

About the House

WHEN CHILDREN WANT TO HELP.

"Please, mother, can't I do that? I just know I could if you'd let me, and I'd be so careful." How many mothers have listened to that plea when busy and answered by saying, "No, you would just make a mess of it."

Most children, when they are little, are eager to help, anxious to learn to do things around home, but as they get older and are not allowed to do any of these things they lose interest. Of course it is a lot of bother to let Mary wash the dishes, and her work is not the best in the world. But I knew one mother who told me that she washed all her dishes over for a period of time when she was teaching her little girl to do it rather than let the little girl learn when she was willing.

When we are busy we cannot be bothered trying to teach the children how to do things, but, too many of us are inclined to use the term "busy" as an excuse. The reason so many girls grow up with so little knowledge of housekeeping and cooking is because their mothers would always rather do the work themselves than be bothered. When courses in domestic science were introduced into the schools a great many people said it was all nonsense, as the girls could learn those things at home from their mothers. It is very true that they could—but it had been conclusively proven that they didn't. High school girls were found who had never sewed on a button or mended a garment. They could not cook or serve a plain meal, and a great many could not iron a middy.

Mary or Lucy will probably waste good butter and eggs in their first attempts at cake baking, but if mother is helpful and patient it will not be long until she is telling her neighbors with pride that she never has to bake a cake any more, as the girls do it for her.

When the clothes are brought in off the rack, freshly ironed but in need of buttons before they can be put away, little fingers can make shorter work of it and maybe mother can tell a story while the mending goes on together.

Let each member of the family feel that he is carrying his share of the burden of work which no family can escape that is not surrounded by skilled servants, and he gets a bigger conception of the unity and beauty of family life. Children who are waited on from childhood up find life pretty hard when thrown upon their own resources, so in justice to the children it is only fair that we should teach them in the home all the things we can which may be of benefit for them to know some time in life.

WOODBBOX ON WHEELS SAVES THE FARMWIFE.

One way to make it easier for Mother is to put casters on the coal or woodbox, so that she can roll it right up to the stove, and not have to do all that lifting and lugging.

It is a perfectly practical idea, and a good many farmwives who have tried out the idea entirely agree. They say it is both a time and strength saver.

The woodbox ought to be built large enough to hold five or six buckets of coal, or a whole day's supply of wood. It can be filled by the husband or by the children before they go to work or to school.

Of course, it ought to be light and well-made, and high enough so that, with a tight, clean cover, it can be used as a little table, if this top is neatly covered with oilcloth.

There should be a small door near the bottom from which coal and wood can be taken without raising the top. Put stop-catch inside the box just above this door, so the coal or wood will let down evenly. A stop such as is used on phonograph lids is most convenient to support the top lid while opened to be filled.

THIS IS THE DAY.

"Let me see," meditated the little neighbor, finger on her notebook, eyes on the calendar. "First Thursday in the month. Yes, this is the day to look over the cellar."

Seeing my astonishment, she continued laughingly: "You think it is queer to have a particular day for looking over the cellar, don't you? Well, let me tell you, it is not."

"After I had kept house long enough for the newness to wear off I became perfectly discouraged about ever keeping everything in order. I'd carefully sweep my house all over and then discover that the silver should have been polished. I'd stock my larder with all kinds of goodies and find that the storeroom should have been put in order. I'd spend a week over the much-needed sewing or canning and the whole house seemed demoralized."

"I began to see that no woman who does all her work can hope to keep every department in perfect condition. So I worked out a sort of system."

"Once each month I go over the attic, cellar, storerooms and such parts of the house as do not receive regular daily and weekly attention. This keeps them in very presentable condition and really does not take much time because they never get actually out of order."

"I have a stated time to clean and polish the silver, clean and oil the sewing machine, clean the cupboards and do seasonal sewing. In this way all these tasks that do not come in the regular routine work never get neglected until they crowd into other duties and simply must be done."

"Of course, there is nothing rock-bound about these plans—I should never think of staying home from a picnic to go over the cellar. But generally speaking a thing gets done when 'this is the day' for it."

A NEAT AND PLEASING FROCK.



4504. The stylish side closing and the pretty basket pockets will please the little girl for whom this dress may be selected. The sleeve may be in wrist or elbow length. Gingham with collar, vest pockets, belt and cuffs in contrasting material will be good for this design. Brown linen with tan or white for trimming is also attractive. The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. A 6-year size requires 3 yards of 27-inch material. Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 15c in silver or stamps, by the Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide Street, Toronto. Allow two weeks for receipt of pattern.

SIX HOUSEHOLD SHORT CUTS.

Put a thimble over the end of the curtain rod. This makes it slip easily through the curtain casing. If this makes it too large, slide an empty rifle cartridge in the end of the rod.

To remove paint from cloth, apply olive oil to the spot and then drop on chloroform. When once the paint is softened, no matter how old it is, the chloroform will remove it.

The next time you blacken the stove try lathering hands plentifully with good soap and let it dry thoroughly. Then after your work is done the blacking all comes off with the soap.

In order to have custard pie an even nice brown, I sprinkle a little sugar over the top just before putting in the oven.

As I was troubled with rheumatism, one of my hard jobs was stooping to get the dust out of the corners of my kitchen, pantry, and back porch. I got around that by nailing little brass stair corners in all these corners, and it is a great help. They only cost a few cents a dozen and are neat-looking.

PREVENTS COLDS FROM SPREADING.

I heard of a wise mother who has an old-fashioned salt box which she keeps in her kitchen. When any member of the family has a cold this person's glass is kept in the salt box to prevent any other person using it until he is well. Then the glass and the box are sterilized.

Real Irish.

An Irishman was astonished to receive the following letter from his son in London:—

"Dear Father,—I am in a deuce of a hole. Kindly send me £10, and oblige.—Your loving son, Pat."

"P.S.—After writing this letter I was so stricken with remorse that I ran after the postman and tried to get it back. I can only pray that it will not reach you."

But who could be more astonished than the son when he received this reply:—

"Dear Son,—Your prayers are answered. The letter did not reach me—Father."

Paid in Cabbages.

With the present fluctuating exchange in Germany many tradesmen and professional men refuse to take money, and are asking for accounts to be settled in kind.

Even the doctors, most conservative of professional men, have now adopted this system. Here is the tariff of a physician in one German town:

For a consultation during the day: One large loaf. For a consultation at night: Two large loaves. For an X-ray examination: Thirty loaves.

A farmer who had broken his leg and called in this doctor was charged two pounds of butter, twenty eggs, and a cabbage. For a case of rheumatism, however, a sack of potatoes was considered sufficient remuneration.

The nature of the goods demanded varies according to the trade of the patient. Thus, a butcher is asked for meat, while a draper pays his bill in cloth. But what happens when the medico visits the ice-man in the middle of winter we are not told!

Origin of Atolls.

According to the investigations of Seurat along the Pacific Islands there is a slow elevation going on there, which, by lifting the reefs gradually above the waves, preserves them from erosion at the top and enables vegetation and certain animal forms of a terrestrial character to exist there. This is quite in opposition to Darwin's idea that the atolls were formed by the gradual submergence of small islands, that the coral insects built up encircling reefs as the islands sank. Seurat shows that the elevation of the islands is a general phenomenon, but variable in amount, some islands, like Aukana, in the Gambier archipelago, rising rapidly, and others very slowly. Both the flora and fauna of these islands are confined to very few species, although seen from a distance some of them appear to be rich in vegetation.



HIS REST TOO.

Daughter (at seashore): Why Mother, what on earth's the matter? Mother: Just got a letter from home from your father, saying he was enjoying his vacation very much.

A Mob.

A young man with a pretty but notoriously flirtatious fiancée wrote to a supposed rival, "I've been told that you have been seen kissing my girl. Come to my office at 11 on Friday. I want to have this matter out." The rival answered, "I've received a copy of your circular letter and will be present at the meeting."



MRS. RALPH SMITH.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, member of the British Columbia Legislature, who went to Great Britain at the beginning of August at the request of the Dominion Government, to encourage emigration from the British Isles to Canada, returns on the Canadian Pacific S.S. Montcalm.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



FRENCH LEAD IN RETURN TO NORMAL

HUGE WORK WELL DONE BY FARMERS.

The Finance Minister's Report Shows Prosperity While the Rest of Europe Lags.

Of all the paradoxes in Europe, France undoubtedly presents the most remarkable one at the present moment. With Germany economically battered and helpless, capitulating at the end of eight months of useless resistance in the Ruhr, and England, by virtue of the loss of a great part of her German trade staggering under the burden of idle factories and almost 2,000,000 unemployed, France, the nation which suffered most during the war, is now almost back to normalcy.

No first-rank nation on the Continent is so close to pre-war times as France. The Frenchmen themselves did not realize it fully until this week, when Count de Lasteyrie, Minister of Finance, addressing a relatively unimportant agricultural meeting in the Department of Tarn, pulled from his portfolio a compilation of figures which have not been generally known, and certainly not emphasized, in Paris.

Naturally, there was a political motive behind the minister's speech. He was interested in winning rural votes

for the Nationalist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies at the coming national elections. For obvious reasons, however, it was not in the interest of the country to talk too enthusiastically regarding the flourishing condition of France; at least, not for world consumption.

Credit Given to People.

The necessity of collecting reparations from Germany and getting the best terms on other war debts would make an advertisement inadvisable. But within the small agricultural area of south-eastern France, the Finance Minister did not hesitate to give the greatest credit to France's millions of small farmers and tradespeople, who went quietly back to work to restore the country to its pre-war standard.

To actual observers, France's evolution since 1918, from a country like almost all the others in Europe, with its social foundations badly cracked and suffering from hundreds of symptoms of the terrible aftermath of the war, to a nation which has regained its economic and to some extent its financial status was an evolution in which the credit was really due to the farmers and tradespeople whom de Lasteyrie complimented.

All classes of Frenchmen settled down to hard work as soon as the armistice was sounded. Like the Israelites who followed the counsel of Moses to rise before sun-up and go abroad to receive manna from heaven, the Frenchman followed his instincts. The manna has fallen abundantly, but it literally required getting out before sunrise to gather it. The French peasant farmers have done more than that: They have worked long after sundown.

Unlike Germany, choking herself nationally with a fruitless struggle to escape reparations, and unlike England, depending on extensive foreign trade to keep the wheels of industry whirring, France's restricted industrial machinery and labor have been fully needed for turning out materials to be used in domestic reconstruction.

Steady Grind of Work.

Industrially, as well as agriculturally, therefore, the country thrived, but throughout the period the entire population has been engaged in a steady grind of work necessary, both for moral and material gain. De Lasteyrie announced that France's unemployed had dwindled to practically nothing at the beginning of the year, and since then the country faced such a labor shortage that she was compelled to admit foreign workmen.

The greater part of those lands destroyed in the war are again under cultivation, with a specially large wheat acreage, and a cattle increase of more than 1,000,000 head since 1919.

"France is to-day in full agricultural regeneration," said De Lasteyrie, "and is not only self-supporting in the matter of food supply, but is clearly on the road to becoming a great exporting nation. From the industrial point of view France has recuperated from the effects of the war with stupendous rapidity."

"The unfavorable balance of trade during the first eight months of 1922 had fallen to \$10,000,000 francs, as against 1,750,000,000 francs in 1919. Railway and port traffic has increased by leaps and bounds, while coal production for the first eight months of the year exceeds the production of last year for the same period by 3,500,000 tons."

Financially, the speaker assured the listeners, France has her ordinary budget well balanced.