

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

WHAT MOTHER GOOSE FORGOT ABOUT THE LADYBUG

By Frederick White

Ladybug, Ladybug, fly away home,
Your house is on fire, your children will burn.
The Grasshopper hopped and the Ladybug flew,
The creatures all made a terrific "to do";
The Beetle brought water as quick as a wink—
It really was hardly enough for a drink.
A stupid old Bumblebee said that he knew
The proper extinguisher really was dew.
A Clover he'd met had some drops in her hat.
But how could one put out a fire with that?
"My children! My children!" the Ladybug cried,
And to rescue her darlings she recklessly tried.
And, casting aside all her fears and alarms,
She gathered each child within one of her arms.
That evening, while putting the children to bed
In a Queen Anne's lace blossom, the Ladybug said,
"That house that was burned didn't go with this lace.
"I'll build a Queen Anne when we get a new place."

SHIFTING THE LOAD TO MACHINERY

This editorial is primarily for our women readers, as it naturally would be, appearing in this page, but the men can stay around too, if they like.

The burden of this tale is harvest time, not in the fields, but in the farm home, where it is usually a more arduous and nerve-racking business. If the hours out of doors are long, the hours indoors are equally so, and then they are spent indoors, and that makes all the difference in the world.

Then we hear each year a great to-do about getting men enough into the country to harvest the crop, but never a word do we hear about bringing in women to help with the housework which must be done for these harvesters. Perhaps it would be impossible to get women to come, but certainly one never hears of the government exciting itself in the matter. One would think from the complete silence on this question that housework did itself or that the housewife had unlimited reserves of power to turn on to meet the great emergencies of the farming year. That she hasn't, the records of our insane asylums fully testify.

Still there are people who really try to get domestic help and fail thru the unwillingness of many girls to go to the country, and it is to this class that our suggestions today apply. There are several ways of lightening the burdens of the wife and mother in the farm home besides engaging help. The first and most important is the installation of a water system, which will save thousands of steps in the harvest time alone, and go on making life easier for her thru the remainder of her life.

There is the power washer which does away with the greater part of the strain consequent upon the very heavy washings that have to be done on the farm, and finally there is the kitchen cabinet which, by gathering together in one place all the articles and ingredients necessary for cooking, tends to the saving of much perambulating about the kitchen.

These are some of the ways in which the labors of the farm housewife may be lightened without depending upon the caprice of the girl who does not want to go to the country to work, and yet on many farms I know where the barns are models of convenience and where male help is easy and female help most difficult to secure, all of these things are conspicuous by their absence from the woman's domain. As a queer old preacher we had in our dis-

trict once upon a time used to say, "These things ought not so to be."
FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

THE BOY AND HIS MANNERS

"Watch that little boy," whispered the school teacher, nudging my elbow. I turned about just in time to see a miniature man enter the school building, and as he passed us he deferentially raised his cap.

"He's the only Chesterfield I have!" laughed the teacher. "I'd like to know his mother."

I did know his mother, and when next I had occasion to talk with her I mentioned the little incident.

"How difficult it must have been,"

"I always began my teaching with some sort of game. We would play what he called 'lady and gentleman.' Strolling up and down the walk Max would meet me from the opposite direction and as he passed he would tip his hat, smile and say, 'Good-morning, Mrs. Brown!' I find I can teach a child almost anything thru the medium of play.

"Another thing I have insisted upon from the beginning is giving up his seat in the street car to ladies, little girls or elderly persons. I have had some difficulties on this score, for there is always somebody who fails to discern the lesson I am trying to teach. But I am persistent.

"In my work about the house I have

ate of the third person in our presence—even tho it was merely a child. Henceforth, I pause now and then to give my small son a chance to speak when I see his eagerness to do so.

"A thing that I have learned in the training of my son is that his response to my suggestions is greater when I treat him as a grown-up. I appeal to his sense of manhood early and it reacts upon him in the form of pride and responsibility. For instance, instead of saying, 'Little boys should never strike girls,' I say, 'Gentlemen never strike girls.'

"And always I have been watchful of my own manners. Even to the year-old baby I said 'Please' and 'Thank you' and 'Pardon me,' and naturally he soon learned my language, too. 'Will you kindly bring me my ball?' Never 'Don't do that,' but 'Please do not do that,' or, better still, I threw the responsibility on his own shoulders by asking, 'Will you be kind enough not to do that?' You've no idea how little children enjoy responsibility!

"Max lifts his little cap to me when he starts off of a morning, but for all his elegant manners you wouldn't call him a 'sissy,' now, would you? He 'licked' a boy yesterday! A 'sissy' is conscious of his manners and tries to be effective, but Max doesn't think anything about it—he just does what habit dictates.

"I can only reiterate what educators of all times have recognized as the fundamental principle in teaching children—'Begin early'—and that means from the cradle."—By May Belle Brooks, in The Mother's Magazine.

ADVICE FOR "DISCOURAGED"

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have read with interest the many letters in the Homemakers' page. I want to say a few words to "Discouraged." Do you try and please your husband? Study his ways, love and cherish him, meet him with a smile and kiss. I have learned from experience a man does not like to be hen-pecked. We can get along much better by being loving and affectionate. Learn to cook his way, never mind if he tells you of some things you do. If we want happiness in the home, we must learn the wishes of others. Men as a rule are more selfish than women and we can make happiness by using love and persuasion. We wives cannot expect to always have our way; we must go half way or more if necessary. There is nothing like harmony in the home. Use Aunt Sally's recipe, which is good and sensible.

A MOTHER OF EIGHT.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Raisins often stick to the paper in which they have been wrapped. At such times hold the paper for a moment over the steam escaping from the tea kettle and the fruit can then be readily removed.

Paper bags for covering pitchers containing food will be found to answer the purpose better than plates.

We often discard a lamp burner as useless when a good boiling would make it as good as new. Boil burners for two or three hours in strong soap suds. They will then turn the wick up as readily as when new.

When ironing pillow cases, especially the hand embroidered ones, slip over end of ironing board—they iron much nicer than when ironed double—and iron same as a skirt. For the embroidered ones turn inside out and insert bath towel underneath.

LETTERS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Any person desiring to communicate to a contributor to this page must enclose the letter in a plain stamped envelope and forward it in another envelope to the editor of this page, with a note saying for whom the letter is intended. Addresses will not be sent out under any circumstances.



A JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

The Japanese do not crowd a jar full of flowers. They put two sprays in a dish and the effect is ten-fold more beautiful.

I said, "to teach manners to so young a child—and a boy at that!"

"On the contrary," she hastened to say, "his youthfulness was all to my advantage. One of my pet theories has always been that the sooner you begin to teach a child anything, the easier will be your task—and his. Little minds can grasp weightier affairs than we credit them with. My children have absorbed good manners from babyhood. They knew not their absence.

"It is second nature for Max to raise his hat when he meets a lady, for I taught him the habit when I gave him his first little hat. It was not an irksome, unnecessary duty to him then as it is to so many boys who have to acquire the practice later on, but an act as simple, necessary and indisputable as hanging his hat on a peg when he came in from play.

an opportunity to teach him matters of precedence in going up or down stairs, entering a room, etc. I let him open the door for me to pass thru and see that I am seated properly before he seats himself either in the living room or at the table.

"I believe the hardest rule for children to follow is that one demanding silence when anyone else is speaking. I never realized just what self-control this entailed until Max one day interrupted my conversation with a friend.

"Wait until I have finished speaking, son," I reminded him, "then tell me what you want to say."

"But you never stop!" he exclaimed, "and I forget what I have to say."

"That was an illuminating thought to me. It was the bald truth, for we congenial spirits had ambled on and on in our talk, discourteously inconsider-