

everything. Then the division of labor should be a mechanical one, preceded by the judicious expenditure of some money. A woman has every right to have proper up-to-date machinery to assist her and lighten her labors, just as much as a man. A man gets it, a woman gets along with out it. Pardon the language—the bigger fool she for so doing.

Let there be a division of labor—the motor washer, wringer and mangle doing their share of the laundry work, the vacuum sweeper, dustless brush and self-wringing mop, assisting in keeping the house clean; the coal oil stove, fireless cooker, or new range helping along with the cooking. It is a division of labor all right, and one that needs attention drawn to it, for these are helps often found wanting in the home.

#### WHEN SEVERAL HELP

If there are a number of women in the home a dividing of the duties lessens the misunderstandings and confusion and the machinery of the house goes on more smoothly. The duties should be assigned according to the health, strength and adaptability of the workers. Old people prefer to wash dishes, get the fruit and vegetables ready, and do the darning and mending; mother looks after the bread and butter and cooking; while the girls do the room work, fancy baking, setting and clearing away the dining table, etc.

That seems all right; nevertheless I have known it to be all wrong. I have known farm girls who

just before they were married (and they didn't marry in their teens either) had to hurriedly learn to bake bread, make butter, draw a fowl, and not until after they had a home of their own had they ever cleaned a fish or cooked the roast. The division of labor in their homes had been so clearly defined and resolutely kept, that the girls were dwarfed in their limited knowledge of house work and sphere of usefulness.

We talk and practice rotation of crops for the good of the land; for the good of our girls there should be rotation of labor. A week, or fortnight, or month in the kitchen, then on to the sweeping and dusting and general care of the house, then perhaps a spell in the sewing room, and from there to the laundry and dairy.

I am a strong believer in division of labor, but equally strong is my belief in a rotation of household duties to develop the girl into an all-round good housekeeper. Two sisters, close friends of mine, get up week about to prepare breakfast and do the kitchen work. So often one member of the family is imposed on in this respect and becomes the drudge.

#### WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

Some say emphatically—Women should never mix! These same emphatic people have too often a very meagre idea of farm life.

Lots of women, splendid women and splendid milkers, would rather sit down to a cow, than down to a darning basket. Why deprive them

of the pleasure? Conditions only can solve this problem. Where a number of cows are kept and only one man on the farm and several women, it seems but right they should do a share of the milking. On the other hand it is imposing on an overwrought busy housewife to ask her to go to the barn.

Again these emphatic people say, "No man with any self-respect or consideration for his women folk will have them work in the fields." Both at home and abroad, in the east and in the west, I have seen women at work in the meadow, the vineyard, the orchard, the harvest field—cheerfully, willingly helping the men at times when all hands seemed necessary to safely garner the crops.

Often the tillable acreage is small, requiring no hired help. When the few extra busy days come the women give their aid, nor do they mind it for they have been used to so doing since girlhood.

#### THE OUTSIDE PROBLEM SUMMARIZED

We do not advocate nor perhaps approve of seeing women in the fields, believing that the strain of the work is too hard for them, and that they have enough duties to see to inside the home. Still there is a pleasing, helpful, cooperative about seeing a man and wife or grown-up daughter drive off together to the hay field. We do well to consider all circumstances before passing harsh judgment.

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## Plants the Whole Winter Through

**A** GAIN October comes, and the changing season, with shortened daylight, is plainly visible. What a beautiful month October is, with its varied colorings of tree and shrub! There is already a change in the aspect of Nature as if the wonderful growth that has had its day is ready for a rest. More than once have we felt the touch of frost in the air, touching the vines and withering their tendrils.

"O thine is a wonderful kingdom,  
October, and thou art a queen,  
Fit to rival the glowing Egyptian  
In splendor and queenliest mien.  
The frost king, an enemy strongest,  
May conquer thy realm with a blast,  
But thou, in thy dying remanent,  
A sovereign and queen to the last."

#### GOOD FRIENDS WHEN OTHER FAIL

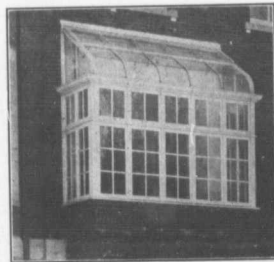
Precious seem the later flowers, and how thankful we are for the more hardy varieties, such as the asters, stocks and the pansy, for they have withstood the early September frost, and have gained vigor with the rain, and bloom cheerfully on, looking more brilliant than ever, since the more tender plants have been nipped and withered.

I hope none of our house mothers have left the task of repotting for winter too late, or some of our most beautiful plants by this time have come to grief. I am sure very few of us were prepared for the early frost of September the thirteenth.

I find by my experience that the proper method is to grow the plants out of doors all summer that are to bloom in winter, nipping off the buds, as by that method there is a surety of flowers, instead of saving plants exhausted by the summer's blooming. It is always a question of what shall we save, for the tender-hearted flower lover has compassion upon all the flowers in her garden, and naturally would like to shield them all from the frost and cold. We should not save more

**A Lover of Flowers, the Wife of One of Canada's Leading Dairy Farmers, tells how She Makes the Interior of her Home Attractive and Beautiful, even In Winter. Pointers on the Handling of Common Indoor Plants and Flowers.**

Mrs. J. W. Richardson, Haldimand Co., Ont.



Good Type of Window Garden

What woman is there who does not appreciate the charm that flowers give the winter living room? A conservatory may be expensive, but a window of the type shown in the illustration herewith is satisfactory for flowers and within the reach of all.

than we can properly accommodate, as flowers should not be crowded, and must have fresh air, light and ventilation.

#### INDOOR PRECAUTIONS.

One of the main points in the successful handling of house plants is to give them a moist atmosphere, and arrange them so that the sun-loving plants will get the sunshine, and the shade-loving plants the shade. Cold draughts are very injurious to plants, so ventilate from the tops of the windows unless the weather is mild and warm.

Since our house is heated and lighted throughout with natural gas, we find it necessary to study

and select plants for winter growing that will thrive in gas-heated rooms, as the air, as a rule, is much drier, and causes the bloom to dry up before it is fully developed. To keep the atmosphere moist, it is necessary to fill the water box of the furnace every day, and to sprinkle the plants with tepid soft water every night. By sprinkling at night, the plants are dried off before morning and there is no danger of the sun spotting the leaves. However, some plants should not be sprayed, such as the Rex begonia, owing to the rough nature of the leaves, and care should be taken not to spray the bloom of plants. Spraying also helps to keep them clean, and lessens the danger of insect pests.

#### A FLOWER FOR AMATEURS.

Geraniums are general favorites, and seldom fail the amateur, on account of their easy culture, and thrive best in the sun's full rays.

For winter gardening I have been most successful with begonias. They require little attention, and are seldom attacked by insects. They thrive well in a north or east window, with very little sunshine, too much sunlight bleaching the leaves. I water plentifully, then not again until real dry. Sometimes I leave them until I notice the leaves dropping. I now have 14 Prins Angel Wing and varieties, and find the Prins the Manicata are some of the best varieties. The latter grows to an immense size, the leaves are beautifully marked and spotted, and of a thick leathery texture. The tall, delicately colored bloom makes an attractive window decoration.

I also take up a few healthy coleus and patience plants. They delight in a sunny situation and in March take on a fresh growth, and always have an abundance of slips for spring planting.

#### NON-BLOOMING PLANTS FOR WINTER.

A few of the non-blooming plants that I have thrived well in the winter are Boston and Aspidistra.

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