

PAGE OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

HOME ECONOMICS

MRS. ELIZABETH KENT, MacDONALD COLLEGE.

TEA TABLES.



"Somewhere, not too far from the open fire, is the cozy tea table. It is the heart of the home, the place where the problems of the housekeeper today, who is expected to be ready to serve tea any afternoon in the week, including Sunday, and who enjoys doing it when she has the equipment.

The tea-wagon, with its two or three stories, its easy running casters, and its adaptable disposition, is the ideal arrangement for either mistress or mistress and maid. But not every one can have a tea-wagon. Many must make shift with a table never intended for afternoon tea service. In that case, it is wiser to use a less elegant table than one might like, but of the right size and height. The ordinary parlor table, mahogany or walnut, is quite four inches too high, for the ordinary woman to sit before it to pour tea with comfort or grace. Better use an old table, cut off its legs to the comfortable height, and conceal its deficiencies with fine linen, than sit awkwardly before a new table, however beautiful it may be.

Besides, when tables are in question, a fine white cloth is the prettiest background yet devised. Fashion has tried hard to introduce plain wood and colored coverings of many sorts, but the linen holds its own, still looking richer, clearer, and more truly homelike than anything else.

The tea-table should be just large enough to hold the large tray which bears the complete tea service, but may well have a lower shelf, where extra cups may be placed conveniently. If one is lucky enough to be on the point of purchasing a new tea-table, just for the purpose, one may well hesitate between the tea-wagon and the attractive wicker table, for the latter is considerably cheaper, and really serves very well.

RHUBARB.



There is not much food value in rhubarb. It takes four cups of one-inch pieces of fresh rhubarb to supply a hundred calories, half a cup of stewed. Children often like the very young tender shoots of rhubarb and should be allowed to eat them, for they contain valuable salts and acid. Our garden rhubarb is not, of course, the same as the medicine, which is the root of a different species grown in China and other parts of the East. But it has, to a much less degree, similar laxative and astrigent qualities.

It is also one of the earliest available fresh fruits in the spring and has a tonic value for that reason alone. Properly bleached, of one of the rich red varieties, and well cooked, rhubarb is a real delicacy. The tender young stalks need not be skinned and most people discard more of the red base of the stalks than is desirable. It keeps its color better than the stalks itself and adds a good flavor.

To prepare rhubarb for the table or canning, wash the stalks and tear off the thin skin from the base. Cut the rhubarb into inch lengths and stew gently in boiling water to cover, until tender but not soft. Add sugar to taste, boil three minutes and remove from fire. For canning pack to overflowing in sterilized jars and seal. For rhubarb marmalade, which is cheaper than plain orange, and better, some people think, take eight oranges and the pounds of rhubarb. Prepare oranges as usual for marmalade and boil half an hour with the rhubarb washed and cut in half inch pieces; add four pounds of sugar and cook slowly for two hours. Turn into clean glasses and cover with paraffin.

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Cynthia Grey's Mail-Box

O heart, look down and up,
Serene, secure,
Warm as the crocus cup,
Like snowdrops, pure,
—Tennyson.

Attention, Kiddie Cowboy!

Dear Miss Grey—Here I am again I hope I won't be too much trouble this time. I saw where Kiddie Cowboy had some clothes of her sister's to give away. I wrote some time ago asking for some, so may I please have them? I would be so pleased if you could send some this time. My address is with Miss Grey, so if she cares to send them to me I will pay the postage for the same. STREAK OF KINDNESS.

P. S.—Inclosed please find mite for the S. C. H.

Ans.—Thank you for mite. Possibly Kiddie Cowboy will see your request, and send some of the clothes.

A Suggestion.

Dear Miss Grey—I have just thought of a scheme in which I probably can swell the Cynthia Grey Cot Fund a little. I appreciate the help which July and Chestnut gave me for my baby brother, also Happy Mother's offer and so I want to help too. I have a pretty design of a crocheted boudoir cap. To make it and kind of ribbon cap. It is 1 1/2 inches in width and if made of mercerized crocheted cotton, one ball, or if made of silk or any of those threads two balls. One can make them in any two colors that harmonize. I am willing to make these caps for any of the Boxites who will send me the material and turn 25 cents in to Miss Grey towards the hospital fund. I felt that I could scarcely make them for any less. Do you think I could help any in this way. Miss Grey pardon my terrible writing, but I am writing this with my baby brother on my lap and he sure is doing some kicking. Yours with best wishes.

Ans.—I think your scheme would prove successful, Fuzz Wuzz. There is no harm in trying it, is there? Many thanks for hospital mite.

Attention, Happy Mother.

Dear Miss Grey—I see where Happy Mother would like some roots or slips of a vine for a porch. It is the admiration of the neighborhood. I would be willing to send her slips, and a root or two. It takes root very quickly and spreads, and makes nice shade. It is an English vine; I don't know the name. It has little red berries on it in the autumn, and little purple flowers on it in summer. It is quite pretty. Also I could let her have some little plants that creep in and out of the fence. You have to tack it up and give it a start. It's like the morning glories, but has a small white flower in little bunches, but not so strong-looking as the English vine.

Dear Miss Grey, this lady has some quilt patches. I would like to get some. I wonder how much she wants for them? Could I have her address, please? I am sending a mite for the Children's Hospital. I am very fond of little children. I love my own to climb on my lap and put their dear little arms around my neck. We can make this life a little heaven to go to heaven in. I like those little verses you have at the top of your column. I have never seen you personally, but I esteem you very highly. I know you have lots of good common sense and wisdom. I'd like to say for the benefit of young girls, when choosing books to read, I think Rosa N. Cary's books are grand, especially "Not Like Other Girls," "No Friend Like a Sister," also Mead's books. "A

Gay Charmer" and "Daddy's Girl"; also Charles M. Sheldon's books are grand for older people, "In His Steps" and "Of One Blood"; Robert Harding's "Seven Days." But, above all, dear Miss Grey, my Bible is the sweetest book to me, the most helpful and inspiring.

Ans.—Am mailing you address. Many thanks for hospital mite.

Wants Clothes.

Dear Miss Grey—It is a long while since I have written to the Mail-Box. I have been a constant reader of your page, and I enjoy reading the letters very much. Would Kiddie Cowboy mind sending me those clothes of her sister's, and I will pay for postage. Our family has increased since I wrote you before. There are eight in our family now. Well, I think I had better beat it, or you won't let me come again. Every success to the Mail-Box. I will sign as before.

HANDY MOTHER.

Ans.—There have been a great number of requests for these clothes, so Kiddie Cowboy will have to decide for herself how to fill them.

Wants Addresses.

Cynthia Grey's Mail-Box. Dear Miss Grey—I have been a very interested reader of your Mail-Box for a couple of years, and this is my first letter. Do you know the Mail-Box folks, I had a most delightful walk in the woods today, and I found several wild flowers. I had no idea they were in bloom this early.

Miss Grey, for some questions: 1. Would you kindly send me "Beans, Beans," address, also Gertrude's? 2. What do you think of my writing?

Ans.—I am enclosing a mite for S. C. H. Yours sincerely PICKY.

Ans.—I am mailing you Gertrude's address, but there is no Boxite by the name of Beans. 2. You write very good hand. Thanks for hospital mite.

A Mite.

Dear Miss Grey—Having seen in yesterday's Advertiser a letter from Motherless Miss, with a request for words of song her mother used to sing, thought perhaps this song I am inclosing might be the one desired. It is over 50 years ago since as a child I used to myself sing it, or as I am just copying them from memory I am not sure, but believe I have them correct. Many times I have intended writing to add my little bit towards Sick Children's Hospital Fund which I have for some time watched with interest, but have as many times neglected to do so.

I now take this opportunity of inclosing shin plaster towards the fund. From MONA'S MOTHER.

Ans.—Many thanks for inclosures.

Wants Songs.

Dear Miss Grey—I have been a silent reader of your page for a long time and have had such a lot of good information from the writers. There are several pieces of music I would like the words of if there are any of the readers that could send them or let me know where I could get them, one is "I Want a Real Coon," another "Coon, Coon, Coon, I Wish My Color Would Fade" and also "Lyndy."

Hoping to hear from your corner, I remain BRUCE CO LASS.

Ans.—Can anyone supply these songs?

Wants Seeds.

Dear Miss Grey—Have just noticed in today's paper June Bride has sent to the Mail-Box some perennial pea seed.

Would you please send me some, and also any flower seeds you have on hand except poppies. I have tried the pea seeds, but they failed to grow, and since then have heard they did not grow from seed; would like to try them again. Also could I have the stocking foot pattern? Have taken The Advertiser a good many years; do not know how we could get along without it. Inclosed find dime for S. C. H. and stamp for return postage. A NEW ONE.

Ans.—Am mailing you seeds. Many thanks for dime.

Wants Slips.

Dear Miss Grey—I enjoy reading the letters in the Mail-Box, and often get information from them. I see where June Bride has sent in some perennial pea seeds. Would you please send me some, also some poppy, aster or any other kind of seeds? I am sending you mite. Thanking you in advance. TURQUOISE.

Ans.—Am mailing seeds. Thanks for hospital mite. Fuzz Wuzz says she has practically stripped her plants, but maybe someone else can give you some slips.

Attention, Pearl!

Dear Miss Grey—Just a line this time, as I did not intend writing again so soon, but happened to see a letter in the Mail-Box, I think it was from Pearl, saying she had some everlasting flower seeds she would let anyone have. Now as I expect the money for them, goes to S. C. H. I'll inclose my mite again. Hoping Pearl will see this and send them in, I surely would be grateful for them, also will she kindly tell how best to grow them and care etc. Now, Miss Grey, I have a pair of white canvas running shoes practically as good as new, and if anyone would care for them I would be glad to send same, in size four. I have had trouble with my feet (arch trouble) and of course low heels are not the best for me. Am sending a stamped envelope. Will close for now.

HAPPY MOTHER.

Ans.—Possibly Pearl will see your letter and send you seeds. Thanks for mites. I think you put the wrong stamps on the envelopes, didn't you?

Dear Miss Grey—I have been a silent reader of your page till now. Am sending dime for S. C. H.

1. Am I a good writer? 2. I have red hair and light brown eyes, do you think I should wear mauve? Some people say I should, some say I should not.

I saw in your column where Pearl would like to correspond with any girl about 15 or 16. I am 15.

I will sign my pen name.

SILVER LEAF.

Ans.—1. Yes. 2. I imagine you could wear mauve.

Dear Miss Grey—Here I come again to make some trouble. I haven't written for a long time, but decided to drop in again for a chat. I enjoy the discussion on books very much, so will mention a few of my favorite authors. I like G. A. Henty's books very much even if they are boys' books, because they are always more adventurous than girls' books. I also like the Elsie books, books by Meade and many others.

Miss Grey is the piece entitled "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight" in the Mail-Box? If so please send it to me. A sachet bag if there are any left. Please find inclosed mite for S. C. H. Well I think I had better skip off. I will be "dismissed for life."

ROSELEE.

Ans.—The piece you ask for is not in the Mail-Box, but I am sending a dime for it. Thank you for hospital mite.

Dear Miss Grey—It has been a long while since I have written to the Mail-Box, but I have so many things noticed where I could be of some help to some one, but have just let the chance pass by. But when I saw this morning where Motherless Miss wanted these songs, I just felt as if I wanted to be the first to send them on. Now Motherless Miss will please copy them for herself. Please return same to me. I should like to keep them. Now Miss Grey I wonder if some of those asking for these little sachet bags have not got the old pattern growing in their gardens known as sweet Mary, if so if they would take the leaves of same and make some sachet bags for themselves I feel sure they would be as pleased with them as the ones they are always asking you for. A great many years ago I sent one to a sick friend and she thought it so sweet that the Christmas following she made all her or a good part of her Christmas presents from same. I should like to live near Motherless Miss for I think she surely has been a brave good girl. Miss Grey find a mite inclosed for S. C. H. with very best wishes from ever, A FRIEND OF MAIL-BOX.

Ans.—The recitations had been sent in so I am returning them, Thank you for mite.

Love Your Enemy.

Dear Miss Grey—In looking through the Mail-Box I see where Matilda Jane says: "Hope there will not be many people foolish enough to sign a petition for Norman Garfield." I am also the gentleman who wrote the letter from Westminster Hospital, ask themselves the question, "What would Jesus do?" He said: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do," when those wicked men crucified him, and we are told to follow in his steps.

Norman Garfield is his mother's son, and every mother and father, I think, would be willing to sign a petition to give him another chance, and it is for such as him Christ died and rose again. I can never pray the prayer, "Forgive us our sins," if we do not forgive those who trespass against us?

I do not think Matilda Jane can be a mother, or she would not think so. Hoping I am not troubling you too much to print this.

LOVE YOUR ENEMY.

Apple Blossom.

Dear Miss Grey—Inclosed find mite for S. C. H. I would like Mona of Arizona's sleeper pattern, and some of Aunt Nannie's dark red cosmos seed. Think many of the writers' letters interesting, particularly March Wind, Rose of Sharon and those who are interested in beautifying the home, and take on growing flowers. I could spend hours reading the latter. Believe it was Mona of Arizona who suggested that each person who got the sleeper pattern cut others off for Mail-Box. I will try to comply with her suggestion.

APPLE BLOSSOM.

Ans.—Am mailing pattern, but there are no cosmos left. Thanks for hospital mite.

Attention, Happy Mother!

Dear Miss Grey—As I have several roots of Madeira vine which make a nice porch vine, if Happy Mother will write me I will mail her one direct. Am sure she will like it as it is a rapid grower, with a very waxy leaf and a bright pleasing green and withstanding quite a frost, so lasts late into the fall, but the roots have to be dug up and kept in the cellar in the winter. If H. M. pays postage I will be satisfied, but if she wants to pay anything then she must send it to you for the hospital fund.

LOVER OF FLOWERS.

Matilda Jane—Many thanks for sending recitations.

Dear Miss Grey—I received the crocheted patterns and I am returning, if any more sachet bags are sent in will you please put my name down for one?

Would you please send me a little romper pattern for a little boy two years old, if you have any? Please mail me the pattern that Pat sent in. Well I must close. Inclosed find my mite. SNOWBALL.

Ans.—Have put your name down for a sachet. The patterns you ask for are not in the Mail-Box at present. Thanks for hospital mite.

Chickens.

Dear Miss Grey—Having noticed in yesterday's paper where my name and address was wanted, I am sending it immediately. I think I am more interested in chickens than books, and I also think the former is a more profitable educational. I am buying 300 "chicks" tomorrow, and have one incubator set, having lived in the city all my life, I surely have a lot to learn in my new undertaking. I just have five hens now and I get from three to five eggs every day, which I think is very encouraging to proceed with the business.

I have noticed different papers where Boxites offer quilt patches. I would love to get some as we intend living alone soon and I haven't nearly enough quilts.

Inclosed find another "teeny" mite for S. C. H. K. K. KATY.

Ans.—Thanks for hospital mite, also for offer.

Cheer Up.

Dear Cynthia—I have just come to make you a call, as I am busy and cannot stay long. I read your letters in the paper and I think it is just lovely to be able to have people write in the paper to one another. Cheer up, Seven paper to one another. Every cloud has a silver lining, for the time it's the darkest the bright side is the nearest. Don't give up hope, dear, for the good Lord won't leave you alone. I am seven years married, but I am very happy. I have no children. Isn't this lovely weather. My, I do love the spring and the good summer time. We live on a farm and have a car, so you see I can enjoy all the fresh air. Well, I must close or you will kick me out. Hoping I see this in print. Here's a dime for the poor little sick children. I sign myself,

A YOUNG MAN'S HAPPY WIFE.

Ans.—Thanks for hospital dime.

Sunny Jim's Riddles.

Dear Miss Grey—Here is the answer to Sunny Jim's riddles: 1. Why is an egg like a colt? Ans.—You have to break an egg and you have to break a colt before you can use them. 2. What is the first thing a boy does when he falls into the water? Ans.—Get wet. I can't get the others. I would like to get the pattern for a spider web yoke. 1. What day did September 8, 1905, fall on? 2. Would you please send me a list of Thist's and Fuzz Wuzz's addresses? Will send a dime for C. H. F. next time.

PRAIRIE ROSE.

Ans.—1. Friday. Am mailing addresses. Can anyone supply this yoke?

Wartime.

Dear Miss Grey—I saw in Thursday's paper (April 7) where Aunt Nannie sent in cosmos seeds. Would you send me a package? I sent once before to the Mail-Box for some, but they were all gone. I would like one or two of the crocheted patterns which were sent in with the seeds. Was very much interested in Elsie's letter, especially his advice on prohibition. Now, girls, that is a real man, the kind we need in this fair Dominion of ours today. Let us all help with our votes to keep liquor out of Ontario. Send me Mystery's address—was that the Boxite who was asking for funds for A. N.? Where is Margaret Lindley? Was interested in her letters. Success to the Mail-Box. Am sending a dime for S. C. H., also self-addressed envelope.

WARTIME.

Ans.—There are no cosmos left, but am mailing you morning glory seeds, also patterns and Mystery's addresses. Many thanks for hospital mite.

Ura Kidd's Pal.

Hello, Boxites, I just have to write, because I saw in today's paper where Weeping Willow wrote a terrible letter about my dear friend, Ura Kidd's Pal. It was very cruel to her. She said that she was dreaming when she was talking of the Franklin car and all her luxuries. Now, Weeping Willow, she was not dreaming, I think, though, the person who told you who she was, I have had a dream instead of U. K. P. Many a ride I have had in that very Franklin car myself. Ura Kidd's Pal and I went to college together.

I feel so sorry for Seven Years' Sadness. Say, the way I'd fix hubby is: Whenever he is in some lane, say to a movie, I'd nicely get a guy and plant myself right in front of his seat, or as close to it as I can. I'd tell hubby in three nights. Say, these folks that are asking questions all the time on the length of questions and putting up their hair can surely see how other girls are wearing them, and you know what's stylish. As ever, PEGGIE MC.

Dear Miss Grey—I have never written to your page before. But I enjoy reading the letters very much. I am 13 years of age. Please find inclosed mite for S. C. H.

Well, I guess I won't stay too long the first time. Am mailing sincerely yours.

Ans.—Am mailing pattern. Thanks for hospital mite.

Dear Miss Grey—Some time back I wrote and sent small gift to your fund for the sick children, and was pleased with the stocking-foot pattern you so promptly sent. I know you will be sorry to hear my little baby girl died last month, just two months old, of pneumonia. I have only one girl, England eighteen months, and often feel very lonely, but I always enjoy reading all the letters and answers. Miss Grey, I feel ashamed to ask, but do you think any of the readers who have children would have any rompers for my little boy of nearly two years, as my husband is at present out of work? I hate to ask, but the doctor's and under-taker's bills have swallowed up so much money. Am sending 10 cents from the baby's death, and the fund for my little boy's rompers?

ANOTHER SUSSEX GIRL.

Ans.—We are all sorry to hear of your baby's death, and the fund for my little boy's rompers?

Dear Miss Grey—Am sending some flower seeds; they are all my own seed so I know they are good. Hope you will be pleased with them. They are for the Boxite of the Mail-Box for sale for the children's hospital. I have some tall lettuce seed. If you would like some let me know through the Mail-Box. Will sign myself, THE BIG FOUR.

Ans.—Thank you for seeds.

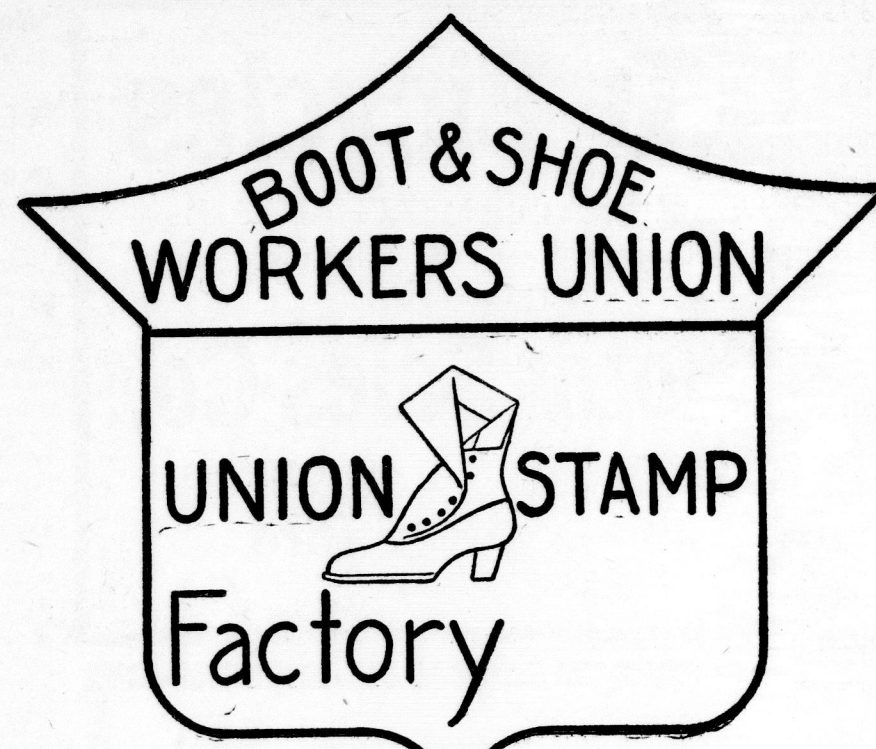
Wants Patches.

Dear Miss Grey—I am sending an overall pattern suitable for boys from 4 to 8 years of age, to be used to help the hospital fund, if anyone cares to send it for it. If you need any more patterns let me know and I will send you some.

Now, Miss Grey, I wonder if any of the Mail-Box readers have a light colored print patches to spare. I would like to get some to help finish a top for a little quilt for my little girl, age one year. I started this quilt top quite a while ago, but haven't got it done, but would like to finish it if I can get any more patches. I am sending you my address, if any one has patches for me. CLEOPATRA.

Ans.—Thank you for pattern. Any one wishing to send patches may have Cleopatra's address.

Busy Worker.—Your letter appeared in the Mail-Box on April 20. Thanks for dime.



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