

their homes closed at all seasons of the year. Throw open the blinds, the doors and the windows in the summer time, and also have plenty of fresh air and ventilation in the winter. There would be less tuberculosis, typhoid and other diseases in the South today if every blind was torn from every window. Don't be afraid of fresh air and sunshine. These are the most important necessities in maintaining health and just as sure as you close up your house and cut off the supply of these two life-giving elements, you and your family are going to be subject to ill health and disease.

Take a walk from the front through the sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen and out the back door making a note of some little conveniences that will mean so much to those at home—a new picture, a bright rug or perhaps a sewing machine is needed; a washing machine, a kitchen cabinet or a new cooking range would mean so much to the overworked wife and girls who frequently drudge from daylight to dark, trying to do things without the necessary conveniences that can be done in half the time if they had the facilities with which to do them.

These are the things that make life more worth living on the farm, and anyone who really wants to improve the home surroundings, add to the pleasure and enjoyment of those who are dependent on him, can do so if he really tries.

**A Texas Onion and Cucumber Club.**

AS I AM just from the Lone Star State, belong to the Union there, also belong here. We ladies had our club—the Onion and Cucumber Club. We always used the Bermuda onions as we could get better results. They were better keepers and sellers. In September we made our bed just a month before sowing time. These beds were worked frequently, so the fertilizer would incorporate with the soil. In October rows are made five to six inches apart and seed sown. When cared for properly, transplanting can be done in six weeks. As soon as the bed was properly cared for and doing nicely, then we began open field work. Take well rotted manure and broadcast it, mix into the soil with a cutaway harrow. Rows are laid off 20 to 25 inches apart. As soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle easily, transplanting begins, putting the plants six to eight inches apart. As we take them from the bed, tops and roots are trimmed. We always used a dibber to set with, making every plant set even. The onions are stirred every week until curing time. As soon as the roots loosen their hold on the ground, the tops begin to turn over, then they are pulled. If not, a second start is made. Now the hardest job comes, crating. In packing, all care must be taken, crates must be well filled to prevent bruising. They are culled in the field and all culls removed quickly, as insects are very bad.

The cucumbers are not quite so tedious to work, but the picking. Our salesman would come around and make an offer for all. They would have to be all of a length and size, picked every morning, then carried to the station where there are eight or 10 large tanks, holding 200 or 300 gallons. They are put in those tanks with water and salt. They are left in for twenty-four hours, then the salt water is let off and fresh water put in for the same length of time. Now they are put in kegs and vinegar put over them and then they are shipped.

So the women are kept busy while the men are toiling with their cotton, and we would always have a little cash on hand as onions and cucumbers were a nice price.

MRS. DR. ELLIS.

Oakwoods, N. C.

**A MAN POOR, BUT RICH.**

ONCE, in New England I was driving with an old farmer, and some of the men of the neighborhood came under criticism. Speaking of a prominent man in the village, I asked, "Is he a man of means?"

"Well, sir," the farmer replied, "he ain't got much money, but he's mighty rich."

"He has a great deal of land, then?" I asked.

"No sir, he ain't got much land, neither, but still he is mighty rich."

The old farmer, with a pleased smile, observed my puzzled look for a moment, and then explained:

"You see, he ain't got much money, and he ain't got much land, but still he is rich, because he never went to bed owing any man a cent in all his life. He lives as well as he wants to live, and he pays as he goes; he doesn't owe anything, and he ain't afraid of anybody; he tells every man the truth, and does his duty to himself, his family, and his neighbors; his word is as good as a bond, and every man, woman and child in the town looks up to him and respects him. No, sir, he ain't got much money, and he ain't got much land, but still he is a mighty rich man because he's got all he needs and all he wants."—The Outlook.

**The Boy Problem as Some Mothers See It.**

**Driving the Boys From the Farm.**

MUCH is being said through the press about boys leaving the farms to seek homes in the towns and cities. In many instances, the parents themselves are to blame.

I heard a conversation recently between a farmer and his son that convinces me of this, and I'm sure that this instance is the rule and not the exception. The son wanted to join the Corn Club. Most of his schoolmates and companions had entered the contest to see which could raise the most corn on one acre. Liberal prizes had been offered to the winners. When the son mentioned it at home, the father angrily told him that he (the son) was not going into any "book farming project;" that it was all a "passel of blamed foolishness," and that he was not going to put a year's labor and all the fertilizer on the place on one acre.

Who could blame the boy for leaving?  
MRS. H. C. RUST.

**Give Some Thought to the Boy's Room.**

I WOULD like to say a few words in favor of fixing up the boys' rooms. Too many times this is the last room in the house to be considered. Any corner that will hold a bed and chair will answer, for he isn't around the house much, anyway. Maybe that is the reason he prefers not to be "around the house."

Sister's bright front room, with its new curtains, pretty carpet, or rugs and nice furnishing, is quite a contrast to the back bedroom, fitted up with lame-legged tables and decrepit chairs that have been retired from active service, that is expected to answer for the boy.

This is not fair. A boy usually feels that the only place in the house where he is free to do as he likes is his own room. Then let it be as bright and arranged as much to his taste as possible. A boy likes a large room and plenty of space where he can play to his heart's content, if bad weather confines him indoors. The furnishing that suits a girl's room interferes with such recreation, but it is possible to have a homey, cheery room without a surplus of cushions and ruffles. A painted floor with a large rug is an ideal arrangement for any room. Any floor covering will do that is fresh and clean and not too dark colored. The bed should be light and easy to move. A strong iron bed is best. Plain white slips and covering is to be preferred, and his initials embroidered—on the slips is sure to please him. The dresser should be large, but not loaded with trinkets. Let his tie and collar-box stand on the dresser. A neat cabinet that fits into the

corner can hold his books, fishing-tackle or anything he likes and uses. Let him feel free to have his boy companions share his room occasionally.

With such a room for his very own, what boy will want to spend his evenings off?

With a little forethought and planning, any mother can fix her boy's room so he will indeed think "there is no place like home."

MRS. C. E. ROBINSON.

**A Plea For the Boys.**

I THINK the most neglected thing on the farm is the boy. He is made to do his share of the farm work, and then run on errands and do all the odd jobs about the place. It would not be so bad for him to do these things if they were appreciated after he did them, but the other members of the family seem to think it is his duty to wait on them without reward or hope of reward. They seldom give him a kind look, much less a kind word. But, on the other hand, they are ever ready to criticize and find fault with him. How, then, can the boys be expected to do their best when they know it is not appreciated?

I think the boys should have the same love and respect as the girls. When you buy a pair of vases or other fancy things for your girl's room, buy something for your boy, too. He will appreciate it more than she will, because his presents come so seldom. Let your boys know you love them.

Give the boy something he can call his own, if it is nothing but a chicken. Take an interest in his sports and pleasure. Make yourself his friend and companion instead of being such a tyrant that you are a terror to him. If parents, and especially fathers, would treat their boys right at home, our chain-gangs and jails would not be so crowded.

MRS. L. C. JONES.

**How Much Should Young Men Spend on Girls?**

WE HAVE had several letters lately from mothers about training children; but there is one thing I wish they would tell us, and that is, how much they allow their daughters to receive in the way of attentions that cost money. Of course, the country girl does not have the opportunity to spend in going to theaters, etc., that the town girl does, but there are plenty of ways in which boys can spend their money on her if she is willing.

This Christmas I heard a young man say, "A girl does not care a  
(Continued on page 34.)

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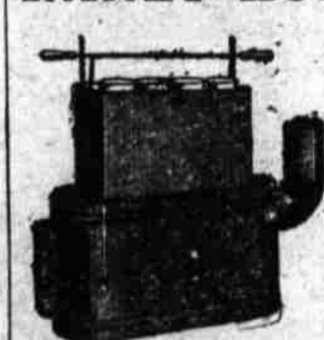
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