

Social Forms and Entertainments



For Labor Day.

Very soon now the long vacation will be over, "as Labor day ends our fun," as the small daughter said when her mother cruelly reminded her of the approach of school days. And if it had not been for the selfsame small daughter you would not have had these suggestions for what I am sure will be a novel "shower." As usual, it was "Polly" who thought and planned it all and I am merely telling you what she told me will take place in the home a week from tomorrow where the small daughter lives.

To make the day after Labor day more bearable to this child, who is fond of knowledge, but not fond of school, the members of her family and a few intimate friends who know and love the wee maid have planned a school "shower." Here are some of the unusual ways. A very pretty little alarm clock is to be slipped into her room after she goes to sleep on Labor day night, set at 6:30. This is shower number one and is to be accompanied by a funny note, saying how the clock wishes to be a helper and must be wound up every night in order to start her right each morning. Then at the breakfast table she will find a new utility box containing all sorts of necessities in way of rubber bands, erasers and delightful surprise pencils which come in all sorts of fascinating shapes—anything in shape of a spade, a wee gun or a pistol may turn out to be a pencil. On the back of her chair will be new book straps, also a bag for her books marked with her initials. A new bag for "jacks" and a cunning little watering pot, which will turn out to be an ink bottle, will be found among the parcels. Now that sewing is taught, "Polly" said she had found just the right kind of a bag with a basket bottom which contained all the necessary sewing accessories done in the sweet indian grass and that was to be her contribution.

Now I certainly have told you enough so that each mother may enlarge or curtail the ideas according to her needs, but all of you who have small daughters or sons may plan some sort of shower to make a more festive day of school.

Outing Party.

This last week of our summer play time is filled with all sorts of pleasant farewells parties, not the least of which is the "sunbonnet and straw hat" affair arranged by a seaside hostess. The girls are asked to wear wash frocks, and the men outing suits; when they arrive, dainty sunbonnets of pink, blue and white will be presented to the girls and large straw hats to the men, with bands of pink, blue and white. Each man is to find a girl with the bonnet to match his

hat band. There will be all sorts of games, tennis, archery, boating, bathing at high tide, then supper at seven and an informal dance afterwards. The invitations said from "four to midnight." The favors are to be symbolic of the sea. All sorts of candy boxes in shape of fish, lobster, crabs, clams and shells. The centerpiece is to be a miniature pond, edged with moss, sand, and a lot of little sailboats floating about. Best of all one of the girls is to have her engagement announced at this supper in this way: One of the largest boats is to have the names of the happy pair on the side: "Tom and Della," and the wafers to go with the iced bouillon are ring shaped. "Life buoy" wafers. The pond is supposed to be the "sea of matrimony." The place cards are to be boat shaped with "Bon voyage" on the sail. The bonbons are to be in shape of sea shells, delicately colored, pink and white, and the ices are to be frozen ship shape with sails bearing the names of the honored twain. This affair will bring the parting of the ways to a very happy party of young people.

Of Interest to Travelers.

Do not carry silver toilet articles, but use celluloid, as it is light, and weight is a great factor when packing either bag or trunk. There should be a case for soap, tooth brush and salve boxes, and, of course, a comb and brush, also clothes brush, button hook and manicure things may be selected all of the same pattern and color. Where two or three are traveling together it is rather better for each one to choose a distinctive color, like pink, blue or yellow. Manicure cases are now so small that all the implements may be found inside the "buffer," the top lifting off, revealing everything packed in like peas in a pod. There are almost numberless articles to be selected in leather, including drinking cup cases, umbrella straps, shawl straps, dress hanger cases containing either two or three forms, clocks of all sizes, medicine cases, needles, thread and thimble cases and the most stunning work bags, lined with silk.

A folding umbrella is indispensable, and it will fit in even a small suitcase not much larger than a man carries his cigars in, and I suppose a cigarette case would not be amiss, for so many are "doing it" now. "Doing what?" I hear the chaperon ask, and I calmly say, "Smoking." After all it is only a matter of custom and environment, for a lately returned traveler from South America who returned by way of England, says he saw more women smoking than not.

An individual "mess" set will not come amiss, containing a folding spoon, knife and fork, and there are some new cases for lavender salts that have a silver top. There are several sizes. Small flasks and thermos bottles may be included in the leather gifts, also the cases filled with powder leaves, and in the more expensive articles will be found the binoculars, which add much to both ocean and mountain travel. A pocket flashlight costing only a dollar is not to be despised, for one never can tell when it may be a comfort, and it is well to be prepared for any emergency.

MADAME MERRI.

For a Gloomy Piazza.

A dark piazza may be much relieved by the use of willow chairs in their natural state, with cushions of bright crimson. The bright red cushion in the white or green enameled chair is also very inviting and cheering.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



William Pitt

Give the colt free range.

Spade up the chicken yard.

Select the poultry for the fair.

Prepare winter wheat ground early.

It is hard to fatten a stunted chicken.

Scald the milk pails out and set them in the sun.

Good digestion of the food will lead to the production of more eggs.

The cost of a cow is only the first item of expense to be considered.

Let the old hen and her brood have a sheaf of wheat and watch them keep busy.

When feed gets scarce in pastures one cannot blame cows for trying the fences.

Try and raise some product on the farm that will bring in money every day in the year.

The heifer bred too early always remains stunted in growth and her milk is shortened for all time.

The Ayrshire and Guernsey types of dairy cattle are increasing in favor in the middle western states.

Some tell the sex of the guinea fowl by its wattles. Those of the male are double the size of the female.

Two items are essential in draining. Secure a good outlet and provide a regular descent for the water.

Wool that comes from the back of a sheep is good, bad or indifferent, according to the manner in which it is fed.

Animals afflicted by parasites cannot do well and these pests spread rapidly and increase fast in warm weather.

In the long run it is always a good plan to give a cow a dose of some laxative at the first symptom of udder trouble.

Experiments show that chickens with strong vitality and plenty of masculine characteristics make the largest gains.

The aphid can be controlled by spraying with the tobacco or kerosene solutions.

Alfalfa yields from two to three times as much as clover or timothy, and is more valuable hay.

The successful poultryman is busy the entire year and uses home-grown products if cheaper than those prepared elsewhere.

While alfalfa pasture has been found to be very valuable for hogs, the hay as a part ration for winter is scarcely less important.

If the little ducks cannot get to grass some kind of green food must be provided. Lettuce is the very best green food that can be provided.

The gasoline engine comes in handy on the stock pump when a spell of three or four days dead calm comes and the windmill takes a vacation.

A small fat sheep always brings better prices than a large poor one; but if the larger sheep is also made fat it will command a much better price.

Dairying makes the farm attractive, other things being equal the dairy farm is neater, more sanitary and looks better to the passer-by than the other farm.

In making a house, economy of floor space, simplicity of construction and convenience in handling the fowls are the main things to be arranged for in the building of the house.

It has been estimated that if all, or nearly all, of our farmers could be induced to discard scrub fowls and use only pure-bred poultry, the increase in value of poultry would be 100 per cent.

The older a hog gets the more it costs to put a pound of meat on him. Our experiment stations have established this fact beyond all argument. Early to market is the way to capitalize this information.

A calf that has one-half of its mother's milk will put on a hundred pounds of weight a month and at three months it is eating and can be weaned. Such calves at six months will weigh nearly as much as a year old calf that was taken away at once from its mother.

Hens need bulky feed.

The grape is a sure fruit.

Keep the dairy things clean.

The best paint is the cheapest.

Milk cows need to be salted at least twice a week.

If a cow falls off in milk, it is hard to bring back the flow.

Untidy, filthy houses soon show the results in scaly-legged fowls.

Good development before beginning to lay, is best for the pullet.

The old-fashioned tin strainer has been relegated to the scrap heap.

A dark comb is an indication that something is the matter with the bird.

Cultivate vegetables and flowers when the weather is hot and the soil dry.

For fattening a wet mash is good, but at other times let the mash be dry.

The old hens, especially those older than two years, should be fattened and sold.

Just a little buttermilk in the butter soon makes it turn rancid in summer.

It has been well said that a farm can never rise above the level of its owner.

Shade must be provided for the fowls and the little chicks during hot weather.

Breeding for size will be of little advantage unless you feed for size at the same time.

A heavy draft horse should never be driven faster than a walk with or without a load.

Bad ventilation and damp quarters cause more disease among fowls than any one other cause.

Sickly thrift is induced by lack of care. A careless shepherd invariably makes poor sheep.

It's either a darkened stable or milking early and late these days. Flies give the cows no peace.

When buying a stallion know whether or not he is a sure foal getter, otherwise leave him alone.

Saving the heifer calves from the best cows is the right method of keeping up the efficiency of the herd.

Frequent changes of drinking water is one of the best safeguards for the health of the flock during hot weather.

The pedigree sire that has been the power in building up size and draft form in our American stock of horses.

Frequent stirring of ripening cream will make better flavored butter, as it causes the cream to ripen more evenly.

It is almost a waste of time on your part as well as that of a hen to set her in a nest and in a house infested with vermin.

In the early stages the balky horse is made by the balky driver. A high strung, nervous horse is easily ruined by bad driving.

Breeding and feeding is not all, watch the market and plan to finish the hogs at a time when you will not find a glutted market.

Do not set strawberries too deep. The roots should be well spread out and the plants set no deeper than if originally grew in the field.

Sheep that are being fattened ought to have a ration of oil meal every other day. It prevents indigestion and is beneficial in other ways.

A good many farm folks look upon dairying as drudgery but where this is the case it is so because people have made it so, not because of necessity.

The hens should be laying or caring for broods, except when molting, and it is only by feeding the most suitable materials that true economy can be practiced.

In formulating a ration the regard should be had to its palatability. A cow will give better returns if she relishes her food. It stimulates the appetite and aids digestion.

All garden makers should now plant at least some beets for winter use. The soil should be fine and well prepared and handled in such a way as to have sufficient moisture for the germination of the seeds.

Excessive fat in a young pig invites demoralization of its physical condition, destroys the natural tendency toward constitutional vigor, checks growth and induces a condition that no after treatment can correct.

A disregard of the details which assist in furnishing pure, clean, milk every night and morning affects the quality of the entire milking from a herd of cows, and if the milk is supplied to a factory the cream or butter taken from such milk is sure to be more or less affected.

FARMERS OVERSTOCK THEIR PASTURE LANDS



Cattle Being Fattened on Forage From Which Farmers Will Derive High Prices.

(By M. COVERDELL.)

Through that thief of time, procrastination, carelessness, and a zeal to keep every hoof of live stock possible—ninety-nine out of every one hundred farmers overstock their pasture lands, and by the time the most trying portion of the season comes on, their stock are without sufficient pasturage to keep them in even fair shape, and while the detrimental effect of such management is most noticeable on dairy cows, it is practically the same with all other stock, since it stunts them in their growth by depriving them of proper nourishment for a most important part of the season.

Another very discouraging feature of such a course, is, live stock that thus have been deprived of ample pasturage during the summer season, will be in poor condition to meet the rigors of winter, for, once they fall off in flesh at this season, there is not apt to be any more luxuriant growth of grass spring up that year, with the result that the animals not only are unfit to start through the winter, but they will consume more high-priced grain and roughage, and yet not regain the loss of flesh sustained by poor or insufficient pasturage at the proper season.

It is imperative, then, that the farmer do one of two things: Dispose of his live stock till he has only what his pasturage will keep in prime shape through the entire season without taxing it to the limit, or continue to sow forage crops to supplement his pasture till the latter part of July. To those who think this too late to sow such crops, we would state that we have sown as late as August 5, and the crop not only made a good growth for pasturage, but reached a height that made it a most desirable winter roughage. With proper management, such as crop might be utilized for light grazing early in the fall; then mown for roughage, but, of course, one must be governed in each case by conditions.

One of the most commendable features of sowing crops for late summer and early fall pasturage, is, that in many cases they can be grown where some other crop has failed earlier in the season, or the first growth has ripened and been removed from the field. Where wheat or any other small grain shows that it will not make a first-class grain crop, it should be harvested just as soon as possible—either bound or mown and stacked for winter roughage. The field may then be sown any of several crops, and will produce an abundance of excellent grazing in a very short time. Spots which were too wet or too dry at regular planting-time may be utilized to a good advantage in this manner. One can even well afford to cut a few rows of corn near the pasture-lot, toss it over the fence to the stock, and sow some sort of a catch-crop on the ground from which it was taken. Then, there is sure to be some parts of such pasturage left in the soil, and this will serve as a fertilizer to offset the double drain on the land.

As to the different sorts of crops that may be sown for this late pasturage, one must be partly governed by such agencies as weather conditions, conservative handling of the soil, rapidity of the crop's growth, etc. Oats will make a rapid growth and fine pasturage, but if the lateness of the season makes it risky to sow them in account of early frost falling, they should not be sown, as frost ruins them the first time it touches them to any great extent. Millet would not develop quite as rapidly as oats, but it is not so perversive to the damaging effect of frost, and for this reason it is liable to prove quite satisfactory in the majority of cases. Cane and kafir corn are also excellent for pasturage, but should be sown or drilled very thick, so that the plants will grow up in a crowded condition, which causes them to be small, tender and juicy for pasturage. Rape will make a quick growth, and is excellent as pasturage, especially for hogs, sheep and cattle. Wheat or rye will also make good pasturage, but both are somewhat slow of growth in the earlier stage of their development, which is apt to throw them too late for this season's grazing. The cost of these seeds is also to be taken into consideration, as they are higher than most others. However, either of these plants will form the finest of pasturage early next spring. All of these forage crops will reach a stage of

growth that will admit of their being used as a supplementary green feed during the shortage in pasture, and where this method is practiced, such spots or fields should be chosen as near to the regular pasture lands as possible, so that the product may be cut or pulled and thrown over the fence to the animals, without hauling it out. This will in many cases prove more satisfactory than any other plan, since one can feed practically the same amount every day, and by gauging this amount according to the number of live stock he is pasturing, the condition of the pasture growth, etc., this supplementary feed may be made to last much longer than if the animals were given free range of it.

UNUSUAL SUCCESS IN RAISING PLANTS

Beefsteak Fed Occasionally to Ferns and Palms Brings Good Results.

(By ALICE MAY DOUGLAS.)

A friend who has unusual success in raising ferns and palms has given me her secret. She feeds them beefsteak occasionally. About every six weeks she plants a bit of raw meat close to the roots and it is literally eaten up.

Some of our potted ferns were drooping so I hastened to try the new plant food. A single dose of the steak brought them back to health and their growth since has been surprising. Then in pure curiosity I experimented with some outdoor ferns last summer, and after a few weeks I dug up the place to see how the meat and plant were getting on together. I found the decaying steak literally clutched by innumerable roots that had entwined themselves about it like so much wire. How hungry they seemed.

It is said to be a common thing for people living along the gulf coast to feed oysters to their ferns and palms. This would be somewhat expensive for us poor inland people, but they frequently buy a load of shell-fish as we buy coal, simply dumping them in a pile in the back yard and keeping them alive by occasional dousing with salt water.

Watering the plants with unsalted beef tea has also been successfully tried by my neighbor. Hearing these things, "How little we know of our house-mates, the fern family! Who would have dreamed that they, too, have carnivorous tastes? Could they have caught it dwelling so near our dining tables?"

Advantages of Press Drill.

During the past two years we have frequently called attention to the necessity of thoroughly compacting the ground for wheat—and, in fact, any crop—especially when the season promises to be dry. The last bulletin of the Iowa experiment station corroborates these statements. Adjoining plots were seeded to winter wheat and given similar treatment, except that one was seeded with a common drill and the other with a press drill. Threshing returns showed that the plot seeded with a press drill yielded at the rate of 54½ bushels per acre, while the common drilled plot yielded only 44 bushels. A similar test in 1894 gave a yield of 48 bushels for the press drill and 30 for the common drill. The press drill compacts the soil over the seed, the moisture is retained, and a more vigorous plant results.

Soil Renovation.

The cowpea is a wonderful renovator of soil, the value of which is not yet generally recognized, even in the south, where it has been most largely grown and experimented with. At the Louisiana station, (bulletin 40) 62 varieties have been tested. For vines and for green manuring the best varieties are the Unknown, Black, Clay and Red, while the strictly bunch varieties, Whipperwill, Blue, Blackeye, etc., give larger returns in peas.

Shade of Importance.

The importance of shade for the fowls during the hot summer months cannot be overestimated. The best method is to plant fruit trees in the poultry yards, as this will furnish fruit as well as shade.

OF TULLE AND BLACK SATIN



CHARMING Parisian hat of tulle with soft crown of black satin. The tulle brim is cleverly, quite invisibly, wired and at one side there is a cluster of black and red apples.

Such frills as that shown are extremely fashionable just now. They are to be found on nearly all the best millinery models, and in many different colors. At the same time it must be admitted that those who show the magpie tints are the more successful.

The Parisiennes are once more in love with black and white effects. They have had an overdose of violent color schemes.

Clusters of fruit are to be found on some of the new hats and toques, very realistic strawberries, large bunches of currants, etc. I do not think that fruit, even of the best kind, will ever take the place of flowers on summer hats, but a little change is welcome.—Paris Correspondence of the Boston Globe.