

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

CHILDREN'S CRUELTY

"The cruelty of children to birds is appalling," said Mr. Nelson Gowanlock, in an address to the Women's Press Club the other day.

"We'll have to educate the mothers," chimed in one of the audience, who makes a specialty of exonerating the male portion of the community from responsibility for anything connected with the home and laying the whole burden upon the mother's shoulders.

"All very well," protested another woman, herself a mother, "but it isn't the mothers who take a gun and go out shooting birds every fall for the sheer fun of killing."

It was a fairly conclusive answer. There is no question that while children see their fathers killing birds and animals for sport it will be impossible for the mothers to inculcate in the little ones a deep and genuine respect for life. But the necessity for a change in the attitude of children towards wild life is very great, and it should be possible for the fathers and mothers to co-operate in bringing it about. From the stories sent in to The Young Canada Club department of this paper it is obvious that the great majority of country children cannot see a "little bird or rabbit or squirrel without wanting to take it home and cage it up. They seem not to realize or to care that they are breaking up a happy and harmless family for their own sport. The handling and stealing and breaking of eggs are taken as a matter of course. While this condition persists the children will lose nearly all the advantage that should be theirs thru living in the country.

If, instead of being permitted to kill and steal the little feathered folk, the children could be trained to study their habits and nesting places from a respectful distance, could be got to watch their comings and goings, to read about the migration of birds, in short to regard them as jolly little friends and neighbors, as indeed they are, country life would begin to have a special meaning for children.

I like to think of a story that came to me last fall of a kind-hearted, gruff old farmer in Saskatchewan, who was always declaiming loudly about the nuisance the birds were about the house and barn and threatening to exterminate the whole outfit of them. One day in particular he came into the house in an awful bluster because some birds had nested in a piece of harness which he needed, and he had to hitch up and go to town for a new piece. It is a true story. Perhaps his is an extreme case of respect for bird privileges, but one must believe that children brought up in such a home must have a kinder and gentler feeling towards all life than is the heritage of the average child.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

FASTING

Dr. Harvey Wiley, writing for Good Housekeeping Magazine, recommends an occasional fast day as a means of keeping young, and especially as an assistance in fighting off obesity, one of the evidences of old age. During this fast day the body consumes itself, so to speak. The old and hardening cells are done away with, and, in due time, new ones are built up to take their place.

The doctor also recommends great temperance in eating if one is to have the body always under one's control and the mind bright and clear. Nearly everyone, he says, eats too much, and this course pursued for years leads to early decay of both the body and mind.

NOTE

Mrs. R. M. Barrett, secretary of the U.F.W.A., has asked the editor of this page to announce that owing to illness and bereavement she has not been able to attend to her work since the convention, but will resume her duties almost immediately.

SOCIALISM NOT A FAILURE

Dear Madam:—In the issue of The Guide dated January 26, a letter appeared on the Homemakers page on the Socialist question, and signed "Old Farmer." The writer says the Socialist party has fallen down on woman suffrage, also on the question of peace. I fail to discover any proof for this contention. It is utterly impossible for the Socialists to give women the franchise or to establish peace in the world until they get control of the government. Women are admitted to Socialist locals and have equal rights in voting on all questions pertaining to the party. Marxian revolutionary So-

cialists believe in universal suffrage irrespective of sex, color or creed.

The capitalists of all nations are in possession of the state and the mailed fist, and for the minority of class conscious workers to dispute the power of such an institution with all the machines of murder in its hands would be absolute nonsense. Marxian revolutionary Socialists ask the workers of the world to unite and seize the government by political action, then run the state in the interests of the people as a whole instead of for a few financial agents.

My old friend, the farmer, again says that there are four million Socialists in Germany with one hundred and ten Socialist M.P.s, and that those representatives had made but feeble protest against the increase of the army and navy from year to year. Further on in his letter he makes a distinction between Marxian revolutionary Socialists and Democratic Socialists. The Socialist party, like all other organizations, gets contaminated with sympathizers, sentimentalists, reformers and capitalist cast-offs looking for a meal ticket. Two thirds of



WHERE WINTER MAKES WAY FOR SPRING

those one hundred and ten M.P.s are composed of such men, or, if you like, Social Democrats, seeing the farmer has made the distinction.

Rosa Luxemburg has been imprisoned for her denunciation of militarism in Germany. Karl Liebknecht is the leader of the Marxian revolutionary wing, and has vociferously opposed the increase of militarism in Germany, both before the war and since the war began. This same revolutionary Socialist on April 19, 1913, exposed the military officials for accepting bribes to war scare other nations for the benefit of Krupps. The accused were with reluctance tried before the courts and found guilty. August Bebel has suffered imprisonment at the hands of the German capitalists on several occasions for his Socialist agitation and anti-militarism. The Socialist newspapers and Socialists in general are today muzzled in all the warring nations. Lloyd George, in Britain, suppressed the Glasgow Forward, and at the same time acknowledged that he was sorry to suppress such an intelligent paper.

The Yellow Book of France on the war is a capitalist product of the French government, which can never be expected to be anything else but a composition of biased opinions on an organization that threatens the life of capitalism. Can the farmer explain why Jean Jaures, that Marxian revolutionary Socialist and anti-militarist, was murdered just before the declaration of war? This saviour of peace was shot in Paris. At whose instigation and for what?

The partisans of peace or Marxian Socialists have unceasingly preached to the workers that they only receive one-fifth of the wealth they create, which only enables the nations' workers to consume a small portion of their own product, leaving four-fifths in the hands of those that produce nothing. This surplus must be sold, and the workers can't buy it for the want of the money. Where is it sold? Not in the country in which it is produced. It is not a question of over-production; it is a question of under-consumption. Poverty, unemployment, starvation and crime are born when the capitalists are stuck for a market to dispose of the surplus product produced over and above the workers' keep.

Human society has passed thru various epochs in its upward trend, and every epoch has been the result of a change in the means whereby society clothes, feeds and shelters itself. Wealth today is rapidly concentrating, industry is centralizing, with a marvelous development in the division of labor. This with other forces will drive human society to Socialism, the co-operative commonwealth, and no power on earth can stop it.

In conclusion I may say that concubinage or free love belongs to the inspired men of Biblical times. It has no place in the social philosophy, and if any of those Socialist papers edited in Germany or Canada advocate such piffle they must have been the product of what the farmer calls Democratic Socialism.

GEO. PATON,
Farmer.

FAVORS LINOLEUM

Dear Miss Beynon:—In reading the questions from "An Interested Reader" and your reply, in regard to the use of linoleum on a dining room floor, I felt I would like to tell you the result of my experience.

I am presuming that the reader wishing advice lives on the farm, with the ever-present hired men and also probably with children.

I began housekeeping with a prettily stained and varnished floor, with three nice small rugs of Wilton. They did very nicely while I had plenty of time to care for the floor, but when extra hired men and children arrived it was a different matter. The rugs were never where they were meant to be, and a man coming in from the barn would so contentedly leave quite a damp, discolored spot where his feet would rest on a rug. The varnished floor itself was not so easily cleaned as linoleum, either.

I am "tickled to death" to have a nice, plain linoleum to wipe off with just a few minutes' work, and the room has a much tidier appearance.

A CITY RAISED FARMER'S WIFE.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS IN CASE OF POISONING

The family medicine closet should contain a list of antidotes for poisons as well as a full supply of first-aid household remedies. There are four classes of poisons.

The antidotes for these should surely form a part of the first-aid household remedy supply. The four kinds of poisons are known as acid, alkali, narcotic and irritant.

When acids, such as carbolic, nitric, sulfuric or oxalic are taken, they give symptoms of burning of the mouth and throat accompanied by vomiting. The burns appear as white or whitish-yellow patches about the mouth. Cleanse the mouth quickly with lime-water or milk of magnesia or baking-powder. Plaster from the wall may be used in an emergency. Give drinks of olive-oil, milk or barley gruel; do not give an emetic.

For poisoning with alkalies, such as lye or ammonia, wash the mouth with vinegar and water or orange-juice. Give a drink of olive-oil, milk or milk and egg, but no emetic.

For narcotic poisons, such as opium, laudanum, paregoric or morphin, give strong tea or coffee. Keep the child awake by cold bathing. Never allow the child to go to sleep until the doctor comes.

The irritant poisons are rat poison, fly poison, copper, arsenic and mercury. For these give an emetic at once; mustard and warm water is best. Give it until free vomiting takes place. Then give olive-oil, egg-water, egg and milk or tea.

In all cases of poisoning from things eaten, it is the wisest and safest plan to call the doctor at once, for the poisoning may easily have fatal results.