

For the table, a yard of the best Irish linen was bought and double hem-stitched. The little lady from the manse kindly offered to embroider flowers in the four corners. A silkoline curtain is to be run on a rod to screen the lower part of the desk.

If suggestions can be taken from this the writer will be amply repaid, and the cost of anything will readily be given.

MARGARET GUTHRIE.

Margaret's observation re the cream curtains with a green vine reminded me of some curtains that a friend is making for her summer cottage. They are of cheesecloth, and all around the edge she is stencilling on them a conventional pattern in blue—the room in which they are to hang being old blue in tone. To stencil, you first cut out a pattern from very stiff paper, the "hole" being the pattern. Varnish with shellac on both sides, and when dry lay on the material to be stencilled, painting the pattern in with a brush dipped in whatever coloring medium is to be used. My friend is going to do hers with diamond dye. By moving the pattern along, the one block of paper will be enough. For stencilling borders around rooms, as is sometimes done, paint must of course be used instead of the dye.

Cookies and Gingersnaps.

Dear Dame Durden,—I have been an interested reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" for a long time, and especially Ingle Nook—it is the first thing I turn to. I have never written before, being a little timid, and always busy.

Will someone, or Dame Durden, kindly send some names of some good recitation books suitable for small children about nine or ten years of age? Any information will be thankfully received. Also, as to where I might purchase them.

Would like a recipe for good ginger cookies. Here is one for white cookies: 3 eggs, 1 cup butter, 2 cups of sugar, 1 teaspoon soda; flour to make a dough; bake in a quick oven.

Here is another one: 2 eggs, 3 cups of sugar, 1 cup of buttermilk, 2 cups of butter, 2 teaspoons of soda, flour as necessary. INDUSTRY.

Elgin Co.

I should think if you write to T. Eaton & Co., Toronto, stating what you want, they will be able to send you a good juvenile recitation book.

The following is a good recipe for gingersnaps: 2 cups molasses, 1 cup butter or lard, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon ginger. Heat all until melted, and then add just enough flour to roll nicely. Bake in a quick oven.

From a Women's Institute Member.

Dear Dame Durden,—I have been an interested reader of the Ingle Nook for some time, but never took courage to write until I saw Helena's request for a recipe for butter tarts. As we have a good one, I will send it: Three-quarters cup of brown sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter (melted), 1 cup of currants, and 1 egg. Here is also an excellent recipe for chocolate pudding, which, by the way, I got from a Women's Institute meeting: One quart of milk, 1 cup of sugar, 1 square of chocolate, 6 tablespoons corn-starch, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Scald the milk. Mix corn-starch with a little cold milk; add salt, sugar and chocolate; pour into scalded milk, and stir. Cook about ten minutes; take off stove, and add vanilla. I sometimes use cocoa instead of chocolate.

A Delicious Cake.—Two cups of white sugar, 1 cup of butter, 1 cup of milk, 3 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of soda, 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar and 3 cups flour. Beat butter and sugar together; add yolks of eggs, then beaten whites; dissolve soda in milk; rub cream of tartar in flour, and add last.

We have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for about four years, and would not like to be without it. There is so much one can learn in it. I am always interested in the poultry section. I raised over one hundred chicks last year, and had but a few die. We have not an incubator. A number of our neighbors have them, but they have

so many chicks die of disease. I think incubator chicks are bothered with disease more than those with hens, so I have come to the conclusion that hens are the best incubators. In feeding young chicks, the first 24 hours, at least, after hatching, I do not feed them, then I give them some sand, and then I crumble bread and give them, and keep them on that feed for about a week before starting them (gradually) with more solid feed. In feeding them this way, I seldom lose one, except by accident. I think crumbled bread is better for them than bread soaked in water.

York Co., Ont.

BLUE BELL.

Children's Corner.

[All letters for Children's Corner must be addressed "Cousin Dorothy," 52 Victor Ave., Toronto. Otherwise they will not be published.]

SOMETHING ABOUT OTTERS.

Among the animals that live partly on land and partly in water, that can run about on shore and breathe the air just as well as we can, and yet dive under

that some part of it is always dry and well ventilated.

When the otter wants his supper—for, as he eats only at night, it may be said that he takes neither breakfast nor dinner—he slips quietly into the water, and, as soon as he sees a fish, he gives chase to it. He has large, full eyes, like a seal's and he can see in the water as well as on land. He is web-footed, and his long, flexible body and stout tail enable him to move through the water with a motion very much like that of a fish. He can thus swim very fast and few fish are able to escape him.

During the day, the otter generally stays quiet in his burrow, but at night he comes out, and makes it very lively for the fish. Sometimes, when fish are scarce, he will do his midnight hunting on land, and will catch a chicken, or any small animal he may meet.

If caught when quite young, otters can be tamed so that they will follow their masters about, and even catch fish for them. They are as playful as kittens, and make very interesting pets. In India and other Eastern countries, tame otters are largely used in the catching of fish, and a very nice business is done in this way. The fur of the otter is quite valuable, hence the scarcity of the animal in this country. The sea otter, which inhabits the Arctic regions, is much larger than our common otter, and its fur is much more valuable. They are killed in large quantities in the regions about Behring Straits and Kamschatka.

The otter is such a clever, interesting little fellow, with so much common sense and shrewdness, that it seems a pity to kill him and use his skin simply for purposes of adornment.—[Boy's World.]

THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION FOR FARMERS.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—The first and last time I wrote to the Children's Corner was dated last summer, while I was enjoying life on a dairy farm in Ohio. But I am back in old Canada once more, enjoying all the pleasures of our Canadian winter. I think Canada is the best yet; but, still, I suppose that is only natural, it being my home land. I will try now, and give you my ideas regarding the proposed topic, "The Advantages of Education for Farmers." I think education is a branch which our country cannot do too much toward building up and improving. People used to think that education was not needed to run a farm, but nowadays every up-to-date farmer has a good understanding of all the many different branches in connection with farming. If you see a man who does not get along, does not make money, and often is not happy, the fault usually lies in the fact that he does not manage right, and no man can manage if he doesn't know how; so he must have education. I must not occupy too much of your precious room, so, wishing you and all the readers success, I will now withdraw, and give other friends a chance. AUBURN.

Beamsville, Ont.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—After reading so many valuable letters in "The Farmer's Advocate," I decided to come into this cosy corner. Now, for a talk about "The Advantage of Education for Farmers." We must first take into consideration for what a farmer needs education. Some, but few, think that a farmer needs little or no education for his work, only plowing, harrowing, reaping and mowing, but that is not all. After he has done this, he must take his grain and other products to market, and how would he know when a man was cheating him or not, if not for his education? He needs to know how to read, if he wants to know anything about the outside world. He must know how to write, so that he can write to any place or person. I say that a farmer needs education more than any other business man of our Dominion. Before I close, I must say that I agree with Lorne Brooks about Canada. Wishing the Corner and "The Farmer's Advocate" every success. BLUEBELL.

Middleport, Ont.

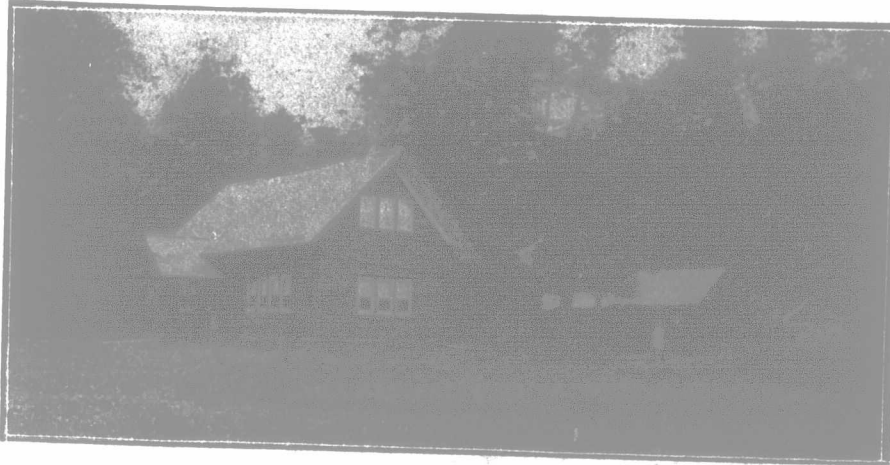


Fig. 2.—A very inexpensive house, rendered uncommon by placing the porch to one side and arranging the windows to secure harmony both inside and out. (By permission of House Beautiful.)

THE GREEN LADY.

A lady sat singing alone in the mire:
"The New Year must come, and the Old Year retire;

But I the Green lady,
Smell lilacs already,
And I hear in the tree veins the sap rising higher."

The wind was as sharp as the fang of a snake,
But the lady's warm fingers bade snow-drops awake.

"I saw you, I heard you,
When no vision stirred you
Of bursting your buds for the Green Lady's sake."

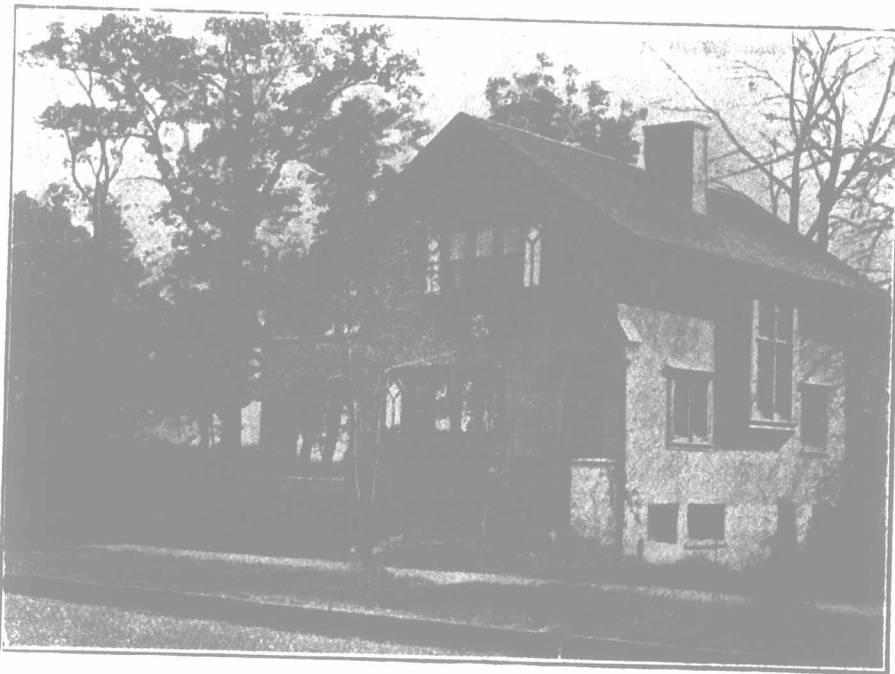


Fig. 3.—Note the arrangement of windows, unique, yet quite compatible with a harmonious exterior. This house was designed by the Crafters. (By permission of House Beautiful.)

The lady went smiling with rain in her face,
And the puddle she trod turned a beautiful place.

Where thirsty birds, drinking,
Might sudden be thinking
Of downy broods warm in a feather-lined space.

She passed, the Green Lady, and with her and after
A beam of clear sunshine pierced heaven's cloudy rafter.

It struck to earth's bosom,
And there it bade blossom
The rapture of roses, the hyacinths laughter.

—Nora Chesson, in the London Chronicle.

that, in case of a flood in the stream, the water will not rise up along the entrance way and into the otter's house. Sometimes the animal makes two of three chambers, one above another, so that, in case the water should rise in a lower room, he and his family could go up higher and keep dry. He does not mind being under the water for a time, but he cannot live under the water. From the top of his house to the surface of the ground he makes a small hole to let in the air, so it will be seen that the otter is a very clever creature. The entrance to his house is hidden under water, where no dog nor other enemy is likely to find it, or to get in if they do find it, and his home is so well planned