

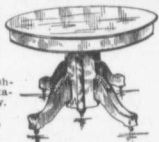
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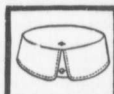
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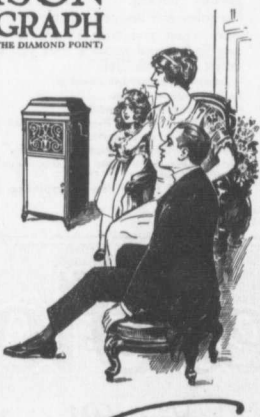
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## Planning for Christmas

"Aunt Fanny," *Peterboro Can.*, Oct. Perhaps it seems amazingly early to be thinking of Christmas, but that really depends on what we are planning, for some gifts take a great deal of time to produce. Those which take the most time and yet represent a minimum amount of work are flowering plants and bulbs. Almost any of our friends would like to get a potted plant for Christmas, and when we add to that the value that comes with our having raised it ourselves, we surely have a most acceptable gift.

It is wise to confine our efforts to some hardy variety of bulbs or plant rather than a more delicate. Such flowers as crocuses, tulips, daffodils, Chinese lilies, begonias, geraniums or ferns are hardy varieties. Chinese lilies are very easily grown and make a rapid growth. If started in October or early November they ought to be in bloom by Christmas. The best way to grow them is in a broad dish on a bed of pebbles, which is two or three inches deep and let the roots reach about half way up the bulbs. The dish should be in a dark place for a few weeks to aid root growth.

Geraniums, begonias or ferns make ideal gifts as potted plants and do not require a great deal of attention.

Such gifts as these that require our personal attention and yet do not entail either much expense or labor, appeal to us as a labor of love and a demonstration of the real Christmas spirit.

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## Our Greatest Need

Mrs. C. N. McLe, *Norfolk Co., Ont.*

"I WOULD advise country girls not to accept the proposal of any young man until he promises to provide the house with running water and a sanitary kitchen," says Prof. L. H. Bailey. This may seem like a radical measure to obtain necessary conveniences, but I say to Prof. Bailey's advice, "Hear! Hear!"

My own experience has shown me the necessity of a definite understanding before marriage as to the consideration that the household department on the farm is to receive. When we were married we planned to have all conveniences in the house. We had talked it over carefully and found that our ideas coincided. We started out on a run down farm with an equally run down house. We agreed that profit-making improvements must come first, and we started in to improve our land and our stock. We were both agreed that this was the best plan, and for half a dozen years I carried water from a spring situated fully 20 yards from the back door. Of course my husband had insisted that he carry the water; but he was never around when the water was needed. New needs presented themselves in the farm department, and the improvements in the house were put off from time to time. My husband got used to my doing without things, and it seemed that the slightest improvement needed on the farm was more important than my greatest need in the house.

I worried about this, but it took a friend visiting me to bring me right up with a start. "Did you ever make a real good kick against this neglect?" was the way in which she put it. I then saw that I was to blame, not my husband. I had given in too easily. We had a good talk. I showed him wherein he was not treating me justly, or living up to our marriage arrangement. Now we have water works and a refreshing company.

I say to young women have a definite understanding with your husbands and be sure to it that that understanding is not violated.



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