

Housekeeping, Nursery, Gardening and News of Interest to Women

EGGS ARE DOWN TO SIXTY CENTS

That Price is Justified, Say Dealers, Owing to Scarcity.

WHY HENS DO NOT LAY

Owners Often Neglect to Give Proper Food and Exercise.

The high cost of living is something patent to all. To reduce this exorbitant cost and to find reasons why it exists are problems with which not a few are wrestling. Among others the Household Economic Housewives' League, in accordance with the lines of their work, have protested against eggs at present prices, with a view to forcing a much lower rate, the limit agreed upon being 35 cents a dozen, this being considered a reasonable price by the members of the league.

In search of different views upon the subject a representative of The World yesterday made a series of calls. The first visited was a College street grocer, who does a fair trade in farm produce. Here 65 cents per dozen was given as the price of eggs. "Do you consider this dear?" asked The World. "Not while eggs are so scarce," the grocer replied.

"And you don't consider yourself imposed upon in having to pay for eggs to sell at that price?"

"No, I don't," was his prompt reply. "It can't be helped. The farmers say that eggs are scarce. The hens do not moult as early as usual this season, many not moulting yet, and they won't lay until this is over. The fact is the hens are on strike. That is the long and short of it."

In one of the big stores cases of new-laid eggs exposed with the sign "65 cents" above them, and in another store round the corner from the first, eggs labeled new-laid were ticketed "75 cents."

Drop of 15 Cents.

The next place interviewed was a wholesale establishment. Here it was learned that a big drop had taken place in eggs. Last week they had to pay 65 cents; yesterday the new-laid eggs had been received at 50 cents a dozen, a difference of 15 cents in a few days.

From a member of the H.E.H.L. it was learned that a commission agent had offered that organization eggs, new-laid and guaranteed, at 40 cents a dozen by taking a large number of crates. The same agent would supply 3000 turkeys at 21 1/2 cents a pound and cream butter, also in large quantities, at 20 cents a pound. Turkey and butter are of course a side issue from eggs, but not from the cost of living.

From the same source it was learned that the reason for the association protesting against the high prices of certain articles of food was because enquiry and investigation had shown that in a general way the lately acquired auto craze and other extravagances of employers had raised the cost of living all round, without any corresponding rise in wages for the employee.

It was pointed out that the rent of the retail grocer is much higher than it was a few years ago; that higher heating and the keep of his horses have all advanced, and that to keep this going his prices must be in proportion.

Back to Eggs.

To get back to the eggs. In the same large store in which new-laid eggs were selling for 65 cents a dozen, "fresh eggs" were in process of testing—that is, a light was thrown below a number of the eggs set out in a wire casing, in such a way that the light would detect any flaw and all appeared to be in first-class condition. These were selling at 45 cents a dozen.

From an individual interested in hens and eggs was learned that higher prices of making hens lay. At first one thought of having it patented, but for the general good concluded to give the good news forth to the four winds of the world. To make hens lay then, the chief requisite is exercise. No exercise, no eggs. This is quite a new thing with the different systems of physical culture, massage and gymnastics recommended for humans. Why, then, should not the theory exercise be true with regard to the hen?

The one who gave the recipe said: "I know a man who invests in five hens. His neighbors laughed at him and said 'the hens will cost you quite a bit, but precious few eggs you'll get.' 'Just wait a while,' said the man, 'and you'll see I'll get five eggs every day.' And he did."

The Scheme Worked.

His method was this: When the food was prepared he placed it in a large pan and then covered it with sand in such a manner that the hens had to do a deal of scratching before they were able to eat. He also hung a cabbage and a piece of fat bacon above the pan, so that, like the sword of Tantalus, they were always in sight, but not easy of attainment, and the hens used a good deal of energy in trying to reach the prize that seemed just within their grasp. The plan worked. The hens laid each an egg per day, and their owner boasted proudly of the success of his plan.

To sum up—eggs really seem scarce. Anything rare is high priced. Fruit out of season is always costly eating. The reason why eggs are scarce is that those having the hens have not been generally conversant with the best modes of carrying on the work.

At Quebec a few days ago government representatives declared that \$2,000,000 is lost to the Dominion annually because of careless methods of marketing.

Lastly, it would seem that while the high cost of living which meets us at every turn and envelope, as in a network of iron, must be broken before there can be relief, that as far as the eggs are concerned, a consideration of their scarcity may perhaps be the price demanded not more exorbitant than that of things generally, and, save all, a complete turnover in methods of living must be adopted and in such a way as to bring down rents and a return to the simpler life of a decade or two back.

THE WOES OF MRS. NEWLYWED



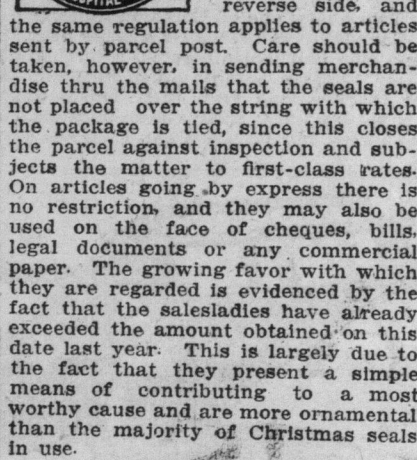
"How can I get all the cream off a bottle of milk?" queried Mrs. Newlywed.

"There is a new contrivance on the market," replied Mrs. Neighbor, "which will do the trick. I have one. It is a tiny vacuum strainer, which will take all the cream out of the top of a bottle of milk in a second. It is made of block tin, is easily kept clean and is reasonable in price. It is a great help to the housewife who wants to make the daily quart go as far as possible."

CHRISTMAS SEALS IN FAVOR

Thousands Being Used on the Back of Letters, Parcels and Packages of All Kinds.

Christmas seals will not carry mail matter but any kind of mail matter will carry them. They may not be used on the face of letters, but there is no restriction as to the number that may be attached to the reverse side, and the same regulation applies to articles sent by parcel post. Care should be taken, however, in sending merchandise thru the mails that the seals are not placed over the string with which the package is tied, since this closes the parcel against inspection and subjects the matter to first-class rates. On articles going by express there is no restriction, and they may also be used on the face of cheques, bills, legal documents or any commercial paper. The growing favor with which they are regarded is evidenced by the fact that the salesladies have already exceeded the amount obtained on this date last year. This is largely due to the fact that they present a simple means of contributing to a most worthy cause and are more ornamental than the majority of Christmas seals in use.



LABORER TAKES PARIS GREEN.

LONDON, Ont., Dec. 18.—Thomas Kelly, aged forty, laborer in a furniture factory, is in such a critical condition as a result of taking Paris green with suicidal intent at his home that he cannot recover. Kelly's wife believes he took the poison while temporarily insane.



The Question of Quick and Easy Cleaning Down to This



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EFFICIENT HOUSEKEEPING BY HENRIETTA D. GRAUEL DOMESTIC SCIENCE LECTURER

Palms, Rubber Plants and Ferns

ONLY a few plants will thrive in sunless rooms and send forth new beauty each day, with only a little attention on your part, but palms, rubber plants and ferns will do this season after season.

If soil and temperature are right there will be no dropping of seeds and yellow leaves; only new and continuous healthy growth. The treatment of palms and rubber plants is almost identical, both are hearty feeders, so as rich a loam as you can find will please them.

Once a month wash the leaves with a cloth wet in milk; this makes them wonderfully glossy, and at the same time pour a little castor oil about the roots. Yellow spots or rusty places on the leaves are caused by high temperature, dryness and too hot sunshine. Insects seldom attack these plants, but if they should a sponge bath with a suds made of tar soap will remove them.

Four new leaves each year is considered flourishing for an ordinary palm, but rich earth, castor oil diet and milk baths will double this.

A rubber plant, small and spreading, attained a height of nearly eight feet and developed fifteen new, glossy, broad leaves in a few months with this same treatment in our garden this past season.

Ferns are loved for their beauty and grace, and because of their shy retiring growth every nation has associated them with fairy lore. If they were full of fragrance and laden with gorgeous blooms we could not like them a whit better.

They require so little to keep them growing, only a moist soil and a northern or a subdued light. The soil should not come above the crown of roots, else they smother, and the temperature should be kept about sixty-eight degrees.

If red spiders appear on the fern you will know it has been too dry and hot; the soil should be always moist but never wet. Ferns drink thru their roots, but it is well to sometimes sprinkle the fronds with warm water containing a few drops of ammonia.

Dwarf, sword and Boston fern are the best varieties for homes heated with gas; they thrive in jardinières and should be placed where they will not be disturbed. If the jars, or baskets, containing them are fitted a little the fern's leaves will grow downward like a vine; if elevated, by means of a shelf or bracket, the plant will be even more ornamental than usual.

Can any reader of this column tell why begonias do not flourish? Someone asks this question, and says the leaves fall off as soon as the plants are brought indoors, and that they grow smaller daily.

We are also asked what will kill tiny white worms in potted plant's roots? This we can answer; dissolve a tablespoon of chloride of lime in two quarts of water and wet the roots and soil with this. If one application is not sufficient do not repeat for at least a week.



NURSERY CONDUCTED BY Elsie Murray

The Sick Child's Christmas

It is hard enough and unnatural enough to be sick any time, but to be in bed during the Christmas season and on the best day of the year is surely the height of misery. Therefore, any way in which the day can be made a little different from the ordinary days of the year is a most agreeable change for the little patient.

It is not wise to plan anything elaborate or fatiguing for the child's amusement for fear of doing him harm. A little change that will create the holiday atmosphere will give pleasure.

The sick child, the simplest diet served from a table festively arrayed suggests a tea-party. So on Christmas Day use different china than that used every day, and decorate the tray or table with Christmas decorations. If some member of the family could join the invalid in the Christmas meal it would make a pleasant and helpful change.

Plan to have the Christmas gifts arrive at intervals during the day, unexpectedly, and let the child unwrap the parcels.

If the child is convalescent and able to sit up to play simple games, place a smooth board across the bed, the ends resting on firm supports. There will probably be some games in the Christmas stockings; if not, there are many simple devices with which to amuse a little one. Make a good-sized red pin cushion compactly filled with bran or sawdust. Supply a box or cube of pins with round, colored heads, and you have a fascinating toy. Did you ever watch a youngster pushing pins into a cushion until the heads touched the cloth? They love to do it, and will make an endless number of words and figures.

Carbon paper and a blank word book will amuse a child for a long time. Have a number of magazines with pictures ready for him, and he will trace all kinds of pictures by placing the tracing paper between the picture and a blank page in the book, then copying over the lines of the picture.

Judgment must be exercised in carrying out any plan of amusement in the case of a sick child. Care must be taken not to over-excite or over-fatigue for it takes very little sometimes to upset one already in a weakened condition.

Over 5000 Victrola Records.

Practically everything in Victrola records will be found in Victrola parlors of Ye Old Firm of Heintzman & Co. Ltd., 123-125-127 Yonge street, Toronto. Over 5000 records in stock.

GOOPS BY GELETT BURGESS



FRANK OBER Of all uproarious little boys Frank Ober makes the loudest noise. He bangs the wall, he pounds the floor, he bumps the stairs, and slams the door. His yells and screams, his cries and whoops Make him the noisiest of the Goops!

Don't Be A Goop!

SHREDDED WHEAT CO.'S BANQUET.

The Toronto offices of the Canadian Shredded Wheat Co., Limited, tendered a banquet to the officials and employees in the banquet room of the Robt. Simpson Co., at 1 o'clock yesterday, John Hewitt, Canadian manager, who from that time she held high rank as one of the first singers of the day. The rich bell-like quality of her voice and remarkable evenness of tone had a range as a high soprano never surpassed, and her cadences and trills were the delight of her admirers. Equally at home in tragic tenderness of grand opera, or vivacity of comedy, or staidness of oratorio, Adelina Patti that reader the of her fame to the way and manner in which she sang "Comin' Thro' the Rye," altho her greatest success was "Marguerite" in Gounod's "Faust." Year after year she continued to make farewell tours in America, and year after year she sang the sweet Scotch ballads with all the fervor of Latin blood. She lived in a castle in Wales in the mature years, where she delighted to sing for friends, and on special occasions for charity. The divine Patti never underestimated the value of the songs that touched the heart. "The Last Rose of Summer" is a song that will always be identified with Patti. "Comin' Thro' the Rye" and "When to Thy Vision," from Gounod's "Faust," both are to be found in "Heart Songs," the book now being offered to the readers of this paper, at cost of distribution and six coupons. "The Last Rose of Summer" is to be found on page 146 of the volume, and is only one of the many favorites of Patti that reader the book a possession that should be one of the treasures to be found in every home.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY.

The next monthly meeting of the Holy Name Union Executive will be held at the De La Salle Institute, Duke street, Monday evening, Dec. 22, at 8 o'clock. The winter quarterly meeting of the branch society delegates to the union will take place in St. Basil's Church, St. Joseph street, Monday evening, Dec. 23, commencing at 8.

LOOK, YOUNGSTERS!

TWO pages for children in the Sunday World—next week. A SMILE for every one—so watch out for it.

The Wise Goose Says



Her brother remarked something about her head and his making a concerted effort, and that was the first that she knew they were trying for a place in the orchestra.

A DAILY STORY FOR CHILDREN

ROVER

By Virginia Vale.

Once upon a time there was a little boy who wanted a dog all of his own. His father found a poor dog one day which had hurt its foot, so he brought it home. It was not a pretty dog, and his mother said she was afraid it would be a bother, but the little boy's daddy bound up the sore foot and in a little while the dog was well.

The dog grew to love the boy and would follow him all around, never happy when out of his sight. They had joyful times together, playing in the yard, and the little boy named him "Rover."

One night, after they had all gone to bed, the boy thought he heard a noise as though something was scratching at his door. So he got out of bed, opened the door, and there was Rover scratching away with his paws. The dog usually slept in the kitchen on a soft mat, and was not allowed to come upstairs, so the boy told him to go back to the kitchen and lie down. But the dog ran to the top of the stairs and then ran back again, and he wouldn't go back again to the kitchen, altho his little master tried to make him.

That didn't seem like Rover, who always obeyed, so at last the little boy went to the top of the stairs. Rover ran ahead and down the stairs with the boy after him, water poured it on the fire and put the flames out.

The next day he told his father and mother about it and what Rover had done. Then they said:

"Rover shall have a home with us as long as he lives, and plenty to eat, for he saved our lives."

The little boy also told his playmates about his dog Rover, who had saved their lives, and everyone thought how smart he was to do it.

ADELINA PATTI

The Queen of Singers.

There was a time, and it is not entirely passed, when to mention prima donna you would instantly think of Adelina Patti. She was born in Madrid, Spain, and her parents were operatic singers of Italian ancestry. She first sang at an early age in New York, but her fame was secure after the first appearance in London, and from that time she held high rank as one of the first singers of the day. The rich bell-like quality of her voice and remarkable evenness of tone had a range as a high soprano never surpassed, and her cadences and trills were the delight of her admirers. Equally at home in tragic tenderness of grand opera, or vivacity of comedy, or staidness of oratorio, Adelina Patti that reader the of her fame to the way and manner in which she sang "Comin' Thro' the Rye," altho her greatest success was "Marguerite" in Gounod's "Faust." Year after year she continued to make farewell tours in America, and year after year she sang the sweet Scotch ballads with all the fervor of Latin blood. She lived in a castle in Wales in the mature years, where she delighted to sing for friends, and on special occasions for charity. The divine Patti never underestimated the value of the songs that touched the heart. "The Last Rose of Summer" is a song that will always be identified with Patti. "Comin' Thro' the Rye" and "When to Thy Vision," from Gounod's "Faust," both are to be found in "Heart Songs," the book now being offered to the readers of this paper, at cost of distribution and six coupons. "The Last Rose of Summer" is to be found on page 146 of the volume, and is only one of the many favorites of Patti that reader the book a possession that should be one of the treasures to be found in every home.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT BUFFALO.

Hillcrest Club are running a popular week-end excursion to Buffalo via 3:30 a.m. train Saturday, Dec. 20. Tickets valid returning until Monday, Dec. 22, inclusive. Secure tickets from committee, or Canadian Pacific offices, corner King and Yonge streets, and Union depot or Sunnydale station.

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THE GARDEN

CONDUCTED BY RACHEL R. TODD M.D.

Some Suitable Plants for Christmas Gifts.

Envious eyes are already peering into the gaily filled florists' windows, where rare plants of all kinds vie with each other in bloom and scent and color. Alas, the glorious beauty within is all that many of those eyes ever enjoy of the wealth of plant life displayed to tempt the fickle gift-seekers.

But there are other eyes, alert, kindly, loving, anxious. The gift of a plant has been decided on. Now, what is that plant to be?

Always remember that the gift of a plant carries with it a closer appreciation of an artistic and nature-loving disposition than any other gift could possibly do. There can be no higher, no more subtle compliment.

Nor need this plant be necessarily a pot of bulbs in bloom or a brilliant azalea or a cream-feathered spirea. The gift chosen can easily be suited to the special needs, surroundings and personal qualities of the recipient. Study carefully the one who is to receive that plant before it is finally purchased.

Many prefer a plant just coming in bloom to one in full bloom. The reason is obvious. Think, for instance, of a chronic invalid or one convalescing tediously after a trying illness. Can you imagine the daily delight of watching a healthy plant develop from a budding condition to full bloom? Would not such a pot of greenery afford much more pleasant dreaming than a plant in such full and perfect bloom that its festive day is already almost over?

And yet, there are times, too, when just such a gift is particularly suitable. We well remember one whose days were numbered, but who, in the

Travelers' Certificates.

Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada Certificates for 1914 to be had from Fred Johnson, room 5, Federal Life Building, Hamilton.

TERM ENDS TODAY.

Term examinations, which have been the order of things for the last four days, are scheduled to end at noon today, and the Christmas vacation, which lasts until Jan. 6, begins. In several subjects the examinations have been deferred until after Christmas.

ST. CHAD'S SALE.

The Ladies' Aid of St. Chad's Anglican Church, Dunlop street, held its annual sale of work yesterday afternoon. A large amount was realized. The proceeds will be given to the church fund.

The World is an advocate of public ownership.

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