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Lucy Barnhill's Garden

By J. GRACE WALKER.

Above the continuous din of half a dozen sewing machines and the accompanying clatter of tongues, a single sentence reached Mrs. Wiersema's ears where she sat making row upon row of beautiful buttonholes—her stint in the day's work of the Ladies' Aid Society.

"It seems as if some of us ought to go down there fore she goes, and give her a piece of our mind!" The speaker was Mrs. Ezra Shoemaker in the full tide of righteous indignation. Mrs. Wiersema hitched her chair round until she could touch Mrs. Bailey on the shoulder with her thumb.

"Who they talking about, Mary? Who's going, and where they going to?" "Why, that Lakin girl that lives kitty-corner from you. She's going to leave her father and then two little half-brothers and go back to clerk in the store at King's Mills where she was before they come here," exclaimed her friend.

"All this, she hates to do housework," Mrs. Shoemaker went on. "She don't like to scrub floors and such, and she's going to keep her hands out the wash water if she has to leave that poor helpless family to starve to death. I say it's a burnin' shame and ought not to be passed over without her knowing how respectable people feel about it."

"Some folks hates housework worse than others," little Mrs. Thoms admitted. "Now I love it, scrubbin' and all, but I've got a cousin—"

"She'd ought to do her duty by her family regardless," put in Julia Butler. "Nobody could hate to scrub worse than I do—seems to me I never get done—when 'tain't the kitchen floor it's the baseboard in the dining room or the pantry ceiling—but I'll say this for myself, I do my duty by that house if I am skin and bone in consequence."

"Yes, you do, Julia," half a dozen assured her. "Course Rhoda Lakin ain't but seventeen," Mrs. Thoms added after a moment of silence.

the back way to get my things? If one goes early, it always sets the rest of 'em off, and it appears to me there's lots of work yet to be done." "Take buttonholes!" Mrs. Postle urged.

Mrs. Wiersema looked through the trees to the town clock before she turned in at her own back gate. It was barely half past three. In the house she stayed only long enough to search out a seed catalogue that had come the day before. After that she locked the door behind her, stiffened her shoulders and made straight for the Lakin house across the street and up her screened front door.

Her knock resounded through the house. In the silence that followed she could hear the drip-drip of water from a loose kitchen faucet; but there was no answer. The two little boys were still at school, and if there sister was at home she made no move.

But Mrs. Wiersema kept on knocking, and after a while there was the quick sound of an impatient step, and Rhoda Lakin came out of the front bedroom and stood looking through the screen at Mrs. Wiersema out of dark, hostile eyes.

The girl continued to look at her with tightened lips. Mrs. Wiersema's eyes twinkled. "There's one thing I'm not," she declared whimsically. "That's a book agent."

A glimmer passed over the girl's face. "I beg your pardon!" she said dryly. "Of course—come in. I'm rather busy just now, but if there's anything—" She led the way into the front parlor and with an ungracious hand indicated a chair. (Concluded in next issue.)

Fiftieth Anniversary of Sun Life.

The year 1921 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, which in the half century of its existence had grown to be one of the largest and most successful life insurance companies in the world.

One year after it was organized, in 1872, the company's income was \$48,000; its assets, \$96,461; and it had written policies for a total of \$1,064,350. By the year 1880 the income had grown to \$141,402 with assets \$473,682, and insurance in force of \$3,897,139. From this time onward the development of the company, not only in Canada, but in stretching out to many other countries of the world, proceeded at a rapid pace, as the tables for the next four decades indicate:

Year	Income	Assets	Insurance in Force
1890	\$127,859.00	\$279,568.00	\$10,198,000.00
1900	\$278,226.52	\$1,488,891.17	\$20,980,534.68
1910	\$512,453.94	\$3,164,793.37	\$43,549,276.00
1920	\$1,141,839.44	\$114,839,444.46	\$1,141,839,444.46

Details of the financial statement of this company for the past year appear elsewhere in this issue, and will be studied with more than usual interest in this its Jubilee year.

About the House

A Neighborhood Club That Won Success.

Looking back over twenty years' experience in a club, the membership of which is composed of women of different ages and nationalities, I have found that the best programs were those in which every one took part, and the poorest programs were those which gave most of the time to an outside speaker.

Now we have settled down into a routine in our club, and this is the way it works out: We make every effort to have our meeting begin on time. The meeting is called to order, and we take turns around the circle giving quotations of prose or poetry, reporting some current event, or recounting a housekeeping experience, and we emphasize the fact that a failure may teach more than a success.

We have one invariable rule—that every member must at some time during the year take a leading part; and at every meeting during the year must take at least a minor part. Failure of any member to respond helps to fatten the pig—a bank in the shape of a pig which, when full, is made to disgorge for the benefit of the flower fund.

The member who has to pay a forfeit is the object of attention while she puts her small coin into the pig, and she is thus encouraged to overcome her shyness.

A program is determined upon for each year and the general subject is subdivided. Every member is responsible for a special part, and must either prepare or have some one else prepare to discuss the topic assigned her. Reading of a paper is prohibited. We have seriously discussed the problem of money-making projects for women, but household problems interest us most.

One year we had the house as our subject and took the different rooms for each program. We gave two days to the kitchen. We had plans made by individuals, and used provincial college and government bulletins as text-books.

We have found that bulletins may be secured, on enough topics to provide text-books for several years. A bibliography of bulletins gives required information. When we have a farmers' institute, we send for a complete list of bulletins and hang them around the room. It is interesting to see men and women look them over and note down the numbers.

When our girl members marry, we give them loose-leaf cook books—those made with rings for holding the leaves. We first distribute the leaves among the members and each member writes upon her leaf her best recipe, which must be signed and dated. The amount each recipe makes is also noted for convenience in cooking for two. The leaves are then assembled in the loose-leaf covers and the book is given to the bride, and our brides treasure these books for all time.

When one of our neighbors lost her house by fire, we met and made clothes for her and her children. One of the members had everything cut ready for sewing, and two other members brought their sewing machines, so that the day showed a good "stint" of work done.

Mothers always bring the small children to the afternoon meetings; but sometimes we meet in the evening. Then whole families come and bring with them well-filled luncheon baskets.

Has the club been worth while? The following incident is only one of many which prove that it has. When one of our members lay upon her death-bed she sent for the secretary and said: "Tell all the club sisters 'good-bye' for me. Tell them I have had a better home life and a better heart life for having joined the club."

Homely Wrinkles.

Remove caked mud from the men's working clothes and the horse blankets by rubbing the spots with a dried corn-cob. A good beating should follow; and by the way, woollen clothes should always be beaten before they are brushed, as the beating removes most of the dirt, and is not so hard on the cloth.

Washing windows is cold work in mid-winter. Try cleaning the windows with prepared chalk dissolved in enough water to make a thin paste. Rub this on window-panes and leave until dry; then polish with a dry, clean cloth until all the chalk is removed. You will have a shining glass in one-third of the time usually spent in polishing.

Horseradish, the most wholesome of condiments, can be grated without a tear if put through the food chopper. A large quantity can be prepared at one time and will not lose its strength if covered with cider vinegar and put in a tightly sealed jar. Take out the horseradish as needed for the table, and place in a covered glass or wide-mouthed bottle.

Library paste needed by the children in their school work can be made at home thus: Mix one cupful of flour, wheat or rye (the latter is better), and one teaspoonful of powdered alum, with one-half cupful of cold water, and beat until smooth. Then add two tablespoonfuls of lime-water, a few drops of oil of cloves, or winter green, and two cupfuls of boiling water. Pour the water in slowly, stirring all the while. Set the mixture on the stove and stir until it boils, then put it in a double boiler, or set the vessel containing it in a kettle of boiling water and cook for half an hour, stirring often. Pour into covered jars and cover the top with melted paraffin.

A Subway Bakery at Verdun.

An underground bakery, says the Journal of Home Economics, furnishes all the bread used by the refugee population in the ruined city of Verdun. No other building was sufficient weather-proof to house a bread-baking establishment for the returning townspeople, and the authorities were forced to requisition the great ovens underground in order to turn out the principal food of the toilers. Several times each day the bread is brought to the mouth of the black cavern beneath the great walls where lines of people await their rations.

The bakery is a part of the famous underground city of Verdun, built after the war of 1871 and designed to house thirty thousand persons during an attack. During the Great War thousands of soldiers and a few refugees lived in this subterranean abode while the city was under fire for four years. The bakery was in operation all the while.

Paper Bowls.

A new idea in finger-bowls has been patented by Simon Bergman, of New York. It is made of paper, and on the inside of its bottom is printed an advertisement, so that a person using the finger-bowl will notice the gradual development, and thereby have his attention directed to it.

The inventor says that the printing should become visible with a slow development, so that a person using the finger-bowl will notice the gradual appearing of the advertisement, and thereby have his attention directed to it.

The same idea may be applied to a paper ice-cream saucer or a paper drinking cup.

Women! Use "Diamond Dyes."

Dye Old Skirts, Dresses, Waists, Coats, Stockings, Draperies, Everything. Each package of "Diamond Dyes" contains easy directions for dyeing any article of wool, silk, cotton, linen, or mixed goods. Beware! Poor dye streaks, spots, fades and ruins material by giving it a 'dye-look.' Buy "Diamond Dyes" only. Druggist has Color Card.

A Nasty, Rude Boy.

Johnny had been using some very unparliamentary language, much to his mother's distress. "Johnny," she cried, "do stop using such dreadful expressions. I can't imagine where you pick them up."

"Well, mother," replied Johnny, Shakespeare uses them.

"Then don't play with him again," commanded his mother; "he's not a fit companion for you, I'm sure."

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SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

1871 HEAD OFFICE MONTREAL 1921
JUBILEE YEAR

HALF a century has elapsed since the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada issued its first policy in 1871. The figures submitted herewith indicate the size, strength and outstanding position to which the company has attained among the life assurance institutions of the world, as a result of its operations during those first fifty years.

SYNOPSIS OF RESULTS FOR 1920			
ASSETS			
Assets as at 31st December, 1920			\$114,839,444.48
Increase over 1919			9,127,976.21
INCOME			
Cash Income from Premiums, Interest, Rents, etc., in 1920			\$ 28,751,578.43
Increase over 1919			3,047,377.33
PROFITS PAID OR ALLOTTED			
Profits Paid or Allotted to Policyholders in 1920			\$ 1,615,645.64
SURPLUS			
Total Surplus 31st December, 1920, over all liabilities and capital			\$ 8,364,667.15
(According to the Company's Standard, viz: for assurances, the O.S. Table, with 3 1/2 and 3 per cent. interest, and for annuities, the B. O. Select Annuity Tables with 3 1/2 per cent. interest.)			
TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS			
Death Claims, Matured Endowments, Profits, etc., during 1920			\$ 10,960,402.00
Payments to Policyholders since organization			102,187,934.30
ASSURANCES ISSUED DURING 1920			
Assurances issued and paid for in cash during 1920			\$106,891,266.23
Increase over 1919			20,342,416.70
BUSINESS IN FORCE			
Life Assurances in force 31st December, 1920			\$486,641,235.17
Increase over 1919			70,282,773.12
THE COMPANY'S GROWTH			
YEAR	INCOME	ASSETS	LIFE ASSURANCES IN FORCE
1872	\$ 48,210.93	\$ 96,461.95	\$ 1,094,350.00
1880	141,402.81	473,682.93	3,897,139.11
1890	880,073.87	2,473,514.10	10,759,355.93
1900	2,786,226.52	10,488,891.17	67,980,534.68
1910	9,512,453.94	38,164,793.37	143,549,276.00
1920	28,751,578.43	114,839,444.48	486,641,235.17

Baby's Advice—
Don't use medicated soaps unless your skin is sick—
and don't make it sick by using strong soaps, pigments, or by neglect.

BABY'S OWN SOAP

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