

The Home

Conducted by MARY FORD

"THE WOMEN AT EASE"

O God! to think of the women,
The women who are at ease,
Whose food falls down like manna,
Who do just what they please!

Whose pantry is never empty,
Whose clothes are always new,
To think of those sick with hunger,
To think of the pampered few!

And these are the womanly women
Whose axioms the grand-dames quote,
For they (so the Cabinets tell us)
Deny their wish for the vote.

Yet this dainty, womanly woman,
Her hands, alas! are red;
The bleeding heron's love-plume
Waves o'er her lovely head.

She cries, "Tally-ho," with the loudest
Over the heath and broom,
And follows, this womanly woman,
The agonized stag to his doom.

Her sweated sister's slavery
To meet her rent's arrears,
Leaves her unmoved; yet her blouses
Are sewn with that sister's tears.

Come out from your magic circle,
O women who are at ease!
Turn from your own loved children
And deign a glance on these.

Where dirt, disease, and hunger,
Wait for the babies' breath,
And the only hope of rescue
Is hid in the hand of Death.

Stretch out your hands to help us
And make our burden light;
Clasp with your weary sisters,
Now struggling for the right!

We do not want your money,
We ask the better part;
As you are womanly women,
We pray you for your heart!
—Women's Franchise.

DUFFERIN HOME ECONOMICS SOCIETY

The Dufferin Home Economics Society have held a splendid series of meetings throughout the past year, both the membership and the interest increasing with every meeting. In all ten meetings have been held, and on each of these previous occasions the members have had the pleasure of listening to interesting, valuable and practical papers read, most of them read by the members themselves. Although it seems very difficult to secure outside talent, we were fortunate in obtaining our local dentist and nurse, also Dr. Mary Ellen Davidson, of Neepawa, to address us.

The subjects of meetings are in order as follows: "System in Housekeeping," "Care of Children's Teeth," "Solving the Servant Question," "Bread Making," "Typhoid Fever Patients," "Ridding our Homes of Flies," "Discussion on the Dower Law," "Care of Infants and Small Children," "Germ and Germ Infections," "Pure Food Laws Relating to Health."

We have also had several demonstration classes on candy, cake, salads, and paper bag cookery. These are more of an unfinished demonstration, the article made at home and then discussed at the meeting from various standpoints.

Three social afternoons were held and proved a great success. The committee in their endeavor to link a little of the social side of life with the practical, have, I believe, solved the question of individual interest. Most ladies find it more congenial discussing the household problems over a good cup of tea. More suggestions are received on these occasions than at the formal business meetings.

The membership at present stands at sixty-three. The society is steadily growing, but we hope by next year to double the membership.

The managing board meets every three months and arranges the program for the following three months. Of course, this idea represents a great deal of hard thinking and careful planning, but we find it an excellent method.

The following are the newly appointed officers for 1912:

President, Mrs. Fenders.
Vice-President, Mrs. Birnie.
Secretary-Treasurer, Miss S. Campbell (re-elected).
Directors, Mrs. Macoun (re-elected), Mrs. Durant, Mrs. Campbell (re-elected), Mrs. Fournier (re-elected), Mrs. Aiken (re-elected), Mrs. McPherson.
S. E. CAMPBELL,
Secretary.

Carman, Man.

IMPROVE HELL'S GATE

Tertullian's description of woman as the "Gate of Hell" has called forth some very strong comments, and not without reason. "Woman," thunders Tertullian, "Woman, you ought to go about clad in mourning and in rags, your eyes filled with tears of remorse to make us forget that you have been mankind's destruction. Woman, you are the gate of hell." Miss Maty Johnson humorously comments on this rather lurid statement. "Tertullian's idea of the gates of hell," she says, "must be somewhat low and narrow, and very much in the shade, but even so fixed an institution as hell's gate, sometimes shows a tendency to change. We have all our ideas of how the new gates should be built, its general appearance, beauty and utility. In speaking rather contemptuously the other day of some heavy work that women were doing, a man said, 'Oh, that is nothing. It does them good to be in the open air.' Well, I think that it does after all when you come to think of it, for enormously the greater portion of her existence, hell gate has been an open air structure. From the day the Proto Plasmic foundation was laid, far in the depth of the streaming primordial ocean on and up through littoral, through fen, through forest, through plain and field. Hell's gate grew in storm and sunshine, kissed by the zephyr, beaten against by the tempest, strong with the strength, and large with the largeness of out of doors. We are apt to forget how old hell's gate is, and that it has been only for an aeon or two that the sky has been shut out from her. As the architect of the new gate of hell, my blue print calls for the open air again for the gate of hell, for the sun and the moon and the stars and all the healthful activities of the universe, including election days and legislative assemblies. As a second specification for the new gate of hell, I would place upon her head, I would bind her brows with a crown of mind, I would educate hell's gate.

The intuitive power of hell's gate is very great, when the vine of her mind is raised, trained upon the trellis of knowledge, watered, warmed, enriched, tended, kept in the sunshine of companionship, of broad thinking of great social and human ideals, then indeed will we build hell gate with nobility and power.

For the gate of hell is the mother of humanity, humanity is the child of the gate of hell; it strangely chose a name for its mother, and it strangely insists that it wants no better mother, no stronger, fairer, loftier type of gate. Poor perverse notional child. Woman is the mother of humanity, all the men and all the women that ever were or are or will be, all the saints and sages, all the downtrodden and oppressed, all the rich, all the poor, all the criminals, all the maimed, the queen on her throne, the woman at the cotton loom, the Sister of Charity, the Red Cross nurse, the girl of the streets, the derelict of the prison, all, all, are bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh, borne nine months within her body, nursed at her breast, cradled within her arms, all, all, are our children, and we are as universal as nature. Care for our own? Then must we care for the whole wide earth, kindly to our neighbors? When did we last see the neighbor in the sweat shop, the neighbor in the night court. Serve the world by bringing forth children, yes, but what kind of children and to what end? Keep the home, the world in our home. The child that clings to your skirts, what right have you to betray him and leave him when he is grown. The woman's soul leads us upward and onward, but we are not heaven gate either, we are human beings, the child and the mother

of human beings. What is a human being? It is something that moves through a wondrous drama towards a tremendous destiny, it is something that grows from within.

The New Gate must be built without hands, and the architect lodges within. That architect can do what she will. There is no limit. All limits are fanciful. And now the thing of all others to be desired is that she will Will it."

MRS. PANKHURST IN WINNIPEG

Mrs. Pankhurst was in Winnipeg on the 16th of December, and it is a very real regret to me that so many of my readers could not hear this great woman tell of the wrongs of their sisters in England.

Mrs. Annie Porritt has written a very fine pamphlet on the causes of the revolt of the women of England. Every woman interested in votes for women should obtain a copy. It is published by the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, Hartford, Conn., and costs 10 cents.

If you are not already a believer in votes for women you will be after reading this little work. The Woman's Journal, published by the National American Women's Suffrage Association, is a paper I would gladly see supported by our women readers. Subscription is one dollar per year. Suffrage means a great deal to the women in England, and one could hardly realize just how much it means unless you attended one of these meetings. At a recent demonstration in the Albert Hall, in which there were rows and rows of working women, a call was made to raise a large sum of money to help the cause. The baskets were passed and when their contents came to be counted, it was found that among the notes and coins were bits of jewelry of all kinds, including a large number of wedding rings. There can scarcely be any doubt that these rings came from the working women. With most of them it is their one bit of finery and beauty in their otherwise hard and barren lives. Having nothing else to contribute to the promotion of the cause, which they have come to see as their one way out, they gave their wedding rings. Such splendid self-sacrifice, I wonder if we have such women in the West. Women who would sacrifice themselves that their sisters may be assisted to live that higher, purer, freer life that is every woman's ambition, so that in the future no man shall ever say again, "Woman, you are the Gate of Hell."

NOT ALWAYS ROCKING

Woman is at last beginning to believe that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." She sees, too, that it's unwise to keep the cradle always rocking. Better, she thinks, to rock less and to more purpose. In other words, better bear five superior children than twelve indifferent ones. As possible mothers of a noble race, women are waking to realize their ministry. Physically weaker and mentally narrower than their high office demands, they are aspiring to economic freedom and political equality that they may fit themselves by fuller

development to be the mothers of mankind.—M. F. Langton, Purity Education. Purity Education is published by the "Purity League," Toronto. Subscription, \$1.00 per year. Every mother should subscribe to this little magazine.

A SAD CASE

Dear Friend:—Your case is indeed a sad one. A drunken husband and son following in his father's footsteps. A similar case was reported a little time ago, and in writing the story a new line of thought was presented. My friend said for months and months I have prayed, "Oh God, save my son from destruction, sin and death;" but how could God hear that prayer any more than the sun could hear or understand the prayer of a man with his eyes shut. "Oh sun, stop shedding rays of darkness and send me one ray of light," when all the white the sun was shedding rays of light, and the trouble lay not in the sun, but in the man who would not open his eyes? Finally it was brought home to me that if we are sons of God and one with God we must not believe in the outward manifestation of evil but, "must give thanks instead." "Oh God," she prayed, "I thank Thee that the husband and son that Thou gavest me are Thy children, spiritual, perfect, pure and holy with no real desire to sin, and with love for Thee only whose likeness and image they are." And then mentally to her son, "Awake, thou that sleepest and Christ will give thee light. Wake up! realize your true nature, and let your work glorify your Father which is in heaven." As the drinking continued it was hard to have faith, but after weeks of earnest prayer, both husband and son came to their own and they are now a united and happy family. Try this, dear friend, and write again if I can help you in any way.

MARY FORD.

HOME ECONOMICS SOCIETY, MANITOU

Dear Miss Ford:—Received your papers, many thanks. Our H.E.S. held their first birthday party, November 30, in the Orange Hall. There were about 60 ladies present. Election of officers followed the reading of the report for the year.

The officers are, president, Mrs. C. H. Brown; vice-president, Mrs. C. McNamara; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Ronem.

We have 104 members and hold meetings in the Normal School the third Saturday of the month. Mrs. McCormick, of La Riviere, H.C.S., was our guest on this occasion. A social time was passed and much enjoyed by all. At the close the ladies were asked to take a sympathetic interest in the "Flannelette Show" at Mrs. Dales' on December 6, in aid of the Margaret Scott Nursing Home and the Children's Aid, of Winnipeg.

Meeting was brought to a close by all singing "God Save the King."

Yours in the work,

F. A. M. CHARLES.

Manitou, Man.

ANOTHER FRIEND

Dear Mary Ford:—I am an ardent reader of The Grain Growers' Guide, and

WHAT DOES "VOTES FOR WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?

Men say women do not want or would not use the vote if it was given to them, others say that it is only a few discontented women who are agitating for the privilege of votes for women, and that it is not desired by the majority.

It would be of great interest to know just how many readers of the "Home Page" would feel sufficiently interested in this great movement for the freedom of women from more than political bondage to write in and record their vote for or against this great question. It is not to educate the men on the votes for women so much as to make the women, whether in the city or town, realize the necessity of the woman being free to fulfill her destiny, that gives the hardest work to the leaders. Whether you are a pampered wife, or an ill-used wife, or a deserted wife, your will and desire will be needed in this struggle. If you do not fill in this coupon you will be placed in the ranks of those who do not want the vote. This would scarcely be fair, because while many women would not bother to fight for the rights of women, they would, I feel sure, use the power once they were educated to the necessity of women having a vote in all matters relating to the women and children. Clip this out, write your name and address and send it to "Votes for Women," Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

An Opportunity for The Grain Growers' Guide Readers to Give a Vote For or Against the Franchise

I am in favor of votes for women on equal terms with men.

Name.....Name not for publication
(State whether Mrs. or Miss)

Post Office.....

Province.....