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# Your Problems

Conducted by Mrs. Helen Law

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Make your Strawberry Preserves with

## Farm Crop Queries

MOST OF THIS PAGE IS MISSING

Mrs. E. C.:—1. To preserve strawberries in the sunshine, place in a preserving kettle in layers as many pounds of sugar as of sound ripe berries, which have been hulled and washed, and when the juice is drawn out a little set it over the fire to cook; let cook twenty minutes after boiling begins. Turn the berries into earthen or agate plates, cover each with a pane of glass to fit tightly over the top and place in the sun. Let stand two days, stirring two or three times each day. At the end of this time place in sterilized jars, seal and store them without reheating. 2. To give the hair a dry shampoo take one cupful of cornmeal, warm it in the oven, add one-quarter cupful salt to it, mix well, then holding the head over a cloth or newspaper rub the meal into the scalp. Brush thoroughly.

Peggy:—1. Red Cross Societies are an outgrowth of the convention of Geneva, Switzerland, held in 1864. 2. Yes, the South Pole was discovered by Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, who reached it on December 16, 1911. Robert Falcon Scott, the English naval officer and explorer, reached the South Pole on January 18, 1912, only to find the Norwegian flag and records left by Amundsen. Scott perished on the return trip.

Mrs. S. T.:—1. Aphids or plant lice and black fly are the insects injuring currants and gooseberries. They usually attack the new leaves and tips. Frequent spraying with some of the tobacco preparations or whale oil soap has a good effect. If the fruit is not more than half formed put in the soap or tobacco solution one tablespoonful of arsenate of lead paste or one-half tablespoonful of arsenate of lead powder or one teaspoonful of paris green to a gallon of the spray. If the fruit is well formed this is too poisonous to use and as a substitute you can use hellebore, one ounce to a gallon of water. Hellebore is a mild poison and must be bought fresh each time, as it loses its virtue on opening. In all these mix the poison in a very little water, smooth, before blending with the other solution. 2. Your garden is afflicted with cutworms. These usually work at night and are among the most malicious of insect pests. One way to help is to make a ring around each plant in the affected area of quicklime. Another is to use a poison mash. This is made with one pint bran, one-half teaspoonful paris green and one teaspoonful molasses with enough water to moisten to a thick dough. Put a little of this along the rows, and the cutworms will eat it and die. In the fall dig in a good lot of quicklime in the affected ground, after the garden crops are all in. Care should be taken to keep children and domestic animals from the poison bait.

Mother:—1. To protect the child from flies and mosquitoes, make a

framework of slender strips of wood the size of the bed, and tie the four supporting uprights to the bedposts, over this frame a two-yard-wide piece of cotton mosquito netting is thrown and the edges tucked in under the mattress. Let there be plenty of fresh air in the room; it spells health. 2. The rubber diaper is decidedly harmful to baby. It acts like a heating compress, keeping the genitals in a constant state of moist heat which encourages itching, with its consequent scratching and rubbing. One of its most serious after effects is bad practices. The mother or caretaker seeking protection may carry about a rubber pad to place on their laps under the child, but under no circumstances bind up the child with rubber cloth. 3. A child's bed should not be too soft. A hair mattress or some firm sanitary cotton mattress is best. This should be covered with a protective strip of stork sheeting and the pad, over which should be spread a cotton sheet. The covering on the bed should be as light as is consistent with needed warmth. Overheating is highly injurious. A baby should have a bed to himself. 4. The best method of removing superfluous hair is to destroy each individual hair with a little electric needle. This method is called electrolysis. 5. Vitamines are the vital elements in cereal grains, milk, eggs and vegetable products. They lie very close to the outer covering in grains, cereals and many vegetables; are easily destroyed by high temperature in cooking.

O. W. G.:—1. To remove white spots from a polished surface rub with a soft cloth wet in essence of peppermint until spot disappears; then polish with flannel. This will not injure the most highly polished wood. 2. For a holder to remove boiling pots from the stove or in draining vegetables, use an ordinary cotton flannel mitt with palm and thumb padded with cotton and a loop of tape sewed to the wrist for a hanger. The protector it gives the back of the hand is obvious. 3. I am told that a paste of molasses and flour will remove grass stains from colored fabrics without effecting the color. To remove grass stains from white flannel trousers, dissolve one cupful washing soda in two cupfuls water, heat the solution, make a suds of naphtha soap, immerse the stain and rub gently. Ammonia and water or alcohol are also good if the stains are fresh. 4. A faded black silk dress may be cleaned by the use of a weak solution of coffee water. Restore the lustre by careful rubbing with a soft silk handkerchief and do not wet the silk too much. 5. By all means write to your hostess within two or three days after your return home. Just write an easy chatty letter about things in general. Be sure to tell your hostess how much you enjoyed visiting her.

## Bedtime Stories

**"I Wish I Were."**  
One summer morning a fairy awoke late but the dew was all gone from the flowers and he had to run down to the brook to get his breakfast drink. And after he had had his drink he discovered that he was too late for honey, too; he could not find a speck of honey, not even one taste. You see, the fairies usually get up so early that they can eat all the honey they want long before the bees start from their hives.

But on this particular morning the lazy little fairy had slept so late that the bees had been round and eaten all the honey,—every scrap,—and that made the fairy so cross that he did not even remember that he might stir round and hunt for something else to eat.

He sat down at the foot of a tree, intending to sulk all day long; but before he had more than started sulking a robin came by.

"Good morning, Friend Fairy!" said the robin cheerfully. "Isn't this a fine day?"

"No, it's a very bad day," said the fairy crossly, "and I wish I were an apple!"

"What a funny wish for a fairy to make," said the robin, laughing. "If you change into an apple, I'll eat a hole in you."

"Then I won't be an apple," replied the fairy crossly, "for I don't want to be eaten in me! I'll be something else."

The robin laughed and flew away just as a big toad hopped out from behind a tree.

"Good morning, Friend Fairy!" he croaked. "Isn't this a fine day?"

"No, it isn't," said the fairy crossly; "and I wish I were a spider!"

"What a funny wish!" croaked the toad. "Don't you know that spiders have to work very hard and spin a web before they can crawl on it through the air? But I hope you do

change into a spider; I'm looking for spiders this very minute, and if you become one I'll gobble you up!"

"Then I won't be a spider," said the fairy, "for I certainly don't care to be gobbled up. I'll be something else."

The toad laughed and hopped away, and the fairy was left alone to sulk.

"I don't know what I want to be," he sighed fretfully. "This is such a horrid world—no dew, no honey, no nice wishes! I think I'll be a star."

"A star?" exclaimed a soft little voice by his side. "Would you be a star and leave this beautiful world—all the flowers and birds—to live up in the bare sky?"

The fairy turned and looked. There, near by, was a tiny ant tugging away at a big grain of sand.

"Do you think this is such a fine world?" asked the fairy. "I should think you would hate it. You have to work all the time."

"To be sure I do," replied the ant proudly. "That's the reason I like to live. Working is the jolliest and most interesting thing in this whole big world—didn't you know that? It's true." And the sturdy little ant picked up his burden and started away.

Left by himself, the sulking fairy began to feel very foolish and very sorry. He remembered the flower bud he ought to have opened long ago; and he thought of the sunbeams he should have helped.

"What I should be wishing for," he whispered to himself, "is work. And then I should hunt round and answer my own wish."

Slyly he slipped round the tree to open a buttercup bud he was sure he had seen there. And as the flower opened, what do you suppose that surprised fairy found? A drop of fresh, sweet honey all ready for him to eat!

As he sipped the honey and planned what to do next, a cardinal bird hopped by.

"Good cheer! Good cheer, Friend Fairy!" called the cardinal. "Isn't this a fine day?"

And the happy little fairy called back, "A fine day for working, indeed it is!"