

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

FORBEARANCE

Hast thou named all the birds without a gun?
Loved the wood-rose and left it on its stalk?
At the rich man's table eaten bread and pulse?
Unarmed faced danger with a heart of trust?
And loved so well a high behavior,
In man or maid, that thou from speech refrained,
Nobility more noble to repay?
O, be my friend and teach me to be thine!

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

MANY INTERESTED IN CLUBS

There is no question about farmers' wives being interested in having clubs where they can meet their neighbors and have a jolly time, and incidentally pick up a few crumbs of information.

One woman suggests needlework clubs, and surely it is true that having something to do with the fingers even if one does not do it, helps the tongue to wag more freely and banishes the last vestige of restraint.

Others again would like Sunshine Guilds to be conducted somewhat like a literary society with the young people of the district taking part in debates and concerts. This certainly has its good points.

Again there are those who favor the formation of clubs on similar lines to the Home Economics Societies of Manitoba and the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan.

What do you think about it, readers? I feel that we have not heard from nearly enough women yet to come to a conclusion as to what is the general opinion of our readers. I don't want to try to force clubs upon you at all unless you feel that you really want them and need them.

So I would like to hear from a score or two more of you as soon as you can spare the time. I know you are busy, but the threshers can't visit all your places at the same time.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

Address all correspondence to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

DOUBTFUL ABOUT TELLING CHILDREN

Dear Miss Beynon:—

I enjoy reading The Country Homemakers' page very much, and consider it a great improvement to The Guide.

I am a farmer's wife and live on the prairie, five miles from the nearest town. For many years before my marriage I taught school in a city and first when I came here missed the society and life to which I had always been accustomed. Most of all I missed the beautiful ocean, which used to be the last thing I saw at night and the first in the morning, for at home my window looked out upon its glorious waves. But I am happy here, and my advice to anyone who has made such a radical change as I have is to keep up your outside interests. Outside the house on the farm among chicks and colts and your garden, also outside among neighbors, the church and the Homemakers' Club. Write as many letters as time permits; do not let the old home friends drop, and above all, read the papers. Keep abreast of the times in the news of the world.

I have a boy of ten who asks many questions. He sees a colt with its mother one day where none was the day before, and it is a great marvel to him. He watches every summer for the man who brings them, and says he is "just like Santa Claus, you never can catch him."

Though accustomed to the workings of children's minds, I have not yet decided whether a child so young should know things definitely. Can they take in or appreciate the sacredness of it all? I was never told by my elders, though I had the sweetest and dearest mother in all the world. The mothers of those days did not want us to know too soon, felt perhaps it was forcing open the



A LANDMARK OF THE WAR OF 1812-14

The old powder magazine at Fort Niagara, built in 1796 and still in a good state of preservation. It witnessed many hot engagements during the war that ushered in a century of peace between Great Britain and her American daughter. A century ago this year life was not as peaceful in the Niagara Peninsula as it is at present.

bud, which time would naturally unfold. I wonder were they right?

I enclose 5 cents for the booklet, "How to Tell the Truth to Children," which I will read. Perhaps it will bring me to a decision. My boy is very fond of reading, and could read it himself, if I think it best to allow him to do so just now.

Yours very sincerely,

NORMA.

I hope the book will help you to come to a decision. If your little boy is ten it is very certain that he will soon find out anyway.—F. M. B.

WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS

Dear Miss Beynon:—

May I come in a few moments to tell how much I enjoy reading The Country Homemakers' and Sunshine Page? We landed in Alberta in March and by chance I picked up an old G. G. G. I thought surely that is just the paper farmers want coming into the West, so at once subscribed. I enjoy reading the many helpful hints for mothers. I often wish the farmers' wives had a club of some kind where we could meet, get acquainted and help each other over the many hard problems we have to contend with. I have not met very many women neighbors since I came here. I often wish I could know many who have been living here for years. I feel there is so much I could learn from them.

Just a hint for some busy mother. When you rise early and leave baby in bed, have a large safety pin, one two inches long (you will get them in a harness shop) pin baby's nightdress to the mattress, there will be no danger of him falling out and bumping his head, as so many babies do. I found this such a help when I would be out attending the fowl in the morning. I knew baby was safe in bed. I must close, as I fear this rambling epistle may find its way to the waste basket.

May I come again?

K. T. M.

Come again and as often as you can. We will be very glad to hear from you.—F. M. B.

WANTS TO TEACH CHILDREN WISELY

Dear Friend:—

We have been taking The Guide for some time and like it very much. I always read the Homemakers' page and really enjoy it and find some very good recipes in it. In The Guide, August 14, there is a skirt pattern I would like to have, but do not know where to send the price of same. Would be pleased if you would send me the information I ask. And as I am the mother of five little ones, I am anxious to do my duty by them, so will enclose five cents in stamps for your little book "How to Teach the Truth to Children." Wishing your page every success,

Yours with best wishes,

MOTHER OF FIVE.

All patterns are 10c each. Address your orders to the Pattern Department, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

FROCKS AND SUITS OF THE SEASON

Clothes Are More Rational Than for Several Seasons

Occasionally Dame Fashion on the way from one atrocity to another hits upon a really sensible fashion by way of variety. I don't suppose any of us have ever tried to justify the rank absurdity of our present scant skirts which make the ascent from the ground to an ordinary buggy an adventure fraught with peril and excitement, and many are the tales that are told of the disasters that have overtaken women who in a moment of absent-mindedness have attempted to jump a miniature mud puddle. It is a disgrace to our intelligence that we allow ourselves to be led about by a few fussy little men in Paris who sit up nights trying to think of something new and ridiculous for women to wear.

A murmur has gone abroad from this stronghold of fashion to the effect that we are going to have hoop skirts foisted upon us again. One French designer did indeed show a hoop gown as long ago as last autumn in answer to the prayers of the manufacturers of fabrics for gowns requiring more materials. It didn't take. But behold in the spring comes the pannier gown which is a fiendish creation for all but the very tall and slender. It has many forms. Occasionally there is an overskirt looped up a few inches above the knee and adding appreciably to the apparent width of the skirt. One stunning white satin gown has an overskirt of black Chantilly lace parted in front and draped over the hips nearly to the bottom of the gown. Many silk and cloth dresses are made with a long jacket for a blouse, the part below the waist being divided over the hips and coming well down over the skirt. The inside skirt in every case is neither very narrow nor very wide but hangs straight from the waist in pretty graceful folds. Nearly always the foundation of shimmering satin is shrouded with chiffon or marquisette or some other light and filmy stuff which is sometimes gathered very slightly to the waist. These fairy-like draperies are given weight and substance by a lavish use of embroidery and beading. Sometimes instead of being cut like a real pannier the overskirt is made with one edge considerable longer than the other, and when they are joined at the left side of the skirt the long edge is pleated onto the short one, giving a draped effect that is decidedly graceful. This is the only possible arrangement of the new skirt that can be worn by the woman inclined to stoutness.

Surplice bodies are still fashionable, which should cause the woman who desires to add to her apparent stature to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. The long lines of the surplice are remarkably efficacious in adding length to figures that have been stunted of inches by Mother Nature. I noticed one rich gown of golden brown satin and chiffon with a dear old-fashioned fichu of embroidered white chiffon, giving it an indescribably quaint touch.

Many of the sleeves are puffed at the bottom or top, it doesn't seem to matter much which, and I take it this is a sign of the times and indicates a move in the direction of fuller sleeves. But contrary to all predictions many plain set-in kimono sleeves are still shown.

Tailored Suits Conservative

It was the tailored suits I had in mind when I said a while back that Dame Fashion was given to spasms of reason. The new suits are moderate to a degree.

Skirts still hang straight down, though often with pleats stitched nearly to the foot, giving added width where it is most needed and enabling the wearer to walk freely. The plain gored skirts which fall into very easy ripples at the bottom are more beautiful than for many seasons past. Altogether as regards the width and cut of the skirts I think we might safely say that the designers of women's suits have had an interlude of sanity. In the suit coats the same surprising moderation will be hailed with delight by the average woman. They are longer than formerly and made generally in a perfectly plain and dignified tailored style. Honors are pretty fairly divided between cut-away and square fronts, but for people who plan to make the one suit do for several seasons the square fronts are decidedly the best, being less likely to go out of date.

The practical utility of these new suits is further carried out in the materials, which are rough tweeds, wide wale diagonal serges and two-tone or shot, whipcords. All these are stuffs which wear long and show the effects of hard service but little. They require the minimum of brushing and always look well, whether for everyday or special occasion wear.

Long Coats are Rough and Loose

Tweeds similar to those from which the suits are built are used for the long coats, only greatly exaggerated in roughness and thickness. Indeed they are big blanket wraps, delightfully cosy and comfy looking, but not to say dressy. A few here and there have shoulder capes, but by far the larger number of them are finished with small round collars and collars that are convertible from lay-down to stand-up ones, according to the weather or taste. One, two or three big fancy buttons hold them together in front and often a wide belt marks off the high waistline behind. I can't say that I am in love with these coats, which savor too much of kimonas and negligees generally to appeal very strongly to my fancy.

A Word About Lingerie Waists

In the new lingerie waists we have a return to the long sleeves descending right to the wrists and high necks, which means more blundering. But let us hope it will restore the peace of mind of those editors of women's journals, who have suffered great agitation of soul over the sinful exposure of arms and necks indulged in for many seasons past. When a woman puts on an evening dress cut just as low as decency will allow and sleeveless except for a strap of black velvet over the shoulder there is, they admit, nothing shocking about it because she wears it under the glare of electric light. But they claim that it is a wicked temptation of man for a young girl to come out in broad daylight with a Dutch neck and elbow sleeves. To my notion both of them are innocent, if the wearer is, and the man who cannot withstand so much temptation ought, for the safety of the race, to be locked up until his morals improve.

However, he is in future to be under the special protection of Fashion, who has decreed the passing of our pretty elbow sleeves and collarless blouses.

Little Girl: "You needn't brag. We've got a baby at our house, too."

"Yes, but yours is a last year's baby. Ours is the very latest style."