Make a batting pad to iron your embroidery on and keep it for that alone. It will be found very much better for the purpose than the Turkish towel so often used and recommended. Take one yard of cheese-cloth, place on it two layers of cotton batting, fold the cloth over to make it of one-half size, or width of cheese-cloth, and baste securely around the edges. The pad may, of course be made a yard square by taking two yards of the cloth. The cover is easily removed for laundering.

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Before commencing a piece of shadow embroidery, which is still very popular, follow the entire outline on the sewing machine with unthreaded needle. Tiny holes are thus formed in which to take the stitches, and assist greatly in making them even.

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*Children's Associates.*

Every mother should encourage the full confidence of her little folks, and quietly lead them to tell her without reserve, all the small events of each day. This savors just a little of tattling, but it is easy to explain to them, why it is alright to tell mother many things that it would be best not to mention to any one else. Children are all prone to confide in some one, and if it is not their mother, it is sure to be some one else. Parental interest, and readiness to listen to all the small events of the day, trival, yet so full of juvenile importance may be made a real safety-valve, preventing much mischief, that might result from thoughtless chatter, to an outsider. After they have started to school, in no other way, can you ascertain who their chums are, on the play ground, as in listening, seemingly uninterested, in their daily talk to each other, about the happenings of the day. You can catch a gleam of the character of their chums, almost in every conversation. And no question is more vexing to the mother of a family than that of her children's playmates. Of course she tries to teach them high ideals, as regards morals and behavior, before the time of school begins, and sometimes it is so discouraging, the task seems so hopeless, when despite all her care and teaching, a child just will admire, and fall in with some of the most undesirable playmates in school, but usually the early home training will reassert itself and they will naturally drift out of their element and influence, after the novelty of forming new acquaintances has worn off.

All this watchfulness means time and care and boundless tact. But in no part of a child's career, are these so necessary as in the first years of school life. These are the building days of manhood and wommanhood, both intellectually and morally. In most cases the seed time of what the harvest may bring forth in the future years.

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*Concerning Screens.*

Screens have been facetiously declared to "cover a multitude of sins," yet they are very handy things to have about the house, quite the same, and no good housekeeper likes to do without one or more. There is the fire-place screen, which should be as cool-looking as possible for use during the heated term, when the thought of fire is a burden; there is the screen that pulls up so nicely before the work-table and mending-basket, or conceals a little clutter of childish belongings which there is no time to pick up and put away when a hand is on the door-bell. There is the piazza screen, many times a comfort—in fact, the screen, though not a necessity, strictly speaking, holds an important place among household furnishings.

It is easily made at home, too, if the frame be plain and simple, and merely stained or enameled; and a screen which has seen much service may be made as good as new with a little expenditure either of time or money. Heavy wallpaper makes a good covering, and there is so great a variety of patterns and colors to choose from that one is sure to be suited. A dull green or red cartridge paper is in excellent taste, and may serve as a back-ground for a large photograph or print, or more than one may be arranged on each panel. Then there are the imitation leather-papers, not at all expensive, and to be found in most art stores.

It is necessary to use care in covering a screen, as in doing any other work well. First measure the panels, then cut the paper so it will fit exactly into the frame. Touch the edges with glue and put in place, pressing firmly with a cloth until the paper is held. While the work is in progress, the screen should be laid upon a large table. Cover every panel in the same way. If it is desired to add a finish to the edges, the narrow embossed paper gold colored, which comes in rolls for doing up Christmas packages, will serve admirably, or one may use little brass-headed tacks, driven in at equal distances.—*Needlecraft.*

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TO COLOR RAG RUGS.

If you want to color rags yellow for a rug, do it when peach leaves may be had. Steep peach leaves and alum in water and dip while cotton rags in it, and they will be the bright yellow so prized by the early day weavers.

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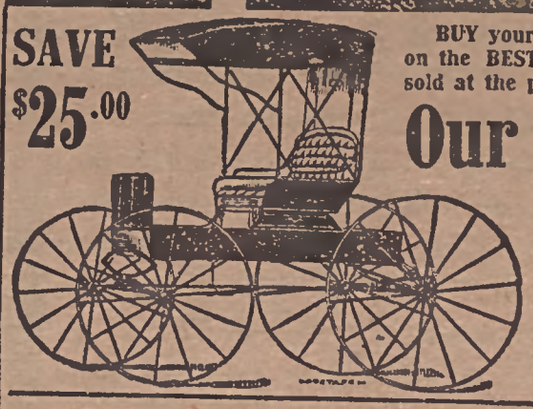

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