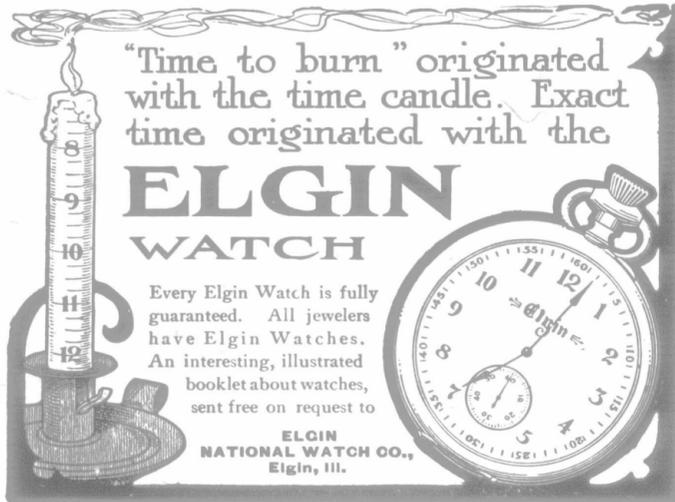


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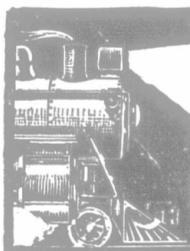
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peg or Regina or some other large town would be seen by hundreds of people and might result in finding customers for your laces. Write to the secretary of the fair board of any city you choose and get entry blanks from him.

Have I helped you, Irish Girl? If there are any questions you want to ask, or anything I have missed that will help you be sure to let me know, as other members are doubtless interested in the same subject, and we can all learn together.—D. D.)

THE FARM GARDEN.

DEAR EDITOR:

Has a farmer's wife a just right to a garden of small fruits and vegetables? It is not selfish on her part to wish for fresh vegetables for the table or for a dish of fresh fruit for tea. Yet some men look upon their labor in that line as an act of generosity toward the wife, while the truth is that they eat and relish most of it themselves.

I have often wondered if the seed catalogs were an unmixed blessing. The longing for a garden is awakened to new life at the sight of one and hungrily the farmer's wife looks at the many things it would be possible for her to have if only that horrid and untruthful speech of the farmer would not crush out and benumb every desire. Are you familiar with this speech? "I cannot afford it." How we women hate that lie! We know that for the sake of home comfort and the contentment of children the true statement is, "I cannot afford not to have them." Why should a man, with 160 acres of land free from debt, all the necessary implements to work it, a barn, a house, a goodly supply of stock and a bank account besides, make the "cannot afford it" answer to any such modest desire for creature comforts? A fence to keep the hens off a quarter of an acre of land around the house so that the wife could have the garden near at hand would not be expensive, and it would at the same time keep hens out of the house. How many a farmer's wife has scrubbed her floor and had the pleasure of finding it soiled again on her return with a pail of water. Even if she shuts the door every time she goes out the hens sit on the door sill and on the plank which extends about ten feet from the door. And the farmer who cannot afford a fence to keep them out cannot afford the time to pick his steps. And what the hens fail to bring into the house direct he carries in on his boots. When there are pigs on the farm the door cheek and corners of the house make grand scratching places for them, and their contented grunts ought to make up to any right-minded woman for the lack of the vegetables of fruit their presence may prevent.

Then when eggs come fresh in spring it is so pleasant to hear the farmer say: "We cannot afford to eat eggs at that price," "See that you save them all!" Once or twice a week every member of the family is made to cringe while he recalls exactly how many pounds of beef he has had to provide for them and how much it cost.

I hope I shall not be condemned as "Nurse" was for classing all farmers as those I speak about. I know there are some farmers who act differently. I am speaking now only of those who are in circumstances where it is criminal not to provide healthful food, and to do so without making up a bill of it at meal time. I wonder if those men could be made to see the positive pain and torture it is to their wives to be denied the pleasure of having a flower garden, a screen door, and, last but not least, a fence to keep the hens out of the yard. Would it make any difference in their conduct? When slabs can be got for one cent apiece and every slab can be cut in three lengths the whole would not cost more than three or at the most four dollars. If a farmer cannot afford that, he ought to try digging post holes or attending masons, for those men as a rule can have wire fences to protect their gardens. I wish it were compulsory for every farmer to provide a garden and all necessary tools and plants, and seed to no end. Even if he does so he has only done his duty, and need not take credit to himself.

(The farm garden is an institution recognized as a necessity by common sense, and where that commodity dwells the wife needs neither to beg for one as a privilege nor demand it as a right. The knowledge based on careful calculation that fruit and vegetables produced at home are more appetizing, wholesome and economical than goods bought in cans should be sufficient to lead the home-builders to arrange and maintain a piece of land where such products can be raised. Even if the husband has not given the matter any thought heretofore, after talking it over with his wife in a straightforward fashion, he will, if of average mental ability, see the desirability of having a garden, and proceed to do his share without waiting for her to whine or scold. (After all a woman can get what she wants without doing either of these things.) He is sensible enough to see that the preliminary preparation of fencing and making the soil ready is his work, and a continuous interest in its welfare ever after, although necessarily his grain and cattle take up most of his time and the weeding and gathering must be left to wife and children. Appeal to his intellect to win approval of the scheme and he will not balk at spending the money.—Ed.)

IDEAS FOR THE HOME BEAUTIFUL.

Dear Dame Durden:—I am truly thankful to see that someone has found it necessary to give a few hints on "Household Sanitation" and "Surroundings of the Home."

I have hoped for time all winter to send you a letter suggesting that someone with more time than I have might try to do some good now that spring is near at hand.

I think that Dr. Allen-Davidson would do well to visit some of the homesteads in our locality. I simply cannot understand how a woman can contentedly stand on her doorstep and "chuck" out all that is not required in the house. It is a lovely approach to a dwelling if a friend should happen to call. Instead of everything being neat we find all sorts and conditions of disused buckets, broken crockery, etc., and worst of all, in spring, thawed "swill." Dr. Davidson suggests a gravel walk to the water closet! What use would the walk be without the closet?

My idea of a garden is a neatly marked out place for fruit, vegetables and flowers kept in good order. The general type here is a rough plowed and harrowed patch where a few seeds are grown and allowed to have a losing race with pig weed.

Oh! Why will people not try to make the best of what is given them? It makes my heart ache to see a house full of children, but with curtains as if they had gone through the keyhole, blinds hanging at all angles and a fair portion of the household wardrobe sticking through broken window panes! What will the children be like when they grow up?

I hope Dr. Davidson will give a few words on spitting. I should like to hear what she has to say of the man who spits on the floor that his wife has to scrub.

What is your idea of a kitchen, Dame Durden? Not a muddle puddle of pots, pans, boots, mitts, hats and pig-feed is it? I fancy you will agree with me that it should be the cleanest place in the house, a good size, light and with everything smelling sweet.

I must cease, though as I fear I can do no good.

TWEEDSIDE.

(I have any amount of opinions about a kitchen and intend inflicting them upon you some day soon when there is a little space to spare. It is strange that two letters about gardens should come in on the same mail. I hope there will be more. Write us a long letter about your gardening experience, won't you? It is time to be giving it serious consideration, now that "Old Sol" is getting strong again. Your appreciation of Dr. Allen-Davidson's articles is well deserved. We hope that they will accomplish much good.—D. D.)

THE SPRING FASHIONS.

After all has been said, the habit of buying spring and summer things early has its advantages, which should not be overlooked, especially by country people. In March and early April

B. S.