

The Children's Corner.

Borrowing and Sorrowing.

By Elizabeth R. Burns.

He thought that his own was by far too small
To hold even half, to say nothing of all
He wanted at Christmas; and so it
seems, Ted

Just hung at the foot of his little bed
A bicycle stocking, borrowed one day
From a young man living three doors
away.
To hang it himself the young man had a
notion,
But Christmas eve found him far out on
the ocean.

More than astonished was old Santa
Claus
To find how enormous the stocking was.
"Why, how he has grown in a single
year!
He was almost a baby last time I was
here,
And now he's a man! Well, well!
Every toy
Intended for him must go to some boy."

A bicycling man that went round in a
ring;
A monkey that climbed up and down on a
string;
The funniest set of Brownies; a top;
And books full of pictures. But I
must stop,
I haven't the time to mention each one—
A boy with all those could have lots of
fun.
But Santa replaced them all in his
pack,
And carried them off again on his back.

"It happens," he said, "that the other
day
A young man who lives just three doors
away
Was suddenly summoned across the sea,
And I have his presents all here with
me—
A gold-headed cane, some gloves, and a
box
Of collars and cuffs, these hand-knitted
socks,
And slippers embroidered in gold and
blue,
A fine mustache cup, a silk tie or two,
Some books about science, a shaving
mug,
A good fountain pen, and a railway rug.
I'll fill Teddie's stocking, how pleased
he'll be!
It's better than taking them back with
me."

"Hurrah!" shouted Teddie, "the stock-
ing's full!"
But oh, what a face for a boy to pull,
And on Christmas morning too! And
oh, fie!
It's surely a shame for a boy to cry.

"It's awfully mean to bring things like
these!
Old Santa Claus did it, I know, to
tease.
There isn't one thing that will suit a
boy;
There's nothing that looks a bit like a
toy;
And here's an old letter stuck in the
tree:
"I never have seen such a boy to grow.
And if you keep on at this rate, I fear,
I'll find you a great-grandfather next
year!
Your stocking won't need to be quite so
big—
I'll bring you some gold-bowed specs and
a wig."

To the young man's home, just three
doors away,
Ted carried the stocking that very day,
And made up his mind that next Christ-
mas eve
He'd hang his own stocking up, I be-
lieve;
For he doesn't like things that are miles
too big,
Nor does he want gold-bowed specs and
a wig!

The Doll's Bath.

Gretchen is a very lucky little girl,
for three new dolls were hung on her
little Christmas tree a few weeks
ago. Hans, like the good brother
that he is, finds time to help her to
wash the very nicest one of the three,
while the others stand in the water-
ing-can until their turn comes.

Unfortunately, the lady Alexandra's
clothes are not made to come off,
and so she takes her bath without
undressing. I am afraid she will
look rather dragged and forlorn,
like a hen in a thunderstorm, when
she comes out. But Gretchen will
love her as much as ever, and, after
all, love is worth more than admira-
tion—don't you think so? C. D.

Here are two letters received from
prizewinners in our Christmas com-
petition:

Broadview Farm, Pendennis, Man.,
The Wm. Weld Co.: Dec. 10th, 1903.
I very thankfully received the prize
you sent me.

I had not dared to hope to receive the
prize, and even if I had, would not have
expected to get anything so beautiful.
I have not read any of Miss Yonge's
works, but have heard that she is a
good writer, so I hope to be still
further pleased as well as benefited by
the perusal of the book.



The Doll's Bath.

I am fond of writing stories, and
would like to write for your paper.
Sincerely yours,
BERNICE VIDA COUSINS.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—Thank you very
much for the nice book received last
night. I am much pleased with it.
You say, in the "Farmer's Advocate,"
that no story is original except the one
sent in by Bernice Cousins. This is a
mistake. I read a great deal, and may
have got some of my ideas in that way,
but I did not copy a line of it. I like
to write very much, and I am going to
try in some other competitions. I re-
main,
Yours sincerely,
AMY C. PURDY.

I am glad you were pleased with
your prizes—which were sent from
the "Advocate" office, not from me
—and I feel sure the other prizewin-
ners were equally pleased. I am
sorry your story was not acknowl-
edged as original, Amy, but you did
not mention the fact, and I naturally
supposed that it was copied, as
original stories were not asked for.

More than two months ago Grace
Bennett suggested that we might

form a Children's Club. I shall be
very glad to consider this question,
now that the holiday season is over
and we have room to discuss the
subject. What kind of a club would
you like to start? Can anybody
make a suggestion as to rules and
regulations? Any letters will reach
me if addressed to the "Advocate"
office, and I shall be glad of helpful
suggestions from children large and
small.
COUSIN DOROTHY.

The poem at head of this depart-
ment was sent in for our recent
competition by Dena McLeod, aged 15.

Where there are school children in
the family, good, rich soup should
often be made for supper.

Kind Appreciation.

Mrs. J. R. S., of Brule, N. S., writes,
acknowledging prize received in guessing
competition. She adds: "We all prize the
good 'Advocate,' and wish it great
success. I consider it good mission
work to introduce it into homes, as the
Sunday reading alone is so good and
helpful. The Christmas number is
grand, we are enjoying it so much."

We are very sorry that we had to
leave out "The Children's Corner"
in our last issue. It contained the
Christmas story, sent in by Janet
Waterman, "Li'le Pete's last Xmas,"
Our Home Dept. was shortened
greatly to make room for advertise-
ments which came in at the last
moment.—[Editor Home Dept.]

With the Flowers.

House Plants in Winter.

To begin with, it may be stated,
as a general rule, that unless condi-
tions are especially favorable, it is
better to keep only a few plants dur-
ing the winter. A few well-cared
for, healthy and vigorous, are likely
to give a great deal more pleasure,
and be much less troublesome, than
a host of weak, straggling ones.

Plants should never
be crowded in a win-
dow. Practically,
all of them need (as
much light—and most
of them as much sun-
shine—as they can
possibly get, and how
can they be supplied
with these if pressed
upon on all sides by
surrounding foliage?
A very good plan is
to have window-
shelves on strong
brackets, one at the
sill, one about two
feet further up, and
one above that again.
Of course, the blind
has to be run up to
the top of the win-
dow, but who minds
that when its place
is taken by a living
blind of green, inter-
sprinkled with dainty
blossoms? At any
rate, light and sun-
shine are good for
all the occupants of
the house, as well as
for the plants. It
is impossible to have
too much of either.
When shelves
such as these are

used, the tenderest plants may
be placed on the upper shelf, where,
of course, as heat rises, the temper-
ature will suit them better, but it
must be remembered that since
evaporation is also greater up there,
these plants will require water much
more frequently than those on the
lower shelves.

Having disposed of our plants,
then, the great problem will be to
keep them as nearly as possible at
the same temperature. Cold air
should not blow in upon them from
about loose sashes. Where there are
no storm-windows, and it is not
necessary to open the window for
purposes of ventilation, it is a good
plan to paste narrow strips of paper
or felt all over the cracks. The
paper may be painted, with some
tube paint and linseed oil, the exact
shade of the woodwork, and will
scarcely be noticeable. At night the
blind should be drawn down next to
the glass, and several thicknesses of
newspapers added. When the cold
is intense, and the house is not of the
warmest, plants should be removed
to a table as near the stove as pos-

sible, and covered with an inverted
box which has been well papered in-
side with tar paper, or several plies
of newspaper. . . . If plants should
happen to get frozen, they should be
removed into a cool, darkened room,
or frost-proof cellar, and kept there
for a few days. Above all things
they should not be permitted to
thaw out quickly. Sprinkling the
leaves with cold water is often bene-
ficial at such a time.

During the winter it will be neces-
sary to apply fertilizers occasionally.
Liquid manure is good for nearly all
plants, and, if not too strong, is not
likely to give much trouble on ac-
count of its odor. But if it be ob-
jected to, some good commercial fer-
tilizer, which may be obtained from
any seedsman, should be used. Be-
gonias, it should be remembered,
have an especial dislike to fertilizers
of any description.

In watering, the nature of the
plant should be studied. It stands
to reason that bog-plants, such as
the calla, umbrella plant, and some
species of ferns, require a great deal
of water, while those species whose
nature it is to grow in rather arid
districts—the cacti, for example—need
comparatively little. As a general
rule, all of the common varieties,
with the exception of those men-
tioned above, and a few of their
allies, should be watered only when
the soil becomes dry. Then they
should receive a thorough soaking
with warm water. Many people find
that very good results come from
immersing plants in warm suds on
wash day, the soapy water helping
to keep the plants free from insect
pests, as well as being a source of
food for the roots. It should not
be forgotten that the leaves should
never be allowed to become covered
with dust. Dust clogs the stomata,
or little mouths, through which the
plant breathes and obtains a part of
its sustenance; hence, the leaves
should be washed very often; or, still
better, sprayed with a rubber
sprinkler. Once a day is not too
often for this operation.

It is, perhaps, scarcely necessary to
mention that sun-loving plants should
be given the sunniest situations. Of
the common varieties, geraniums,
roses, cacti, abutilon and heliotrope
should be given the south windows;
while asparagus, begonias, ferns,
pelargoniums, velvet plants and
leopard plants may be relegated to
the north and east.

The care of house-plants does not
take up so very much time, but
never-ceasing vigilance is the price of
the highest success with them.

FLORA FERNLEAF.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, Lon-
don, Ont.

The world is so full of a number of
things!
I am sure we should all be as happy as
kings.