

CHERRY SQUARE

A NEIGHBOURLY NOVEL
by GRACE S. RICHMOND

With a charming manner—the one she could use when she felt it called for—Adelaide led the visitor into the house. For a fleeting moment she had considered taking her through the hall into the dining room, as a place suitable to a housekeeper receiving calls. But she realized instantly that it would be unwise to indulge herself in this effort further to label Jo as the upper servant Sally Chase didn't consider her. If Sally had been out of the house, it might have been done. But she wasn't—she was coming into the hall from a side door at this very moment, on her arm a basket of flowers which she had lately picked. At sight of the visitor she dropped the basket upon an old settle which stood beside the door, and came forward.

"This lady is inquiring for your housekeeper, Sally," Adelaide explained, reluctantly resigning the situation with this final repetition of the word she so enjoyed using. If only she could have been left to manage things herself, she might have succeeded in making them difficult for Jo as she would have liked to do. Still, she reflected, the visitor seemed to be informed as to Jo's status in the household. Perhaps she wanted to engage her in the same capacity.

Of course, as at sight of Sally her cousin had known would happen, the whole atmosphere of the arrival of this stranger changed. Mrs. Chase received Jenny's caller in her own informal, friendly way. The lady introduced herself as Miss Rutherford. Sally took her into the old parlor. She said she would call Miss Jenney, adding that Miss Jenney was not only her housekeeper for the summer but her friend as well, saying it in the warm tone which vouches for the stability of a proclaimed friendship. Adelaide, lingering out of sight in the hall, heard the fragment of conversation which followed.

"You've been fortunate to have her in your home in any capacity, Mrs. Chase," Miss Rutherford observed. "She is a very remarkable girl, as I well know, after four years of contact with her."

"We have all felt that she is remarkable," Sally answered. "We've become deeply attached to her. Indeed, we're dreading the day which takes her away from us, since of course it must come."

"It will come rather soon, I must warn you, if I have my way," said Miss Rutherford, with a quick smile which showed beautiful teeth. Her face seemed to Sally probably to be habitually grave, but this smile redeemed the impression of a slight austerity of character. "Since you are her friend, I may say to you that her college is still very much interested in Miss Jenney."

"Oh—I think you must be Dr. Mary Rutherford, the president of that college!" Sally exclaimed. It was a quite famous name, and unquestionably it fitted the person before her.

The visitor nodded. "With many last details of look after, in spite of a busy summer on both sides of the Atlantic... I saw some difficulty in finding Miss Jenney's present address; she had omitted to send it to us. I'm very glad not to have lost more time in discovering her."

Jo's slender wardrobe for morning use. If she had known Dr. Mary Rutherford was coming, her dark hair couldn't have been more smoothly ordered—it was one of Jo's charms that she was never to be discovered looking mussed and ill kempt, as Adelaide so often was—when there were no young men about. Sally thought sometimes that this personal nicety of Jo's might have been one of Adelaide's special reasons for antagonism; Adelaide wanted to look like that, but wouldn't take the trouble, and hated one who was willing to pay the price for the result.

"My dear, a friend of yours is waiting in the parlor to see you," Sally enjoyed announcing it, though she was experiencing a certain sinking of the heart at the thought of having soon to part with this prize of hers. "Let this go—you mustn't keep her waiting. She's no less a person than Dr. Mary Rutherford."

The look of startled joy which flashed over Jo's face told Sally still more plainly that Dr. Rutherford had already intimated the relation between the two.

"Doctor Mary! Oh, how did she know where to find me?" Jo followed Sally out of the kitchen as one who goes to meet a long absent friend.

Sally turned with a searching look. "Do you mind her finding you here, Jo?" she asked, for somehow she felt she had to know.

"Oh, not a bit—not the least bit. Why should I? I'm proud of it. And I want her to know you, Mrs. Chase. Won't you come back with me?"

"I should be delighted to see more of Doctor Rutherford, but are you sure you want me at this interview? It's a business interview, Jo—she told me a little about it, and I'm thinking it may be going to take you away from us."

"Oh, no—that can't be!" But Jo had caught at Sally's hand and Sally held it out, and drew her with her.

Adelaide had vanished from the hall as the two passed, but a coat closet stood slightly ajar, and Sally, with a wicked impulse following a sure divination, pushed the door sharply shut as she went by. The next instant she remembered this door had no knob upon the inside, and told herself to be sure not to forget to release the prisoner. Her lovely face was all sparkling with inner mirth as she and Jo reached the parlor door. It really was fun, now and then, to spike one of those mean little guns of her cousin's, which seemed always trained on Jo. And she knew that worse than the humiliation of the imprisonment to Adelaide—though that was to sting—would be the loss of the chance to overhear a conversation not meant for her ears. How well Sally remembered that as a little girl "Addie" had always been spying upon other children. Was she never to grow up?

Doctor Rutherford was unquestionably Josephine Jenney's friend. She proved it to Sally beyond doubt by the two outstretched hands she gave the girl, and by the look of hearty pleasure on her own strong, interesting face as she held Jo off to study her.

"My dear, you're quite as nice as I remembered you. I can see that you're probably still better worth our interest and confidence. Whatever you've been doing since you left us, it's matured you."

"I've been teaching in the Cherry Hills school all the year, Doctor Rutherford. And I took the place of the second

maid for the summer with Mrs. Chase."

"The housework as a sociological experiment?" questioned Doctor Rutherford gravely.

"Not at all. To earn the money, and as a means of being among people I liked. It was only chance which made me housekeeper here."

"Chance—and ability," amended Sally Chase. "And, presently, we found we must make our housekeeper our personal friend."

"On the principle that you can't keep a good man down?" Again the visitor's smile flashed understanding. "Well, if Josephine Jenney could be kept down by such details of experience, I shouldn't be here today to offer her what I am offering... Will you come back to us, my dear, in Miss Elizabeth Sinclair's place—as assistant to Professor Huston? You know Miss Sinclair has married quite suddenly! I know of nobody fitter for the work, or I should be engaging her."

"Doctor Rutherford! Surely I'm not fit at all!"

"No! The data in my notebook and upon the college records would testify to the contrary. Higher honors have seldom been taken than you have won. Besides those—

which, after all, count less heavily than do some other considerations—you established yourself as a noteworthy type of student. Your teachers don't forget you. I won't tell you quite all the points in your favor, except that when this position was suddenly made empty, almost my first thought was of you."

"But, Doctor Rutherford, all the teaching experience I've had since my graduation has been this one year at Cherry Hills. It's a—really almost—a country school. To go back to my old college, I'm afraid I should have much more experience."

The keen gray eyes of the woman of affairs were studying Josephine; Sally, looking on, said to herself that to have this woman select one for a vacant place under her own authority was to have a new degree conferred. There was in her manner and words all the quiet assurance of a person who understands precisely what she is doing, and is not accustomed to make errors of judgment.

"In spite of that lack of experience, Miss Jenney, I should like very much to try you in this position. The time is short—you will need to make your decision within a week. I understand that you haven't renewed your contract with this school."

"No, Doctor Rutherford," Jo didn't explain that, and the visitor's lips were touched by a slight smile.

"I took pains to inquire about that before I came to see you. The head of the school board expressed his regret that they probably couldn't keep you. He said things about you which interested me very much, and confirmed my suspicion that whatever you attempt you put through. I infer that you haven't made plans for the coming year."

"I haven't," Josephine flushed. "There have been reasons why I couldn't make plans till fall."

"I hope you can make them now, however. I shall send you at once an official invitation from the college to take this position. Meanwhile—the visitor rose—"I want you to keep up a terrible thinking, dear—the sort of clear thinking which results in action. I hope it will be the action I want. I wish I could stay to talk things over with you more fully. But I have to be back in New York"—she looked at her watch—"in just about the time it will take Peters to get there without flagrantly breaking the speed laws."

She took leave of them with-

out delay, only padding as she went by a desk bookcase which stood beside the parlor door to point at it and say enthusiastically: "That's a Thomas Shearer, I should judge, and a very fine example. I envy you, Mrs. Chase. There aren't many of them to be found. We all have to have our hobbies, and old furniture is mine... Goodbye, Josephine Jenney, don't fail me, if you can help it. Remember I want you very much!"

Her rare, flashing smile which, each time you saw it, lighted her face anew with attractiveness, was the last impression they had of her. Then they heard her command: "Back to New York, Peters, and don't forget that deceiving turn at the foot of this street—we've no time to lose." The shining dark car fairly sprang away, and was out of sight before it seemed more than to have left the door.

"Josephine, con congratulations! Such an honor! Of course you will go!"

But Jo was very sober. There swam no light of excitement in her face, rather the look of one who studies a difficult problem.

"I don't know, Mrs. Chase."

Sally considered. "Of course," she said, with some hesitation, "you know nothing could make us happier than to keep you with us as long as we may. We shall stay here—possibly—until early winter. I can't imagine getting on without you, here or back in New York. But of course, neither my husband nor I would venture to urge you against such an opportunity as this. I just wanted you to know."

Jo looked at her, and for the first time in her contact with this girl, Sally saw a hint of tears in her eyes. But Jo smiled through them.

"I appreciate that more than I can tell you, Mrs. Chase. Being with you these months has been almost the nicest thing that ever happened to me."

"Really?"

"Really. My life—for some time—hasn't been exactly—easy. This has been—a little breathing space. But what I shall do next isn't clear. As Doctor Rutherford said, I shall have to keep up a terrible thinking about it."

"Jo, run away today somewhere to do that thinking, dear. We can get on nicely without you—for a day."

"Oh, may I?"

"Indeed you may. Some things can't be thought out except in solitude."

As they went through the hall together, Sally turned and set the door of the coat closet very slightly ajar.

An hour later, Jo Jenney, sitting on the bank of a stream under tall pines, her hands clasped about her knees, began to try to look further into the future than she had ever dared to look before.

It was two days after this that Adelaide took her departure from Cherry House. Whether the episode of the coat closet hastened the day, Sally didn't know, and didn't attempt to discover. Adelaide was very distant in her manner as she made her farewells, after her huge pile of luggage had been bestowed in the Chases' car by Jimmy O'Grady, who was to drive her into town. But she had a parting shot to fire, which she reserved till the last possible moment.

"I'm not at all sure you'll be interested," she said, quite as though she were not much interested herself. "I'm going to marry Chester Graham—if you happen to know who he is. Probably you don't, since you go out so little except as a minister's wife."

"Of course, I'm interested," Sally assured her. "I'm afraid I don't know Mr. Graham, but I certainly do wish you all possible happiness."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

KNOW PRODUCTION COST

Dairying and poultry raising, it is generally conceded, have been the most profitable farm enterprises in recent years, yet a very large proportion of those who have been selling dairy products and raising poultry have not found these undertakings profitable. Some men continually have "bad luck" with their hogs, their cattle, their crops or other products. "Bad luck" covers a multitude of sins. It could be a good thing if this term could be completely eliminated from the farm vocabulary and the term "poor management" substituted therefor. If this were done many unprofitable farms would soon become profitable.

"Bad luck" is a convenient term behind which to hide, but a most unfortunate one. It undoubtedly has come into use because of the rarity of farm records kept for the purpose of showing production costs. Millions of cows are being milked annually that do not produce enough milk and butter fat to pay for their feed, to say nothing about the labor of caring for them. Most of these cow losses are due to improper feeding practices and some of them to the maintenance of cows that are not fit for economical milk production.

CARING FOR OLDER CHICKS

Most people feed their chicks well for the first month when the little chicks need careful attention in the brooder or with hens, but after they get older and do not need to be watched closely, many lose interest or at least allow the chicks to rustle for themselves. This common mistake is hard to overcome for it is natural for one to become more careless with the chicks after they have a good start in life. Chicks are not so apt to die as before, but they are still apt to become runts and therefore unprofitable.

Chicks should have access to a well balanced ration throughout their life. Pullets that are matured are the ones that lay during the fall and winter when eggs are high in price. It takes proper rations, plus early hatched chicks to raise this type of pullets.

The all-mash system of feeding chicks over the first month furnishes a satisfactory method and also allows the person handling the flock some leisure time without damaging the young birds. The all-mash system consists simply in grinding the grain that is usually fed separately and mixing it with the chick mash and putting the mixture in a self feeder so that the chicks can eat whenever they are hungry. Feeding in this manner insures chicks getting all the feed they need, that they will get a balanced ration and that they will not be forced to scratch in the litter and droppings for their feed, as is usually the case when scratch grain is fed separately.

When chicks have sour milk to drink, the following feeds make a fairly satisfactory all-mash ration: Ground corn, 300 pounds; ground hulled oats, 100 pounds; bran, 100 pounds; shorts, 100 pounds; meat scraps or tankage, 100 pounds; pure high grade ground limestone, 25 pounds; ground raw bone meal, 25 pounds; salt, 10 pounds. This combination may be changed slightly in order to use other feeds, when those mentioned cannot be secured. A ration of this kind should not have too much crude fiber in it. For that reason, have specified hulled oats. As the chickens get older they can use the ground whole oats. A liberal allowance of animal protein must be included. This is furnished by the meat scraps or tankage, plus the milk. If milk is not available, 50 pounds of dried buttermilk or a like proportion of semisolid buttermilk should be used. Minerals should also be included to get the best results.

Chicks of this age should be allowed to range. If green stuff is grown on the range, it is more satisfactory both from the standpoint of saving labor and for the chicks. If such green stuff is not available, then refuse garden vegetables, green clover or alfalfa are good substitutes. Chicks should get out every day as the sunshine helps them to assimilate the minerals in the feed. Oyster shell and grit also should be supplied.

GOOD BROODER LITTER

There is no best litter to use in the brooder house, but there are certain requirements a litter must meet to be satisfactory, according to poultry authorities. It should be light in weight, thus allowing the droppings and dirt to work to the floor so the chicks are less likely to come in contact with contaminated material; it should be absorbent, and therefore capable of keeping the floor of the brooder house dry; cheap, so one can afford to replace it every five days after the first four weeks; and should be clean, which means free from mold, mustiness, and dust.

Shavings, cut straw, and cut hay meet these requirements. These are not the only materials that one can use, but they are among the best. Straw or hay used for litter, should always be cut. If the straw or hay is not cut it becomes matted and covered with droppings, and is therefore of no value for litter.

Bacillary white diarrhea, coccidiosis, and intestinal worms are spread to a large extent by dirty litter. One rule in brooding chicks

VENTILATE AND FUMIGATE

Feed is given chickens with the hope that it will be used by the fowl to maintain its body and produce eggs in the case of hens. Chicks are expected to live, grow and develop rapidly. For either to show real profit, the feed must be right and none of it go to support lice and mites. Now is the time to declare war on lice and mites.

COWS PRODUCING MORE

The average person is using more milk than he used to, but the number of cows in the country is decreasing each year. The answer is each cow is producing more than formerly.

that should be followed, if all others are forgotten, is "clean the brooder house every five days." This means removing the litter, sweeping the floor of the brooder house, and putting in clean litter.

FEEDING SKIM MILK

Unless skim milk is allowed to stand for a considerable time it will not separate out to any great extent. Clabbered milk retains a uniform texture for some time. To throw away any of the settled out whey entails a loss of valuable food. The same policy of feeding should be followed when semisolid buttermilk is fed in a dilute condition. To prevent it from separating, too much feed it in comparatively small amounts at a time or stir it up in the containers every two or three hours.

In feeding skim milk it is important that it be fed soured. If milk is fed sweet one day and sour the next it is apt to upset the bowels of the chicks. Milk can be soured rapidly by adding some sour milk to the cans of sweet milk and allowing them to stand in a comparatively warm place until sour enough for use.

FAT CONTENT VARIES

Many farmers believe that one can change the percentage of fat in cows milk by feeding. Some say that heavy grain feeding, irrespective of the nature of the ration, results in cows giving milk richer in fat than when fed a smaller amount. This theory, however, is not borne out by facts. The quantity of milk a cow produces is, of course, greatly influenced both by the quality and the quantity of the ration fed and thus the total amount of fat produced by a cow in a given period is correspondingly increased. A sudden change in the ration of a cow almost invariably brings about a temporary change in the composition of the milk. First the stage of lactation is only temporary and in a short time the cow produces what for her is normal milk.

There are, however, certain other factors which do have an effect upon the percentage of fat in cows' milk. First the stage of lactation causes variations. The milk of a fresh cow usually carries a relatively high percentage of fat. The percentage then slowly declines in the course of one to two months to the extent of around 1/2 per cent. Then it remains at this level for three to five months and then rises from 2 to 3 per cent. higher during the remainder of the lactation period.

FOR GREATER YIELDS

As a rule it costs but little more to secure a yield of 70 bushels of corn per acre than one of 35 or 40 bushels. We all know that the fertility of the soil has much to do with the yield, provided moisture and other climatic conditions are favorable. The thing to do, therefore, is to build up the amount of available plant food in the soil. This can be done by the application of barnyard manure as everyone knows, but unfortunately there is seldom enough manure to go around. If the soil on the average farm is to be materially improved, arrangements must be made to grow more legumes. Sweet clover is one of the best and most economical soil builders we have because the seed is relatively cheap and its producing capacity very great.

The only drawback to sweet clover is its refusal to grow on sour land and three fourths of the corn belt land is sour. Let us start to lime our sour soils as soon as possible, but before doing this have them tested for acidity to determine the amounts of lime that will be needed. Once a sour soil has been given a dressing of one to three tons of limestone per acre, depending upon the amount of acidity existing therein, it will produce legumes for 10 to 15 years without further liming, so the expense is small compared with the benefits derived therefrom. The following points should be borne in mind by those who would produce maximum corn yields:

Provide a good rotation of crops in which clover or some other legume is grown every three or four years. Conserve and apply all the stable manure and supplement it with acid phosphate. Prepare a good seed bed and cultivate it early to kill weeds as soon as they start. Use a high yielding strain of corn that is adapted and will mature in the locality where it is to be grown. Test all seed corn by the use of the modified rag doll test and discard all diseased and weak ears. Change the farm layout to get large sized fields to economize on man and horse labor.

In many sections of the state supplementing stable manure or plowed under legume crops with acid phosphate will bring very profitable returns.

SELECTING BREEDERS

Gilts for breeding purposes should be selected from families that are good milkers and prolific. They should have 10 or 12 well developed teats. Breeding gilts should be provided with a growing ration. They should not be fattened. For two months after breeding the sows can be fed a ration containing a limited quantity of fat forming elements, but they should be given a narrow ration during the last two months of gestation and the ration diminished from 30 to 50 per cent. 1 week prior to farrowing. The sow should be provided with water but no food for 1 to 2 days after farrowing. The ration should be limited until the pigs are about 10 days of age after which it should be gradually increased, reaching the maximum when the pigs are about three weeks of age.

Tonics are a great help in producing appetite, building stamina among the lightweight and in warding off disease.

SOIL EROSION COSTLY

Erosion on farms in this country accounts for a loss of nearly \$2,000,000 annually in plant food. This is more than 20 times the amount of plant food consumed by all growing crops in the country. Removal of forest land, improper cultivation of soils that erode easily and failure to terrace lands is cited by the department of agriculture as the main causes for this loss.

AID THE WEANINGS

The runt gets its greatest setback at weaning time, therefore it is important to see that the little pig receives special care and feed.

Honest Zimmermann.

From Time.

Leopold Zimmermann has lived for three-quarters of a century and he has often played a lone hand.

A peddler, with a willow basket full of shoe strings and suspenders, driving bargains in a German accent on the doorsteps of Manhattan. That was Leopold Zimmermann in 1870.

A thriving broker, with offices on Wall street where the New York Stock Exchange now stands. In those days (the '90s) the sign above the door read Zimmermann & Forsyth. But David P. J. Forsyth

died in 1895 and Leopold Zimmermann went on alone.

A rich and feverishly busy potentate, with his offices at No. 179 Broadway jammed with speculators. That was Leopold Zimmermann in 1919 when the German mark was behaving in a dizzy manner.

A bankrupt. That was Leopold Zimmermann in 1923 when the German mark went shooting down to nothing. His firm failed for more than \$7,000,000. He paid creditors \$5,000,000 of what he owed them with his own fortune and with some money that the Mixed Claims commission awarded his firm. Then

the courts said, last summer, that he need pay no more.

But Leopold Zimmermann is a man who pays back every cent. He re-opened the firm of Zimmermann & Forsyth and has already used the profits to pay \$100,000 of the remaining \$2,000,000. He keeps a list of the old creditors on his desk, smiles sternly as he checks off names. He lives with his wife in a two-room hotel suite costing \$1,400 a year, rides to work at 8 a. m. on the subway. He has no children, no partners. He swears he will tear up that list on his desk before he dies. That is why he wants to live

to be 85, 95, a century....

Citizens recalled a younger broker, whose firm failed in 1904 and who has paid all debts with interest for 22 years. He is Reuben H. Donnelly, 63, now famed as president of the Reuben H. Donnelly Corp. and vice president of R. H. Donnelly & Sons Company, able Chicago printers.

SHIH Short, Eh!

From Ti-Bits.

"I say, old fellow, you're getting thin since you retired from the coal business."

"Yes, I don't weigh as much as I did."