

tertaining ones friends. Now-a-days we have the stereoscope, the phonograph and many pleasant parlor games to say nothing of music and cards. All these, with kindly, cheerful conversation, are the main elements of parlor atmosphere.

I do not believe in barricading one's guests in the parlor, either. Give them the liberty of home folks, and you will find them amusing themselves, and the news of your hospitality will go abroad in the good report of your guests.

**III.—Bed Room Hints.**

My bed rooms are kept well aired night and day—bedding sunned and aired very frequently—fresh bed linen from once to twice a week. Never burn lights in a bed room; keep lights where they may be had at an instant's notice, however. It is best not to have fires in one's bed room. Always keep drinking water quite convenient for nights. Use every precaution from danger of fire. Never use quilts or comforts, as they are germ breeders; use all-woolen blankets and thin white or colored counterpanes instead.

**IV.—Dining Room Hints.**

First of all, cleanliness; next, cheerfulness. Persons cannot have indigestion and be happy. Use flowers on the table as religiously as you do the food—dainty, carefully arranged bouquets every day in the year.

And when dinner is over, don't wash the dishes right away; leave the table, and go out into that porch with John until work time. Spend that little while each day entertaining your husband. Then when he has gone to the field rested and cheered, go back and clean up.

**V.—Kitchen Hints.**

This is where the real test comes. Here is more prose than poetry, and it takes the best efforts of all concerned to keep order and harmony in this domain. System is the key to the situation. Plan your work a day ahead—see that wood, water, and food are all at hand before you sleep. Then know at what hour you need to rise; set your alarm clock, and obey its earliest summons.

In summer there is no better breakfast than coffee, fruits, melons, butter, eggs, and cream, with good old-fashioned buttermilk and honey in the comb. All these are available, too, on a well-regulated farm.

Dish-washing is an item, so prepare for it. Have a big boiler of hot water, and an abundance of cold, plenty of clean cloths and drying towels. If you have no sink, use a ten-gallon pan or basin set into a hole to fit it, on the kitchen table. Some really good soap and a willing mind are all that is needed to make dish-washing endurable.

**VI.—Dairy Hints.**

War on germs! Hot water and soap; cold water and sunshine, light and air—keep it up forever. Wash the udder, wash the milk vessel, wash on, and keep a-washing, and rinsing, and drying.

And especially the churn. Scald out with strong soda and water occasionally to keep it sweet.

Rub out your wire strainers often with lump salt to clean out the dried particles of milk; then wash and dry to prevent rust.

The nicest receptacle for milk is stone or glass jars with lids to fit snug. Never keep milk in tins or wooden pails.

In dressing butter be careful to thoroughly work out all the milk or water before salting away. This prevents butter from souring, moulding, or turning pink-spotted. When you have real stale butter put it into a

**Beauty and Culture in a Log Cabin.**

**P**ICTURE, IF YOU CAN, a rough log cabin far away in one of our backwoods counties. The only thing pertaining to beauty was a lovely wisteria vine which clambered in picturesque confusion over the doorway. This same little vine which clung so lovingly to the shabby little porch should have given some idea of what was beyond, but I have seen more than one look of surprise from strangers who passing beneath the "purple showers" would catch a fleeting glimpse of the interior of this unpretentious little home. In one corner stood a bookcase which reached from floor to ceiling. Not a costly sectional case, with handsome, unread volumes, but rough shelves neatly covered, and here could be found most anything from "Alice in Wonderland," or dear old Grimm to Carlyle, Milton, Shakespeare — some old and torn from much use, some in shabby coverings, but still the reading was there, and they showed they had been read. The table was covered with papers and magazines while on the plain, whitewashed walls were such pictures as these: Millet's "Angelus," "The Gleaners," Adam's "End of Day," Corot's exquisite landscapes, Raphael's "Madonna," and many others. Some of these were "Perry" pictures, but most of them were cut from magazines, but they were before us and talked of daily. It does not take the costly paintings to teach the children the beauties of art. And last, but by no means least, was the piano, a relic of by-gone days of long ago, and over this hung pictures (also cut from magazines) of many great composers. Such was my childhood's home.

Why can't the farmer lad in overalls and "sun down" behind the plow handles quote Shakespeare, whistle "Schubert's Serenade" and appreciate it as well as some silly little ditty? Why can't the daughter, as she washes the dishes from the evening meal, look out over the western hills, see and realize the many beauties of the gorgeous sunset such as no artist could paint?

We were taught these things and we were bred in the far backwoods, and days are better now than they were then, and there is no need of so much ignorance and roughness among the farming people. Anyway I know this, no matter what success comes to us or what good our personal family may do, we will attribute it all to the loving influences of our childhood in the little cabin 'neath the purple wisteria.

MARY McLYNOH.

two-gallon churning of strong salty, clean water and churn, just as you would for fresh butter. Then take it up and dress it, and you will be surprised to find it almost freshened.

Clarke Co., Ga. SINCERE.

**HAVE PLENTY OF WINDOWS IN THE HOUSE.**

**Thorough Ventilation is Essential—A Stained or Painted Floor is Better Than Carpets.**

One of the first requisites of the home healthy and happy, in any place, is a house that is well ventilated. Be it large or small, there should be plenty of windows for the sunshine and fresh breezes of the day, and invigorating air during the sleeping hours. There should be a front veranda, all covered with vines and a bed of choice roses and annuals; then a back porch where many duties may be done in comfort.

The day of heavy carpets has gone by, and it is well; they harbor dust and many germs of disease. The floor painted or stained with some cheerful tint, rugs that can be easily cleaned, are preferable even to matting, for sanitary reasons. Simply furnished bed rooms with dainty muslin curtains, pictures and easy chairs are very inviting to the weary. The painted pine furniture that seems quite out of date can be made very lovely by a coat of white enamel that is easily put on, and not expensive.

The sitting room is no longer crowded with all kinds of fancy work as was once the fashion; a few pretty rugs on the stained floor, a few very choice pictures, light, easy chairs, musical instruments, a bookcase of standard literature and on the tables good magazines and papers; these make an ideal place for the gathering of home folks or friends. How desolate even the most

elegant house is without plenty of something good to read. Pure monthlies and weeklies, (like our own Progressive Farmer) are instructive and uplifting, making life over for us; they are real home missionaries.

In the stove room there should be plenty of light agateware cooking utensils, and broad, flat pans for milk; a high chair by the table and an easy low chair in which to rest and read while meals are cooking.

The farmer and his family who attend the instructive farmers' institutes of today, read instructive literature and keep abreast of the very best methods in field and house, have an ideal life—they do not complain that duty is drudgery.

MARGARET.

South Carolina.

**How to Succeed With Geraniums and Roses.**

There is nothing that will add to the beauty and pleasure of a home as will flowers, and plenty of them. Have pot plants on the porches, roses and other hard shrubs in the yards.

It will soon be time to put out geranium cuttings for next year's blooms if you haven't plenty already. The sisters that have no geraniums this year can go to their friends and get cuttings from now until the last of October and put them as thick as you can plant them in old tin pans and you can have plenty of nicely rooted plants to pot in the spring. Old lard buckets make nice flower pots with a few holes made in the bottoms with a large nail, then paint or white wash them.

If you have no pit, take two dry goods boxes one enough larger than the other to give a foot space all around between the walls when small box is put in the larger one. Take off one side of boxes part of the way,

slope ends of boxes to lower side. Then put them on south side of a wall, fill in between the boxes with dirt and bank dirt on the outside. Now have an old quilt or some newspapers tacked together for the first cover, then boards to turn the water off, and you have a pit that will keep your flowers perfectly. My plan for starting rose bushes is this: As soon as the buds become dormant, get the cuttings of sound hard wood, cut perfectly smooth with sloping cut ready for planting, then tie in little bundles and bury them two or three inches. About the 1st of March dig them out and set in rows. Keep top of ground loose and water, if dry, and most all will take root.

This is also the best way to root grape vines. You must be careful not to take them out of the ground till grape vines are well budded out in the spring. ELLA GOBER.

"I say, pa, what—"

"Ask your mother!"

"Honest, pa, this isn't a silly one this time."

"Alright, this once, what is it?"

"Well, if the end of the world was to come and the earth be destroyed while a man was up in an airship, where would he land when he came down?"

John Bright used to tell how a barber who was cutting his hair once said to him: "You 'ave a large 'ead, sir; it is a good thing to 'ave a large 'ead, for a large 'ead means a large brain, and a large brain is the most useful thing a man can 'ave as it nourishes the roots of the 'air."—The Argonaut.

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