

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

The New Year stretches out before us—
A great, wide, untravelled road
inviting our eager feet.

"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was
made;
Our times are in His hand
Who saith, 'A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God; see
all, nor be afraid!'"

"Grow old along with me, the best
is yet to be." Those who look around
and see upon all sides oppression and
injustice, ignorance and crime, here a
surfeit of luxuries; there a sordid strug-
gle for a bare existence, are perhaps
troubled to think how far we are from
that best, but who would want to live
in the millennium?

I am thankful that we are living in
the fighting days when there are so
many things wanting to be done that
we have no time to sit down and feel
sorry for ourselves; when humanity is
seething and boiling and stirring with a
thousand conflicting interests which in
the end will work themselves out to
the final good of the race. And we wo-
men have just begun to dabble with our
finger-tips in this great eddying stream
of life.

Take peace, for example. If there is
one prophet who should preach peace
with an eloquent tongue it is the moth-
er; the woman who has lived another
life within her own for many months;
who has nursed that baby at her breast,
pressing the rosy finger-tips to her lips
in little sudden bursts of mother-love;
who has stolen softly to the cot at night
and prayed God to help her to be a
good and wise mother; the mother who
has spent countless sleepless nights and
harassed days; who has watched the
unfolding of manhood with anxious
eyes and a prayer in her heart that her
boy will come safely through this great
emergency of life, and when he has
grown up into a straight, strong, wor-
thy man, she sees him struck down in
a minute to settle some dispute of her
country with another. This man who
has been created in her own body,
whose mind and character she, by her
sweetness and patience, has moulded
into something lovable, has suddenly
ceased to be, and she has had no word
in deciding that it should be so. While
this condition continues to exist, women
have a great work before them.

While thousands of wee babies are
being born into filth and degradation
and shame and thousands more are per-
mitted to wail through a feeble life of a
few weeks or a few months and then
are laid away forever in tiny caskets
—and all through neglect—the mother-
hood of the world cannot be silent. Only
a mother knows what these thousands
of lives have cost the womanhood of
the world in suffering and sorrow.

While the innocent daughters of oth-
er mothers are being decoyed away and
sold into a slavery that robs life of all
its beauty and sweetness and shuts the
door of decent society upon them for-
ever a mother who is a mother cannot
be satisfied.

With all these wrongs crying out to
us upon every hand life is full to over-
flowing of things to do and we are apt
to feel with Tennyson that "Life piled
on life were all too little."

So, not only is the best to come yet,
but ours is the glorious privilege of
helping in the working out of our own
salvation. Let us form ourselves into
a crusade this year to spread abroad
the idea among women that they have a
duty not only to the little pink and
white darling who cuddles into their
own arms but to all the babies in the
world; that they are the mothers not
only of the home, but of the nation.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

If any of you care to write to me on
any matter of interest to women I shall
be glad to hear from you at any time
and to give your letters publicity at
the earliest possible opportunity.

INSTITUTE WORK IN ALBERTA

Dear Miss Beynon.—Are straight ex-
pressions of opinion on a personal mat-

ter allowed? If so, then I wish to say
that you strike me as being the most
sensible, know-how-it-feels-myself edi-
tor—I suppose I should say editress,
but I never liked these "ess" and
"ine" feminine affixes—that reigns
over the woman's page in any of our
papers. We farm women, or women
farmers, appreciate your editorials and
comments, but I need not tell you, for
you know, that we are so constantly
rushed we have not time to write often
and tell you.

I suppose this would not be written
were I not asked to order copies of
"How to Teach the Truth to Chil-
dren," etc., for use in our Women's In-
stitute. We are now beginning our fifth
year as an institute, being the first in
Alberta, and might be able to exchange
ideas with some of the later institutes.
I would like to hear from secretaries in
Alberta, who live remote from rail-
roads, if there be any such, and tell me
"what you think of the conditions
under which the government grant is
given." In Ontario, where there is a
village every few miles, and women and
girls in plenty in the country, grants
are given to branches having member-
ship of ten and fifteen, while here we
must have twenty. Also we are allow-
ed to organize in any city, town, vil-
lage or school district. There are num-
bers of places where there are a few
women, but not enough children over
five years to form a school district. Pre-
sumably these may not organize an
institute. And where there are eight
children between five and sixteen years
school districts may be formed. In these
districts then it is unreasonable to look
for twenty members to an institute.
Surely it is the women in the sparsely
settled districts who are doing the hard
work and who are most deserving of
government aid. The women of cities,
towns and villages have their churches
and church organizations, access to
libraries, concerts, lectures, sermons and
social gatherings and government de-
monstration ears, but it seems to me
the grant is given as extra to their
abundance, if they have a membership
of twenty.

Well! if they cannot get twenty
members perhaps they do not deserve a
grant, but it strikes me the farm wo-



A HINT OF THE NEW MODES IN SLEEVES AND SKIRTS

men, twenty to fifty or more miles from
a railway, should be recognized, even if
they have not more than half-a-dozen
women working together "For Home
and Country." We have a fine bunch
of women in our institute. We are ap-
preciated by our Farmer's Organiza-
tion, so much so that they all drop in
for an hour with us at the close of our
meetings, which are held the same time.
And they ask our advice and co-opera-
tion when any extra move is being
made, and they ask us for a union meet-
ing every three or four months. The
Department of Agriculture of Alberta
must not put this slight on the farm
women, while rewarding the town wo-
men. I am willing to believe that it
was done through lack of thought—
though they should think well—rather
than with malice aforethought, but if
the secretaries agree with this letter,
do not neglect to discuss it in meeting,
in The Guide, and report to Director of
Women's Institutes at the Parliament
Buildings, Edmonton. If any of you
will write me direct, address—

MRS. M. E. GRAHAM,
Tring, Alta.

I certainly agree with you that, whe-
ther intentionally or not—I would rath-
er think not—the Alberta government
have erred grievously in making the
basis for their grants, and I will give
the clubs whatever publicity I can in
order to bring the matter to the at-
tention of the government of your pro-
vince.

F. M. B.

PURSE STRINGS NEVER TIGHT- ENED

Dear Madam.—Your footnote at the
end of "R. M.'s letter on the 4th inst,
set me thinking. Why should not happy
financial relations exist between hus-
band and wife? We are in our 22nd
year of married bliss and from the be-
ginning until now the purse strings
have never been tied. We, as R. M.
says, are partners in every sense of the
word, although sometimes I accuse the
better half of not being interested in
all the out-door work, I think after-
wards that my remarks were ill-placed
I leave the inside departments entirely
to her. Of course things are talked
over between us and she never expends

any considerable amount without. It is
one of my happiest moments to sur-
prise her with some article or articles I
know she requires without giving her
the slightest hint of my so doing. Of
course, man-like, I like to see my wife
and the other man's wife and daugh-
ters suitably dressed for the work they
have in hand and personally am a very
severe critic. Nothing gives me more
disgust than to see a woman untidy in
dress, with hair tousled, etc., in her
own home, and then to see it laid on
thick (excuse the slang) outside, and
probably her outer garments covering
up dirt, holes and rags beneath.

We know a woman will wait on hus-
band and children until it becomes sec-
ond nature to wait on, and be waited
upon. Nothing in my opinion will pro-
mote selfishness so quickly as that. My
theory is, save the wife whom you have
chosen as much as lies in your power,
keep her and help her to keep up her
appearance and youthfulness as long as
possible. Keep the vows you have made
to love and cherish her. Tell her of
your love, she likes to hear it now as
well as she did in your courtship days
and if she is a woman she will repay
you many many times over in all ways
she is able—in looks, in words and in
deeds. Now, Miss Beynon, if this, writ-
ten by a man, has no place in your cor-
ner, consign it to the large W.P. basket.
Wishing all readers the compliments of
the season, as well as yourself. Yours
respectfully, E. B.

Being a man does not shut one out
of membership in our club, except such
as would like to make of it a matrimo-
nial bureau. I hold the marriage re-
lationship far too sacred to be entered
into through correspondence.—F. M. B.

When and When Not to Send for the Doctor

(By Anna Schmitz, in McCall's
Magazine.)

To know when to send for a doctor
is often a puzzling question to a mother.
Just where undue nervousness ends and
proper precaution begins is difficult for
her to determine. But a baby's me-
chanism is very delicate and sensitive,
and it is well to err on the side of too
much caution. Certainly, if any symp-
tom which a mother does not understand
makes itself evident and persists, she
should have a physician.

Too much fussiness is bad. In the
case of a little cold in the head, slight
irregularity of the bowels, a very in-
frequent colic, home remedies and com-
mon sense will often save worry and a
doctor's bill. But if the simplest of
these complaints occur repeatedly and
do not yield to treatment but increase
in degree, a doctor should be called and
the trouble checked.

Some mothers make life a burden, and
their baby a nuisance, by over-anxiety
for fear it may come in contact with
some stray germ. The child is bound to
have some germs reach its mouth. But
if its digestive apparatus is in good
working order, they should do no harm
—absolute cleanliness in regard to its
food, and the free use, twice daily, of
the boracic solution mentioned in an
earlier article of this series, should forti-
fy a child against a stray germ on some
chance object which it might touch.

One of the most imperative precau-
tions against sickness in a baby is care
of the bottles and nipples. Many a
mother thinks her nurse is doing just
what she has been told when she is re-
ally slighting her responsibilities shame-
fully.

If a baby is allowed to drink with its
milk the accumulated poison which will
unquestionably settle in a bottle nipple
if not most carefully washed, it cannot
escape being ill. I have often been ap-
palled when nursing a very small infant
in a family to discover that the eighteen-
month-old brother or sister was being
fed from a nipple half filled up with
poisonous curds from previous feedings.

All the utensils used in connection
with the baby's food should be kept
and washed separately. Before the

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