

## HOME CLUB

## Improve Neglected Cemeteries

WHY is it that we see so many neglected country-yes, and seen cemeteries in the heart of a village that were anything but a visit to the residents of that village. On monuments the names of the grand early settlers—men who had been out and earned homes for themselves and their families under very difficult circumstances. These men and women, too, might have had more comforts around them, had it not been for the thought of leaving behind them a comfortable home for their children. From the looks of their resting place, however, it would lead one to think that the children had not memory, beyond erecting an imposing piece of marble. Upon looking at the surroundings of those grand monuments, one would actually think that there had been a clause in the will stating that such a monument must be erected, and so it could one can find brambles and every conceivable graveyard weed that ever grew. Why should this be so? Is it the fact that our country cemeteries are so poorly kept which leads so many country people nowadays to bury their loved ones in crowded town or city cemeteries, instead of laying them below the whispering leaves of

the trees which they knew and loved? How can this condition of things be remedied? Can nothing be done to improve our cemetery grounds? What if the friends of many who are buried there have moved away from the community? Are we so self-centred that we cannot be responsible for keeping the grounds carefully looked after, as we would wish others to do for us if we were to move away from our present neighborhood. I would like to hear suggestions from other Home Club members on how we may improve and care for our cemetery grounds, so that we may all go as crusaders next spring into the old and neglected "God's Acres," and make them what they should be—a spot of beauty, instead of a disquieting sight.—"Aunt Beth."

## Fireside Meditations

SEATED in an easy chair by a bright fire one cold winter evening, I pored over the pages of an old autograph album. Here were messages from dear friends, some now far in distant climes, and others who have crossed the "Great Divide." As I read, my mind wandering to the past, in different parts of the globe, I was arrested in my friends' journeys by the following lines:

"If you cannot on the ocean sail among the swiftest fleet,  
Toeing on the highest billows, laughing at the storms you meet,  
You can stand among the sailors, anchored yet within the bay,  
You can lend a hand to help them as they launch their boat away."

What grand thoughts are here expressed. So many are not content to be among the sailors anchored within the bay. We are trying to fill the highest positions in life where there show. Few care to walk the more humble paths, though there the real true honor lies, the final great reward. We strive to reach the mountain top, where trials and temptations abound, oftentimes in far greater numbers than in the valley. As the poet says:

"It is the distant and the dim that we are fain to greet;  
A man's best things are nearest him, lie close about his feet."

If we could only be content with our positions and do our best in whatever sphere we are placed, what a happy old world ours would be. To quote a few lines written by Smiles: "The grandest of heroic deeds are those which are performed within four walls and in domestic privacy."

Let us earnestly endeavor to make the most of our opportunities, of our positions in life, even if the environment is not the most desirable. Let us strive to the world the best we have, and above all, try to cultivate the spirit of contentment and of humility.—"Sunbeam."

## Palatable Cranberry Dishes

WE have recently received a couple of recipes on ways for serving cranberries, from an interested reader in this department who signs herself "Grandma." The recipes appear herewith:

**Cranberry Short Cake.**—Make a sweet biscuit dough, rolling out an inch thick. Spread with butter and bake. Cook cranberries in one and one-half cups of water for filling, stewing slowly for one hour, and sugar to taste. This is excellent served with whipped cream or meringue.

Another recipe is to make a simple batter pudding and add a cup or more of chopped, soaked cranberries and flour enough to make rather stiff. Steam for two hours and serve with cranberry sauce.

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## ANOTHER CONTEST UNDER WAY.

WHAT do Our Women Folk think of having another contest in this department? Our last one on the "Money and Marriage" question created a great deal of interest, as was evidenced by the number of contributions which were sent in and the comments which came to us from other sources.

This is the subject we have in mind for another competition: "What Has Worked the Greatest Revolution in Your Home Life During the Year 1916?" By this we do not mean that anyone should disclose their experiences touching upon sacred home relations, but here are some examples of points which might be dealt with: During the year, probably a new way of doing housework may have been worked out which has proved of untold value; a course of reading or study may have been taken up; perhaps a new hobby has been discovered for benefiting the neighbourhood or becoming more hospitable and friendly; some way of earning money may have been discovered, or a new viewpoint has been grasped which has helped us to live a happier and more unselfish life.

A contribution on any of these points or something entirely different which has not occurred to us, should prove very interesting and helpful to our readers and we trust that many will consider it a privilege to send along their message. For the best letter received, a year's renewal subscription will be given and for all letters published, a six months' renewal. Contributions should reach us by Feb. 24th. Address, Household Editor, FARM AND DAIRY, Peterboro, Ont.