one that will be productive of much good, both to the intending immigrants and to Canada. After a couple of months in Canada she told me she felt sure that the wrong class of women were being reached, though she would hardly care to make that statement public over her own name until she had looked into the question further.

She will visit the ranch country, and go to Vancouver and Victoria and make inquiry into the outlook for women in that province also. The fact that this one woman has come out on so practical an errand will not revolutionize the whole question of female immigration to Canada, but it is a step in that direction, and says much for the growing desire to be correctly informed as to Canada and its possibilities.

CHILDREN WANTED.

One of the officers of the Children's Shelter in Winnipeg tells me there is quite a growing demand for little girls to adopt. Children from two to four are the ages most in request, and these requests come frequently from good farm homes where the children will have every care and advantage. The demand seems to be confined to girls, the boy of that age is not wanted. This seems to indicate a desire for the child for the sake of child life and companionship rather than from any idea of obtaining a servant to work without wages, and is a hopeful sign for our new communities. It set me thinking of the scheme of Ellinor C. L. Close for the benefit of pauper children in England. She has gone into the matter very thoroughly, and has found that the capital expended on the existing institutions for pauper children in England works out to the enormous total of £250 to £275 per head, or about £54,000 for every 200 children. The sites of the buildings, where land is too dear, represent an outlay very often for one building of £12,000, and then there is rarely more than two or

three acres of ground attached to it. Mrs. Close proposes that the English poor guardians be empowered to procure a number of small farms in the colonies, preferably Canada, well away from towns. Each farm to be capable of receiving 15 to 20 children, and that anything resembling an institution be carefully avoided. She thinks farms of 200 to 300 acres would be sufficient. She further suggests that two ladies and two servants be placed in charge of each of the farms, which should be under the supervision of a gentleman who is a practical farmer. She advises the bringing out of the children at two or three years of age, and having them brought up on these farms and educated at the public schools; out of school hours for them to be trained, the boys in farm work and the girls in all kinds of house work. Boys that show a disposition that way to be trained as carpenters, ironworkers, painters, etc.

When the children have reached the ages of twelve or fifteen they can be returned to England, if they so desire. In the meantime, they will have grown up in pure and healthful surroundings at a cost to the English poor guardians of not more than a tithe of what they would have cost in England. If they choose to return to England, they will go better fitted in mind and body to do well by the land of their birth, and if they choose to remain in Canada they will already know the best means of making a livelihood out of the land.

A friend brought me a number of papers in connection with this scheme from England last spring. He had had the advantage of a long talk with Mrs. Close, and was enthused over the scheme. It seems feasible to me, and I was at once struck with the possibilities for such farms in the West, and more especially in British Columbia, where there is such a growing opportunity for the cultivation of small fruits, in which children can be profitably employed.

I would be glad if readers of the page would send in any suggestions about this scheme pro. and con., as this magazine is pre-eminently the place to discuss such a question.

OLD WIVES AND YOUNG HUSBANDS.

One or two recent engagements have once more drawn my attention to the increasing number of marriages where the husbands are much younger than their wives. I have written about this before, but it is a question on which I feel so strongly that once more I lift my voice in protest.

There seems positively to be an epidemic of this thing, and it cannot stop too soon. Women are wholly to blame in this matter, for while it is a well known fact that men from time long past have fallen in love with women older than themselves, it is quite as well established that these fancies do not last, and older women should have more sense. The fact that they will reap what they have sown is not sufficient, for they are not the only sufferers. Such marriages are not good for minds or morals; race suicide and many other evils follow in the train of such doings. Personally, there is something absolutely revolting to me in such marriages. I feel sometimes that there should be a law against it. Perhaps that is going too strongly, but the practice is a bad one and tends to lower the dignity of all women in the eyes of all men.

Swedish Jelly.—Cover a knuckle of veal with water, add a small onion and a carrot and let it boil until the meat is ready to fall off the bone. Take the meat and hash it fine and return it to liquor after it is strained and give it another boil until it jellies. Add salt, pepper, the juice and rind of a lemon cut fine, then pour into a form. Put it into a cold place. It makes a nice dish for lunch or tea. If the knuckle of veal is large use three quarts of water, if small, two quarts, and let it boil slowly three or four hours, or until it is reduced to about half the quantity of water put in.