

scarcity of household helpers. In a great many of the farm neighborhoods of the South, farm housewives are compelled to struggle with the many duties of the household unaided. With the multiplicity of duties which the farm adds to household labor, combined with the care of a growing family, a physical breakdown is the inevitable result. The relation of the industrial status of some of our own good friends might even be interpreted in Hamlin Garland's gloomy lines:

"Born an' scrubbed, suffered and died."

That all you need to say, elder  
Never mind sayin' 'made a bride'  
Nor when her hair got gray.  
Jes say, born an' worked t'death:  
That fits it—sa's y'r breath.  
Made me think of a clock rundown,  
Shur's y'r born, that woman did."

There is another general belief, and a true one that a girl is happiest when she is able to maintain her own financial independence. I know a girl, the eldest of a family of ten, the daughter of a frail, over-worked little mother, who when her term of schooling was ended, calmly walked out of the home into an office, "down town," for a renumeration of thirty dollars a month. At first I thought her act looked selfish. You say she should have stayed at home to become her mother's helper. I am not so sure about it, having myself been a young girl and having enjoyed the pleasure of cashing my own well-earned checks. But I do recognize in that family one entirely selfish, unthinking person, and that person is no other than my young girl's father who was abundantly able to maintain his daughter in the home and pay her in the form of an adequate allowance for her labor there. It is one of the hard things to understand, how a parent can calmly accept the services of his own child unrewarded when he will pay a stranger for those same services ample compensation.

But to return to the issue: how may the girl who seeks financial independence and the housewife who is seeking relief from some of her burdens become mutually helpful? It has occurred to me that these two needs should bring about the development of a number of neighborhood industries that could be carried on successfully by girls.

For example, why may not the Tomato Club extend its operations in the formation of a neighborhood canning association. The fruits and vegetables of the neighborhood could be cared for by this association of experts who would return to the pantry shelves of "my lady" a guaranteed product. This would mean frequently the preservation of the product at the height of its perfection while frequently the "canning at home" may of necessity come in for odds and ends of time.

In the same way a neighborhood bakery that would supply at moderate cost wholesome, delicious, lightbread, rolls, tea rings, buns and other delicious products, would be a boon to a community and would offer a moderate income to one or more painstaking girls.

Another enterprise which might be undertaken with profit is a co-operative laundry. With a small amount of money invested in an up-to-date laundry equipment I see no reason why a group of girls might not clothe the neighborhood in clean linen every day. Perhaps no greater blessing could come to a neighborhood than a splendid active young woman who could go from house to house as a household helper, charging a reasonable amount by the hour for her services. Mrs. A. has an overflowing basket of mending waiting for Mary B. who is due on Monday afternoon. Mrs. M. wishes her house given a thorough weekly sweeping on Wednesday morning. Mrs. C. would like to go to town on

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Thursday and Mary B. may be called upon to look after the children for the day. Mrs. D. is expecting guests for the week-end, and Mary B. is brought into requisition for the Saturday's general home work.

Here are only a few of the enterprises which suggest themselves to me by which the unemployed farm girl may gain a little independence for herself and may be kept in her farm community where she is so much needed and is a valuable asset. But you may say that I am trampling upon traditions and am suggesting that fine, educated, cultivated girls become household servants. Seeing the look of surprise upon the countenances of my readers brings no apology to my lips. Splendid, competent, well educated labor of the hands never degraded anyone. It does happen, sometimes, that people have degraded the labor which they have undertaken. Such neighborhood co-operation tends to lift us above petty details, and out of narrow jealousies by its very bigness. "Separate from others our lives run to waste, but we were made to combine with others and to find scope for our powers in administering to their well-being." "Instruments blending together yield the divinest music, out of myriads of flowers sweetest of honey is drawn."

### Timely Recipes.

#### SALMON LOAF.

Remove skin and bones from a can of salmon, add a cupful of very fine bread or cracker crumbs, though the former are much better, a beaten egg, and a tablespoon of finely minced salt pork, and season highly with salt and red-pepper. Add enough boiling water to moisten and press into a well buttered deep pan and bake about a half hour. Turn out on a platter and serve hot or cold. Is a delicious dish served just this way, but may be improved by the addition of tomato sauce.—Mrs. C. S. Everts.

#### CREAMED SALMON.

Pare a dozen medium-sized Irish potatoes, and cook until tender in boiling salted water, drain off the water, and leave the potatoes where they will steam dry and keep hot. Remove bone and skin from a can of salmon and put into a stew pan, with the hot potato water, season highly with salt and red-pepper, and as soon as it boils, add a tablespoon of flour that has been smothered in a half cup of thin cream. Pour slowly into the boiling salmon, stirring to prevent lumps, but being careful to break the salmon as little as possible, but to preserve as large pieces as can be done. Place the hot potatoes in center of platter, and arrange the salmon around them, then pour over all the dressing.—Mrs. C. S. Everts.

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