

The Home Circle Column

Pleasant Evening Reveries—A Column Dedicated to Tired Mothers as They Join the Home Circle at Evening Tide

Crude Thots from the Editorial Pen

A woman may do her level best to make life and home happy for her husband and children, but if she is treated as a slave, and only given her board and clothing in payment for her services as mother, wife, cook, laundress, nurse girl, chambermaid and seamstress, is it any wonder that little or no happiness exists in that home? If a mother spoils her son by pampering and waiting on him all the years of his childhood and boyhood, and makes him think that a man should always be waited on by a woman of his household, is it strange that he expects a wife to do the same, and that, in all likelihood, she either wears out in a few years from such service or else becomes bitter or disheartened. We are often told that in every true and ideal marriage both husband and wife must learn to bear and forbear. In every home where happiness exists, there must be perfect trust, confidence and love between husband and wife. There are two kinds of sunshine in the world, and both quite necessary—the one which is caused by the sun's shining out doors, and the other by shining in our hearts. It is the loving deeds, the cheery hopeful words and the kindly thoughtfulness that each member of the family shows towards the others that makes an ideal, happy home—a perfect heaven on earth.

The best way to get along in this world is to take things easy. If you are disappointed, laugh it off and resolve to enjoy yourself in spite of an occasional streak of hard luck. Hard luck soon tires of pursuing a jolly disposition.

Look on the funny side of your annoyances.

We may not realize, perchance what home means to us until seas and mountains separate us from the loved ones—perchance not until sickness and misfortune come—perchance not until the Dreaded Shadow falls upon the threshold and the Raven croaks above the bust of Pallas. But when some tie is snapped and some link is broken and some chair is vacant at the fireside then we realize that the cords which bind us to the homestead are knotted in the bosom's core and center—then we realize that the post sang for us and sang for all the world when he sang beside the Thames: "Mid pleasures and palaces tho' I may roam, Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

The parlor as a parlor will soon be a relic of the past. The very name seems to suggest stiffness and lack of comfort. The new homes will have the best room, the one in which the whole family gathers, a warm, sunny place, a home room in its truest sense. The next generation will not waste space on parlors. Perhaps a little library, for privacy, will also be indispensable to many. This cherry room of the future will hold the piano, the general books, the pictures, the baskets and everything that serves to make home a heaven of rest for loyal hearts. Speed the day.

Our prisons are rapidly being filled by those who make the mistake of beginning life at the top of the ladder.

The spirit of order must reign in a house before the children can acquire it.

Little arms encircling the neck will make the heart light, over which no diamonds sparkle. All the grand pictures and splendid works of art one can possess will never adorn a room as do the smiling faces of those dearest to us. Things that may be bought are pleasant to have, nor is wealth to be despised; but never pity the poor man who has the wealth that gold cannot buy, nor the woman whose jewels are those of which Cornelia was so proud—good and obedient sons.

Whoever takes a little child into his love, may have a very roomy heart, but that child will fill it out. The children keep us from growing old and cold; they cling to our garments with their little hands and impede our progress to petrification; they win us back with their pleading eyes, from cruel care; they never encumber us at all. A poor old couple with no one to love them, is a most pitiful picture; but a home, with a small face to fill a broken pane here and there, is robbed of its desolateness.

You can get into the habit of living peacefully and happily, and that habit is just as difficult to break as any habit we know of. Let there be no long poutings; let there be no long, careless, indifferent fits. If little storms arise—and they will arise let them be brief. Don't let us sleep over it, and wake up the next morning and cudgel our brains to remember who nagged last. This kind of thing is mean, it is ungenerous and it is silly.

What are those whom we meet in society to us compared to our own home circle? Why do we take pains to be polite and agreeable to them and neglect those who have the strongest claim upon us? It all comes about because we have got into the wrong way of thinking. We have put the home in the background, when it should occupy the foremost place in our thoughts.

"In the early fall many women of fashion will include in their wardrobes French-looking pelerines of satin. These long coats were first made by Callot."

The Skirt And Coat Situation

The fashion editor of the Woman's Home Companion says in the September issue:

"Let me tell you of the skirt situation. The hip fullness has surely started on a downward course. Plaited effects are the style. Plaits are introduced to give the straighter figure line, but without cutting out any of the fullness at the skirt edge.

"I assure you, however, there is nothing monotonous about the new plaited skirts. There are loose plaits, pressed plaits, side plaits, and wide and narrow box plaits. Some of these skirts are made with yokes, and then again the plaited effect is often broken with a panel.

"Plaited plaid skirts will be worn with tailored jackets of plain cloth, while velvet jackets will be worn with skirts of satin or broadcloth.

"The skirt with the high waist line is here. You know I said there was a tendency toward Empire styles. "Paris—to be particular, the house of Martial et Armand—has introduced a skirt with a wide, straight front breadth mounted up to the corsetage onto a three-inch belt which fits the waist closely. To the lower edge of this belt, the material is gathered over a thick cord, and then hangs perfectly straight. There are straight side breadths, and a wide back breadth in which the closing is concealed."

"The skirt has surely gone up as high as it's going to, and now it is coming down. The shoemakers know it, and it is a matter of business with them to know, too. They have taken about two inches off the tops of the new fall shoes. This new skirt is not coming way down, however. It will stop about at the ankles. The tendency, too, is toward straight and narrow lines. But it will be a long way from the hobble. Women having been hobbled once are not likely to be hobbled again. That's where the delights of freedom come in. By the way, Callot of Paris was among the first of the sponsors for this longer skirt.

"The pert, flaring and bouffant skirt will still be worn; but it has lost its novelty, and that was the best part of it. Lots of women, however, thought its youthfulness the best part. They claimed that you couldn't tell the grandmother from the granddaughter, when viewed from behind, by wearing it. But you see the granddaughter doesn't care about this, if a new style seems more attractive, and the poor grandmother must submit. It does seem as though youth and fashion are always in league, quite forgetting that middle age and old age have aspirations about being tastefully clothed.

"Coats are conspicuously showing the descending line. Autumn suit coats will vary in length from twenty-eight to thirty-eight inches, thirty-four inches being the most popular length; while forty-eight inches is a good length for the separate coat.

"Plaits and panels are featured. The flare is not as prominent as in the spring models. This does not mean that they are not wide at the bottom, for they are. The separate coats, especially, show a sweep at the hem. Some have the upper portion made with fitted lines, others hang loose from the shoulders.

"Plush, velour, panacea—which is the short nap French velvet—and imitation fur fabrics are all good materials for these coats. The leading novelty in these imitations is Rodier's ederella, a close imitation of Persian lamb.

"These suit coats and separate coats alike rely upon their collars and cuffs for their novelty note, and I assure you they have not relied in vain. The cape collar, about the only real military note in the new fashions, and the high wrinkled crush collars, are the leaders. They both have the big clumsy look in common—it is regarded as their chief style note. Some of these collars may be worn two ways, buttoned up close about the neck, or laid out flat in cape style.

"Many of the separate coats have kimono sleeves, often so stitiched that they have a raglan effect. The full 'leg of mutton' style is seen, too, made with deep flaring cuffs.

"Suit coats are not showing many long shouldered effects. The armhole is generally the regular size. The sleeve most favored is the regulation coat sleeve with nothing new or unusual about it until the cuff is reached. Then comes the novelty. Very deep cuffs are worn, fur and button-trimmed. Big, flaring, inverted bell cuffs are fashionable, lined with a contrasting, often gay color. These are cuffs that swing out from the sleeve and appear to be just a broad band caught together and to the sleeve with a big button and buttonhole, in fact, there is no end to the cuff novelties.

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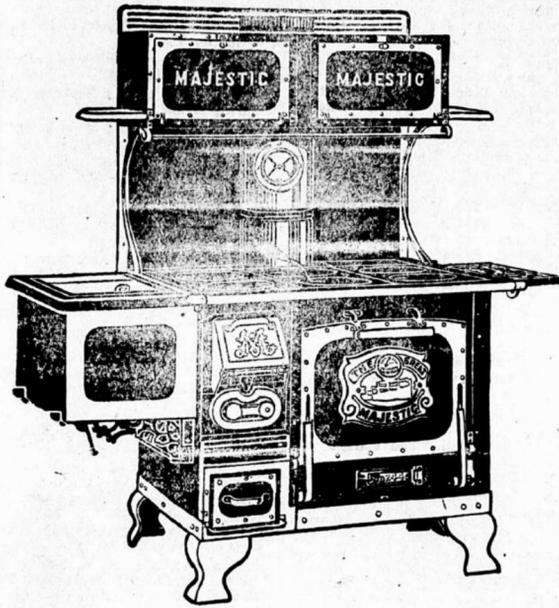
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SMALL BORE SHOOTING AN INEXPENSIVE SPORT

Yachting is called the sport of kings because only kings, millionaires, trust magnates and politicians are rich enough to enjoy it. The very poor have to consider walking or reading the Sunday newspaper a sport because they can't afford anything else.

By far the largest class of people are those who have the necessities of life and can even indulge in some of the luxuries. At the same time dollars and cents also count, and the average American is very much interested in locating the sport which will bring him in the most returns in pleasure and recreation for the least money.

Small bore shooting with .22 caliber rifles ranks high up on the list of sports when the amount of money spent is balanced against the pleasure which can be derived from it. After an initial outlay of from ten to fifteen dollars for a rifle the expense is very light. One hundred .22 caliber rifle cartridges are plenty for an afternoon's sport and they cost less than fifty cents.

The National Rifle Association, which is the governing organization for rifle shooting in the United States, publishes rules and regulations for rifle shooting and conducts matches between the various clubs in all parts of the country.

Small bore shooting is done both indoors and outdoors. The standard distance for outdoor shooting is 25 yards. Outdoors the distances are 25, 50 and 100 yards. The center ring at 25 yards is one-half inch in dia-

meter, each outer ring being one-half inch larger in diameter than the one inside it. Indoors, where artificial light is used, the numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 rings are black, to make a sighting bull's-eye large enough so that there will be no eye strain. Outdoors, the light being better, only the 8, 9 and 10 rings are black. At the other ranges the rings are made larger in direct proportion to the distance.

Major F. H. Phillips, 1203 Woodward Bldg., Washington, D. C., is the secretary of the National Rifle Association and will be very glad to give you information on rifle shooting and will help you to organize a rifle club.

Shotgun Information

L. K. Plainview, Nebraska.
1. What kind of a shotgun barrel is best for long range hard shooting? I always thought that the full choke barrel was best, but one of the shooters here says that a modified choke barrel is better because the shots do not cross. He says that with a full choke barrel the shot are jammed together so hard that the pellets from each side of the load cross over to the other side at long ranges which spoils the pattern.

Ans. Your friend is wrong. The full choke barrel is best for long range shooting. When choke bored shotgun barrels were first introduced there was a popular impression that this style of boring caused cross-firing, but experiments proved that it was unfounded.

2. How can I tell whether my shotgun is full choke or not? There is no mark on the barrel and I think the dealer put one over on me and sold

me a barrel which spreads the shot too much.

Ans. It's easy enough to find out whether your barrel is full choke or not. Get some large pieces of paper about forty inches square, if possible. Shoot at the center of the paper with a standard load from a distance of forty yards. Draw a thirty inch circle on the paper so as to include as many of the shot holes as possible. Count the number of shot which have struck inside the circle. If your shotgun is full choke there will be at least 70 per cent. of the shot charge inside the circle. If you use a shell loaded with an ounce and a quarter of number seven and a half shot there should be at least three hundred shot holes in the circle. In making a test of this kind be sure that your gun is clean. Shoot five shots at least and ten shots if possible and average the results, for even the very best of guns will give patterns which vary considerably from shot to shot.

GREEN CORN FOR WINTER USE

There is a possibility of having green corn on the cob for the Christmas dinner if one only prepares for it, according to Miss Bab Bell, woman's lecturer of the State Board of Agriculture of Missouri. Here's her recipe. We should like to hear from those who have tried it, as to the flavor and quality of corn on the cob prepared in this way.

The thought of roasting ears in the winter time makes the mouth of the grown-up "water" as surely as does the thought of stick candy or ice cream appeal to the appetite of the small boy with a newly acquired nickel in his pocket to make the desired purchase. They are not an impossibility.

As with all vegetables containing but little acid, corn should be canned the same day as gathered, and as soon after picking as possible. This will prevent "flat sour."

Remove the husks and silk, and grade for size. Blanch the cob in boiling water from five to fifteen minutes; plunge quickly into cold water. Pack ears, alternating butts and tips, in half-gallon glass jars or gallon tin cans. Pour over boiling hot water, and add two level teaspoonsful of salt to each gallon. Place rubbers and tops in position. Seal partially but not tight. Sterilize in hot-water bath outfit three hours, one period.

Remove the jars and tighten the covers.

A hot-water bath outfit can easily be arranged by placing a wire or wooden rack in the bottom of a wash boiler or a pail, thus raising the jars an inch and a half from the bottom of the boiler and preventing their becoming hot too suddenly.

When sweet corn is taken from the jar or tin can for table use, remove the ears as soon as the jar or can is opened. Heat the corn, slightly buttered, in a steamer. Do not allow the ears to stand in water or to be boiled in water a second time.

The method of canning corn cut from the cob is similar to the method followed in canning the whole ear.—Farm and Fireside.



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