

and let it stand for several hours, turning it now and then. Then score it in places, run in strips of lard and brown it in a frying pan, with some slices of carrots and minced onions. Put the meat into the pot in which it is to be finally cooked, nearly cover it with water, and let it boil for twenty minutes. Put in a small bag of mixed herbs, and pack away in the box for at least eight hours. When ready to serve the gravy should be thickened with a little flour.

#### COOKING BEANS

To cook beans in the hay box prepare them as for baking, and pack them away while they are boiling. Leave them for eight hours or more, and then, if they are wanted with a crust over the top, brown them in the oven.

#### STEAMED PUDDINGS

One woman says that she has great luck making steamed puddings in her hay box.

Any favorite recipe may be used; put butter into pound baking powder cans, filling them half full; cover, place them in the kettle, and pour as much boiling water around them as the kettle will hold, or until the cans threaten to tip over; boil one-half hour on the stove; place in box at least four hours; if larger cans are used give an extra hour; the batter should be made a little stiffer than usual. Do not jar the pot after pudding is in.

The women peasants of Germany, Scandinavia and Russia, who work in the fields, put their evening meal into the pot in the early morning, bring it to a boil, and then pack it away in a swathing of hay and blankets until their return at night, when they find it cooked and as hot as if just taken from the stove. The modern boxes are padded with upholstery and with adjustable cushions. They come

with or without two, three, or four utensils. It is essential to have pots with tight fitting covers to keep in steam and odors. Boiled and steamed foods are the only possibilities. No baking, of course, can be done.

#### Competent Pot Scraper



This pot scraper is a useful little article; the exact size is about four or five times the size of the reproduction. The tinsmith cut it from heavy tin,

and charged me five cents for it. The shape is so arranged that any part of the pot can easily be reached and thoroughly scraped with little labor, and no inconvenience. The pointed end cleans the place where the bottom and sides meet; the curved edge scrapes the sides, and the flat edge scrapes the bottom.

#### A Pleasant Piazza

I wonder sometimes, when I see a wide, shady, delightful piazza almost everywhere, except perhaps for a chair or two, why the people who live there cannot make more of it over their life than they do, for they would not live in a home denuded of furniture. Then again, I have seen such charming piazzas, charming not wholly because they are spacious, but because good taste and a bit of work and money had made the most of them. Her- is a picture of one of these pleasant out-door retreats—a sky parlor one might call it, for it opens out from an upstairs room and you look down into the heart of the trees.

It is not such a wide piazza. There is room for a good sized hammock, however, and when the sun grows too warm there are Japanese portieres to shut out the sunlight. The floor is covered by a good sized Japanese rug of strong quality and colors that sunlight can only fade and dilute, not of harmonious tones. In the farthest corner a seat fits in close to the low railing. It is a bit of homemade furniture, with cunning and valance of blue denim. You find near by a cosy chair or two, and tables that hold a palm and ferns.

Then there are flowers everywhere, in boxes of gray anasturiums, pots of begonia with dark leaves, fragrant heliotrope, maiden-hair fern, geraniums, lemon verbena, mignonette, pansies, and a great box full of ferns brought from the woods. Altogether it is a pleasant place, that everybody loves to frequent, from the busy housewife to the family cat, which chooses the sunniest corner.—A Country Lass.

#### Do We Need a Vacation?

Should a farmer take a vacation? Certainly. If all men who work hard need rest, then the farmer is entitled to a vacation. While a farmer's occupation is as varied as most other callings in life, yet there is a monotony of locality and association, which needs to be broken in upon. He who stays for years within the boundaries of his own farm or neighborhood, is likely to become real in his ideas, methods and prejudices. He needs the contact of other minds and scenes. Farming demands the highest and clearest thinking. The farmer needs the stimulus which change and travel can bring. A well selected vacation will help the man to a deeper, richer and happier life.

When should he take his vacation? I would divide it up into two sections, taking two weeks in June, and another fortnight in September. By June his seeding is over. There is a lull in the rush of farm life. By the tenth of September harvest is in, and the fall wheat sown. After the excessive labor of harvest, the farmer needs rest.

Where, or how, shall he spend his vacation? That depends largely upon the locality and the financial ability of the man. If practical, he should in June travel as far from home as possible, going to some other province, a few hundred miles away. Travel in June is delightful. The rural world is at its best. Nature is enthroned, and in royal robes. If he can spend a few days where the conditions of farm life are quite different to his own, he will come home full of new ideas. Some of these he may be able to adopt, and so increase his wealth. The change of air and scene will prove rest-giving. Body and mind will be full of snap and go. He will resume his work with enthusiasm. In September he could take two weeks in some town or city, where an extensive industrial exhibition is being held. There he will come in contact with the manufacturing world. He will see machines of every description, for every purpose. Every trade and industry will be represented. Floral, dairy, horticultural and agricultural produce will be exhibited. Then he can visit the city proper—its churches, schools, colleges, hospitals, museums, observatories, factories and fine buildings.

The city streets, their electric conveniences; the stores, the ebb and flow of life; the great variety of social conditions will prove interesting. If he keeps himself awake, he will come home with broader view of life, and a deeper interest in all things. He should take his wife, or some of his children with him each year, so that they may share in the benefits.

## The Sewing Room

Patterns 10 cents each. Order by number and size for children. Give age; for adults, give bust measure for waist and hips. Measure for skirts. Address all orders to Pattern Department.

#### SHIRRED KIMONO 1802

Simple kimono are always attractive and this one, which uses yoke, is shirred to form its simple graceful and altogether satisfactory. The kimono is shirred to form the yoke and is arranged over a foundation which serves to keep the shirring in place.



Quantity of material required for medium size is 8 yds 24, 7½ yds 32, or 6½ yds 44 in. wide with 17½ yds of material for band, or 4½ yds of ribbon 5½ in. wide.

The pattern is cut in three sizes, small, medium and large, and will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents.

#### PLAIN STRIP WAIST 5066

The plain, simple skirt waist is being extremely popular this season for a great many occasions and gives its wearers better than any other sort. This one allows a choice of the yoke or a plain back and is supplied with a pocket. The material gives it a smart touch. When the yoke is used it is applied over the back and the front is finished with a regulation box plait.

Material required for medium size is 3½ yds 21 or 24, 3½ yds 32 or 2 yds 44 in. wide. The pattern is cut in sizes for 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 in bust, and will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents.

#### CHILD'S DRESS 5065

Dresses for the very little children are peculiarly charming when made with half low neck and sleeves that terminate just above the elbows. The dress is made with fronts and back, and the neck edges, and with pretty full sleeves gathered into bands. The capeslets are arranged over the dress and attached to position by means of the trimming band.

Material required for medium size (4 years) is 3½ yds 24, 3½ yds 32 or 44 in wide with ½ yds of banding. The pattern is cut in sizes of 2, 4, and 6 yrs. and will be mailed on receipt of ten cents. (If in haste send an additional two cent stamp for letter postage which insures prompt delivery.)

#### MISS'ES STRAIGHT PLATED SKIRT 5065

The straight plated skirt has many advantages and is especially to be commended at this season of the year. It avoids all danger of sagging and pulling, and can be laundered with ease and success. The skirt is cut in one piece and is fast over-lapping plate at the upper edge that are attached fast over the hips.

Material required for a girl of 15 yrs is 4 yds of bordered material 37 in wide or 6½ yds of plain material 37, 5½ yds 38 or 4½ yds 44 in wide. The pattern is cut for girls of 14 and 15 yrs of age and will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents.

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—not the coal—in the

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