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The Farmer's Daughter

THE problem of how to keep the girl on the farm is receiving a large share of attention just now,—and it is not an easy one to solve, as the call of the city proves alluring to young blood. Yet, to one who knows the various phases of city toil, it seems strange that a girl who might remain in a comfortable home on the farm should prefer close quarters and city stress to the healthier and more wholesome life in a country household.

It is useless to deny that this is an age of much feminine unrest. While this disturbance has its unpleasant features, the real foundations of domestic happiness and welfare are not threatened. Most of those who are studying the problems of farm life seem to agree that the daughter of the household should be given, not only responsibility, but an allowance of her own, that she may feel her own importance as a "producer." How many farmers' daughters have bank accounts?

Some old-fashioned citizens will rise to declare that the farmer cannot afford to give his daughters a regular allowance. Can he afford to lose their toil and their interest in the household? If it be said that a daughter's work in the household is merely in payment for the care which has been bestowed on her in childhood, she may well ask why a discrimination is nearly always made between her and her brother in this regard. There comes a time when discontent, or a longing for a change, comes over the country girl—and it is a wise parent who will show some appreciation of this natural unrest of youth and satisfy the desire for independence by placing considerable responsibility in the young hands and also placing to the credit of the worker a sum that will be recognition and inspiration.

Scarcity of Teachers

IT is with grieved surprise that the trustees and other school authorities of this fair land have awakened to the fact that women are no longer clamoring to enter the profession of pedagogy. Some years ago, it was evident that in Ontario, at least, the profession of teaching in public schools was being abandoned by men. A generation ago, there was a very fair representation of men in attendance at the normal schools of Toronto and Ottawa. Year by year, the numbers dwindled, until the man student at such institutions is regarded as a curiosity. Now, it is a matter of some concern that women are not entering upon the profession with the enthusiasm which trustees regard as desirable.

The reason for the diminution is not difficult to discover. In the days of our grandmothers, a woman who desired to earn her own living turned to teaching or needlework. To-day the gates of business opportunity are flung wide open and the ambitious and capable girl who chooses to earn a livelihood is hardly tempted by the teaching profession. It is true that the hours are not exacting and that the lengthy summer holiday is an attractive circumstance. But the work is peculiarly exhausting, in its double strain of discipline and instruction, as anyone who has undertaken its responsibilities sadly knows. There has been a good deal of sentimental cant expressed in connection with such callings as teaching and nursing. The business side of any profession must be taken into consideration by woman, as well as by man. A nurse is not a philanthropist—neither is a teacher. While a good nurse or a capable teacher will

be faithful in the discharge of duty under any circumstances, the financial aspect of the profession is not to be ignored. When trustees try to realize the importance of "quality" in the instructor and are willing to pay the price for a well-equipped teacher, there will be less talk about the scarcity of capable teachers.

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Medical Inspection of Schools

CANADA takes an honest pride in its school system. It is said of the New England States that a church and a little red school-house appeared together as soon as a community was formed. The value set upon a good education is no poor test of the civilization of a nation. Scotland and Germany, among the modern nations, have given the professor highest place, and the advantage of this policy is seen in the high efficiency attained by Scottish workmen, as well as those of the learned professions, while "made in Germany" has become a label of distinction. For a country so young as ours, the citizens have shown a commendable anxiety that the youth of the land shall be duly instructed and given an opportunity to enter life's race with fair equipment. Greater liberality to members of the teaching profession is demanded, and doubtless the demand will be met.

The latest development in school supervision is the medical inspection of pupils. Already, this has proved of immense benefit, as defects in hearing and sight have been discovered in their early stages, and pupils, hitherto considered backward, have been placed in a position to compete with others.

Canada is also paying attention to this important side of State care for the growing citizen. While it is not possible to make the school an infirmary or a nursery, it may be used for such detection of physical ailment or defect as will lead to treatment resulting happily for afflicted childhood.

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Picnic Days

IT is always in order to discuss the weather—even if the topic be commonplace. It is generally admitted that this month of July has been unusually trying and has broken the heat record of many "oldest inhabitants."

For the mother of the household, a spell of extreme heat means anxiety and extra precautions to guard the health of the children. It is well in such weather to relax, as far as possible, both in matters of clothing and diet—to wear the coolest and simplest garb and to avoid rich and heating food. A correspondent of ours has written to say that she has found "picnic teas" a great relief from the ordinary meal in a close dining-room. The veranda tea has become an institution in many homes during July and August, and much benefit has resulted from an al fresco repast. "Nerves" are admittedly the most common of modern ailments, and are not to be scoffed at in these days of exhausting heat. Everything should be done to lighten the day's work and give the family a breathing-space in the wide out-doors.

Monotony is what depresses so many of us in the course of the year's experience, and it is simply wonderful what a difference it makes, to take a little trip to the nearest grove or a cool lakeside. Sandwiches and lemonade in the open air make a far more appetizing meal than stewed fruit and hot biscuits within four walls.