

Country Home Department.

Conducted by Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sanford, N. C., to Whom all Matter for this Department Should be Sent.

THE BONNET.

I found it in a cedar chest
With samplers old and frayed,
And high-heeled slippers, once the
joy

Of some coquettish maid,
This ancient bonnet, quaintly shirred,
With cap and faded wreath
Of little rosebuds matching once
The cheek that blushed beneath.

It still exhales a faint perfume
Of lavender and musk,
As sweet as some forgotten voice
That speaks from Memory's dusk—
And in the dainty ruche of lace,
That framed her forehead fair,
Is tangled yet a single thread
Of glittering golden hair.

Though she is dust for many a year
Who once so neatly tied
The silken strings beneath her chin,
And viewed herself with pride,
Return it to the chest, with frill
And fan and furbelow,
It still belongs to one who lived
A century ago.

—Selected.

THE CHRISTMAS BOX.

A neighbor came in the other of-
ternoon with a work-bag on her arm
and said: "I've come over to chat
with you awhile and make a start on
my Christmas box. I've been tucking
odds and ends into this bag all sum-
mer. You can give me some sugges-
tions for using them." I told her I
would get out my box of odds and
ends, take an inventory and then I
knew it would be jabots, and jabots
it was, sure enough. The box con-
tained bits of silk, velvet, lace, braid,
thread, etc., enough to make jabots
from grandmother down through a
line of friends and relatives. And it
only takes a few stitches to com-
plete some of them. You can make
them of such a variety of materials,
and they make such dainty little
gifts that the busy woman hails them
with delight in filling out the list of
those whom she wishes to remember
at Christmas tide and with some-
thing, too, that she made with her
own hands. Crocheting is back again
with all its old-time popularity—
even more, for it is used in many
more ways now than it was several
years ago, dress trimmings, neck
wear and for trimming hats. Many
rusty crochet needles have been hunt-
ed and made useful again, and some
of us who loved this kind of work
years ago, eagerly take it up again
with its added dignity as we would
welcome an old friend. What you
can do with a crochet needle is al-
most limitless. Don't you enjoy mak-
ing the little gifts, each one suitable
for the recipient, thinking as you
plan and make them how they will
enjoy using them, and they were just
what was needed and appreciated. I
have seen gifts sent to people that
were not appropriate at all. Some-
thing that the receiver could not use,
did not need, and if the truth were
known, did not appreciate very much,
because it was not appropriate—
these little things that are laid away
to be looked at occasionally but are
of no earthly use. Their day is past,
and the gifts that are appreciated
most now, are those that are use-
able and serviceable. But back to the
box: the point I wish to make is this
—to begin early, in your spare mo-
ments, to make the little things you
have planned and not wait till the
eleventh hour and hurry and worry
over finishing some things and sub-
stitute others with anything you can
get. My neighbor and I were deli-
ghted with our beginning. Things

seem easier anyway after you once
begin. Don't you think so! Doubt-
less many of our readers are using
their spare time in gift-making.
Won't you tell us what to make and
how to make it?

HELP IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS.

Burns and Scalds.—Cover with
cooking soda and lay wet clothes over
it, or cover with white of eggs and
olive oil or linseed oil plain or mixed
with chalk or whiting. Sweet oil is
also good.

Lightning.—Dash cold water over
person struck.

Sunstroke.—Loosen clothing, get
patient into shade and apply ice-cold
water to head. Keep head in ele-
vated position.

Stings of Insects.—Apply weak am-
monia, oil or salt water.

Fainting.—Place flat on back; al-
low fresh air and sprinkle with wa-
ter. Place head lower than the rest
of the body.

Cinders in the Eye.—Roll soft pa-
per up like a lamp-lighter, and wet
the tip to remove. Rub the other eye.

Fire From Kerosene.—Don't use
water; it will spread the flames.
Dirt, sand or flour is the best extin-
guisher, or smother with woolen rug
or carpet.

SOME RECIPES.

To Keep Tomatoes.

To keep both ripe and green toma-
toes for a limited time, pull the
vines before the first frost, hang
them in a dark cool place and use
the ripe ones as needed. Some of
the more mature green ones will rip-
sen. Those remaining green may be
used in the following manner:

Sweet Tomato Pickles.

One peck green tomatoes, six large
onions, sliced, sprinkle and 1 cup
salt, and let stand over night; drain,
add 2 quarts water and 1 quart vin-
egar. Boil 15 minutes, then drain
again and throw this vinegar and wa-
ter away. Add to the pickles 2
pounds sugar, 2 quarts vinegar, 2
tablespoons cloves, 2 tablespoons, all-
spice, 2 tablespoons ginger, 2 table-
spoons mustard, 2 tablespoons cinna-
mon and 1 tablespoon cayenne. Boil
15 minutes. Will keep in a stone jar.

Green Tomato Pie.

This may be substituted for for apple
pie. Slice the tomatoes and let
them stand over-night sprinkled with
salt. When ready to use pour off the
juice which the salt has drawn out.
Line a pie tin as for apple pie. Put
in a layer of the tomatoes, cover with
sugar and a tablespoon of lemon
juice. Add another layer and repeat
until the tin is filled. Finish the top
with bits of butter and sugar. Cin-
namon if desired. Cover with crust
and bake.

Fried Green Tomatoes.

Wash, slice and dip in beaten egg.
Roll in fine cracker crumbs and fry
either in deep fat as doughnuts are
fried, or saute in the frying pan in a
small amount of fat, preferably but-
ter.

HOW TO BE HAPPY.

It was at a girls' summer school
years ago when one of the girls rose
and said to Alice Freeman Palmer,
who had been talking to them: "Mrs.
Palmer, you are always so cheerful
and happy. Will you tell us, please,
how we can be happy?"

"I will, dear," said this saint of
her sex. "I will give you three sim-

ple rules. The first is this: Commit
something to memory every day—
something good. It needn't be much;
three or four words will do—just a
pretty bit of a poem or a Bible verse.
The second rule is: Look for some-
thing pretty every day; and don't
skip a day, or it won't work. My
third rule is—now, mind, don't skip
a day: Do something for some-
body every day. That is all there
is to it, dear."

These three rules are just as good
to-day as when they were spoken.
They will work always and every-
where, in the country as in the city,
for women as well as girls. They will
make a farm-house warm in the chill
winter and a tenement cool in the
blazing summer. They will help to
make us master of our lives. They
are so plain that everybody can un-
derstand them, and so practical that
everybody can keep them. No mat-
ter how gray the sky, these rules will
make the sun shine through.—Sel.

HEALTHY HOUSE PLANTS.

The rubber plant, *Ficus elastica*,
possesses hardly qualities and thick,
smooth, glossy leaves. It makes an
excellent hall plant. For flowering
plants the pelargonium remains the
tried favorite. Fuchsias are grown,
begonias and cacti—these for all the
year 'round.

Potted flowering plants from the
florist's come at various seasons.
They will last, with care, for a few
weeks, such as the potted crysanthe-
mum and the poinsettia. Then far-
ther along toward the spring the fa-
vorite cyclamen and the various
spring flowering bulbs and forced
shrubs, orange trees, bay and privet
in tubs, make effective hall decora-
tions.

House plants should be watered
only when they need it. The test is
ringing the plot by striking it sharp-
ly with the knuckles. A hollow ring
shows that the earth is dry and the
plants need water. A dull, thuddy
sound indicates the presence of plen-
ty of water. Surface wetting daily
is worse than no water. The plant
should be soaked so that water runs
out of the hole in the bottom of the
pot. A good-sized watering pot full
of water is the proper allowance for
a twelve-inch pot. It is good to let
the soil dry out also, for that gives a
chance for air to get through the soil.

Sponging the leaves of palms, etc.,
is excellent but not necessary. Dust,
of course, chokes the respiration a
little. Proper watering, together
with a little care about opening win-
dows upon the plants, should pre-
serve a healthy condition. If a plant
wilts and grows yellow, it is well to
re-pot it, these conditions arguing
something wrong with the soil.

THE BEAUTY OF HOMELY THINGS

Not all prose is prosaic, and not all
poetry is poetic. In the same sense,
many of the most common things of
life are pregnant with deep and beau-
tiful meaning, and some so-called
great things are but empty forms.
We have to train the tongue to speak
its native language, the hand to do
the most simple task; so must we
train the eye to see the beautiful, the
ear to hear the harmonies of sound,
and the heart to respond to noble
emotion. The rich are not always
the wealthy, nor are the penniless of
necessity poor. I have in mind two
young children of about the same
age. One lives in a large city, on a
good residence street, in a fine house.
Her mother spends most of her time
in the pursuit of pleasure and in
"keeping up" her social standing.
The child has about everything she
asks for, but what does she crave?
Rich food, showy clothes, expensive
toys and excitement. She has never
seen a bird's nest, only knows vio-
lets by the heavy-scented hot-house

kind, and never pushed her bare,
pink toes into the soft mud.

The other girl lives with her pa-
rents in a comfortable country home.
She wears simple clothes, eats plain
food, plays rollicking games, and she
knows most of the birds and flowers
about her by name. She listens for
the first notes of the returned bob-
link, bluebird and song sparrow with
the keenest delight; almost hourly
searches for the unfolding blossoms
of early spring, and reverently takes
in her hand the first little baby chick.
She is familiar with the changing
and ever wonderful phenomena of
sunrise and sunset and knows many
nature poems that mean much to her
because she is able to apply them.
The one wears the husks of life, the
other enfolds the germ that is life.

It is a great thing to be able to do
little things that are a necessity in
the routine of the common day and
to do them well. The mother who
makes a light, tender loaf of bread
with her own hands for the susten-
ance of her own family has done a
great thing, and if she has trained
herself to enjoy doing it, and has
worked out an answer to some of the
whys, she had added materially to her
bank account of individuality. Any
woman can wear a pretty gown after
it is made, but what a fine thing to
have made it! Girls used to be taught
these accomplishments at home; now
much of it is left for the teachers of
domestic science in our colleges.

A woman who can speak before an
audience on the theory of life is called
prominent, and she is accredited
with doing great things, but what
about the mother who really lives
with her children as they pass
through the various stages of devel-
opment; who can tell stories that
will hold the attention and train the
faculties of the little ones, and who
frankly meets the issues of life with
the other ones? Is not the latter
doing the truly great things, and does
it not require the greatest skill to do
them well?

The equipment of some houses is
so elaborate and artificial that the
great little things are smothered by
the little big things.—Housewife.

TWO EXCELLENT IDEAS.

The best way of whitening kitchen
tables which are not painted is to
scour them with wood ashes and
soap. Floors can be also most effec-
tively scrubbed with cold water, soap
and wood ashes.

MOTHS FROM FURS.

To keep moths out of furs place a
piece of common rock brimstone, just
as it is, in your chest or wardrobe.
It is said that a moth will not go
near it.

GUILFORD COUNTY MEETING OCTOBER 12.

The regular meeting of Guilford
County Farmers' Union will be held
in Greensboro on Saturday, October
12, at 10 o'clock a. m. There is a
great deal of business to come before
this meeting. Besides other busi-
ness, there is the election of a new
batch of county officers. Get it fixed
in your mind whom you want for
your new officers before you come to
the meeting. Elect your best men—
men who are always at their Local
meetings, and men who are always
at the county meetings, and men who
read the organ of the State Union.
In short, men who know what is go-
ing on in the organization.

I will be glad to see every member
present.

Fraternally,

D. A. MONTGOMERY,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The blessedness of life depends
more upon its interests than upon its
comforts.—George MacDonald.