

OUR HOME CLUB

AUNT RACHEL'S REPLY TO HOME CLUB LETTER

I have read the letter written by "Parson's Wife," of the Home Club Department, and wish to add my testimony to hers. I am a farmer's wife and a descendant of farmers for generations. I am now between 60 and 70 years of age, yet I have never seen the industrious, honest farmer forsaken nor his seed begging bread. If I were to allow myself to take to heart what some people write concerning farmers, I would continuously be stinging to the quick. However, I content myself with the thought that I know all about farm life from experience, which those writing on the subject, at least some of them, know nothing save by happening to see a magazine or a farm house, perhaps, just at a time when the wife of the house appeared at the greatest disadvantage. They go away under the impression that they understand all about the life which the farmer's wife leads.

A farmer's wife, doubtless, has a deal of what might be called "untidy work" to do. Who has not, who does their duty in the home, where their income is not forthcoming? If she be composed of the right metal however, she will do what she can cheerfully, and later, after things are made tidy, take time to read a magazine or newspaper, entertain a friend, or be entertained by one perhaps. I am sure she enjoys herself in every way as satisfactorily as do her city cousins. As for real innate refinement and pure thoughts, the farmers' wives and daughters will compare with your city ladies. They may have less confidence in themselves perhaps, owing to having been more to themselves and being cut off from what is termed fashionable society. The brainy ones, however, are quite content and happy in their station, and if they manage well, find time to enjoy sitting out in the shade under the trees, reading some sewing or reading. Most farm houses in these latter days have either an organ or a piano. They are also very well stocked with books and magazines, notwithstanding the idea which a great many entertain to the contrary. As for myself, I love the country and being a "farmer's wife," still I am grateful to anyone who takes up the cudgels in favor of ill-used "farmers' wives."

THE FARMER'S WIFE

Reading in an agricultural paper the other day I came across the following little skit entitled "The Farmer's Wife," and it so "hit the nail on the head," as I have seen it in general, many cases, that I want to pass it on to the other members of the Club. They say it is an "ill wind that blows no one any good."

"Mr. Dooley says: As for th' farmer's wife, if she wasn't happy, who sh'd be? All she has to attend to was th' care iv th' house, th' cookin' th' chickens, th' childer and th' churn. Surrounded by th' beauties in nature, why sh'd she complain? Iv'ry rustle iv th' breeze in th' air-chard promised her preserves to be put up in the fall. Th' chickens strutting an' cackling in th' farmyard spoke iv eggs to be fried. Th' loving line brought thoughts to her mind iv th' churn. Fr'm her parlor window

she c'd see the golden buckwheat gleamin' in th' sun, remindin' her that th' autumn was approachin' with its stimulin' combats between her griddle an' th' hired man's appetite."

Mr. Dooley has seen the good, no doubt, and recognizes the ill wind that comes to many of our farmers' wives. But I really believe that the conditions are getting better, and that they are bound to be better still. What the other members of the Club? —"The Daughter."

APPRECIATED WHEN ALIVE
I was rather amused at "Aunt Jane's" inferences drawn from my remarks, anent the "Farmer's Wife." I can assure her that I have spent more than my holidays on a farm, and have more than a casual acquaintance therewith. Probably she thought I must be an outsider, as it is considered a breach of etiquette to dilate on the virtues of one's own class; but as I am myself in this register, I will not hide my wife—I thought it would be excusable to show a little appreciation of the clever women in our midst who are so common as to pass almost unnoticed.

After all, it is lack of appreciation that helps to make a woman's life so monotonous, and men, apt as they are to take everything for granted, are the chief sinners in this respect. To look at it from a mercenary standpoint they are curiously short-sighted too. For example, the man who says, "That was a mighty fine dinner" may be quite certain that there will be no falling off in the quality of his tea.

Let a man show his wife that he appreciates the things in which she excels—and there was never a woman yet who did not excel in something—he will be amply repaid for his concession if he does not make her wait for—

"The praises that remorseful mourners carve
On women's graves."—"Sister."

CLEANING OUR SCHOOLS

Some time ago I wrote a letter to the Home Club stating the condition I had found some of our rural schools to be in, and it was only once a year. This, I think, is a shame. If we as mothers of the children that attend the very same schools would allow our homes to be as dirty and neglected as the schools are, I fear we would have the Health Inspector around. He would very kindly intimate to us that we must clean our homes, as the state in which they were being kept was endangering the health of the public.

Now, how does this look? Is it right or even reasonable that the school laws should not be enforced in this matter?

I would like to ask this question: Can we be forced by the law to send our children a certain number of days in each year to a school that is not kept cleaned according to the law? Also a question is in my mind. How can we as the mothers of children see that the law is enforced? Will some members of the Club please answer these questions?—"The Doctor's Wife."

FRIENDSHIP

To have true and loving friends, to be able to serve them and to receive loving service from them, at times, should be the aim of every human life. Trials and sorrows come to us all, but no matter so long as we have true friends. Seems to me that we sometimes forget just what it means to

be a true friend. Just here I am reminded of the little rhyme that says:

It is easy enough to have friends,
When life goes by like a song.
But the friends worth while
Are those with a smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.

It has been said that the duty of a true friend is to make us "do what we can" to bring out the best of life that is in us, and so help us to broaden our views and be more considerate and charitable. Friendship, like charity, should begin at home. In the New Testament we find a very comforting passage, where Christ says: "Ye are not merely servants and followers, but friends." Truly the richest and most beautiful of all our friendships is that with our Saviour. The great difference between our Christian friends and society friends is: Christianity says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Society says, "Find out what he is worth." Let us, all then, strive to be true Christian friends in every sense of the word.—"City Cousin"

The Upward Look

Doubts Are One Form of Sin

We might all live happy, care-free, helpful lives, lives that would be a blessing to those with whom we come in contact, were it not for our doubts. We see the tasks lying all around us that we might undertake, that we should undertake if we really desire to do God's will, but we hesitate, and thus another chance is lost, and, in so doing, ourselves, is lost. Instead of seizing our opportunities and asking God to give us the strength and wisdom that we need, we begin to look at the difficulties, and then we look at them the larger they become. Finally their appearance seems so appalling they lead us to forget that difficulties are nothing to one who believes in God. God is not made of things, but of God's grace. Like the two lions in the path that confronted Christian in Pilgrim's Progress, most of our difficulties have no power to harm us except as we permit them to frighten us.

The greater the difficulties that enter our lives the greater opportunity they present to us to test God's promise and God's love, and to overcome them all if we but have faith. Perhaps we may not surmount them in just the way that we may think is the only way possible. In the end, however, we will find that God has been leading us after all and that through his help we have triumphed.

Success or failure is determined by the manner in which we enter the conflict. If we keep looking to Jesus and occupying our thoughts with His infinite power, wisdom, and love, and with his willingness to help us doubts are unable to gain a footing in our minds. The second reason that we allow our attention to become diverted from our Divine Leader while we look for difficulties the Evil One grasps his opportunity and sends his minions, in the form of doubts, to worry and appal us.

How simple it is! Look to Jesus constantly and direct our petitions to Him, and we obtain the strength and wisdom and guidance that we need. Take our eyes off Him and we are swamped with a sea of doubts. Doubts that prevent us from living at our best are nothing but one form of sin. If we find that they are occupying our minds and leading us to doubt ourselves and God's love and power to help us then it is an infallible indication that our eyes are directed in the wrong direction and that we are not praying as we should.—I. H. N.

Have you forgotten to renew your subscription to Farm and Dairy?

The Sewing Room

Patterns 10 each. Order by number and size. If for children, give age; for adults, give measurements for waist, and waist measure for skirts. Address all orders to the Pattern Department.

CHILD'S COAT 624



The coat that is made with a shawl collar is one of the latest for the little folk and this one is as simple and childish as can be. It can be made with or without a belt, without a t. It is made with the same simple model and is held by two big buttons.

Material required for medium size of 3½ yds. 27, 1½ yds. 44 or 1½ yds. 52 ins. wide with ¾ yd. of silk for collar.

The pattern is cut for children of 1, 2, and 4 years, and will be mailed for 10 cts.

SAILOR SUIT FOR MISSES AND SMALL WOMEN 625



The sailor suit is always a favorite. It is eminently to be desired for children and for school and it is always pretty and always attractive. This one can be made in a number of ways. Suits of this kind are made from various materials. The one illustrated is made in this way.

For the trimming both contrasting material and braid are fashionable. The shield can be made to match or in contrast as preferred.

Material required for medium size (16 years) is 1½ yds. 24 or 27, 6½ yds. 44 or 52 ins. wide, 2½ yds. of wide, 4½ yds. of narrow braid, ¾ yd. 27 ins. wide for the shield.

The pattern is cut for girls of 14, 16 and 18 years, and will be mailed for 10 cts.

FANCY BLOUSE 626

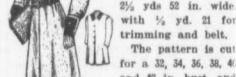


The blouse with the side closing makes a feature of the present season. This one is adapted to all materials of the thinner and lighter sort. But trimming portions and chemise can be made of any material that is best adapted to the one chosen for the blouse.

Material required for medium size is 2½ yds. 21 or 24, 3½ yds. 32, or 1½ yds. 44, wide with ¾ yd. of silk or ¾ yd. of all-over lace.

The pattern is cut for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 in. bust, and will be mailed for 10 cts.

BELTED OR LOOSE COAT 627



Plain loose coats that can be worn with or without belts are much liked and extremely fashionable. It will be found available for the lincens and pongs.

Material required for medium size is 2½ yds. 27, 2½ yds. 44, or 2½ yds. 52 in. wide with ¾ yd. 21 for trimming and belt.

The pattern is cut for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 in. bust, and will be mailed for 10 cts.

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