

Social Forms and Entertainments



A Birthday Shower.
Did you ever hear of a "birthday" shower for a bride?

Try it the next time a bride-elect is to be honored. This is the way one was managed: The guests are requested to bring something suitable for their birthday month. For instance, say the natal day is in June, a bunch of roses, or any gift, for June is the month of brides; or in May a basket of flowers or something in green glass to represent an emerald, for a few are rich enough to give a real emerald; in February, a heart-shaped cushion, or a book of Dickens' quotations. This shows how to work it out. An umbrella or even a pair of rubbers for April, a bunch of fire crackers and a fan for May, or a silk flag. This, you see, made very interesting and amusing. Having funny things always adds to the merriment. This is a shower in which the men can participate and is best for the evening. A rhyme to go with each parcel will help make more fun. A clothes basket or hamper may be given in which to send everything home to the bride.

I have heard of similar affairs being given under the name of "calendar" showers; that is, when there are just twelve guests and each one brings a gift suitable for the month which the hostess designates in the invitations. Every one, of course, selects something acceptable and appropriate for the new home.

A luncheon may or may not precede the shower.

A Progressive Dinner.

It is with great pleasure I give this description of a dinner which was successfully carried out by a few neighbors. I read about it a long time ago and have been intending to pass it along but other things have crowded. The first course was soup and was served at 6:30; it was a consommé with celery and olives. When all had finished the maid passed a tray containing oyster shells to each guest and on the cleanly scrubbed interior was written the name of the next hostess. Here creamed oysters were served, and the place cards were charming figures of young girls. Before leaving the table sticks of macaroni tied with ribbon to cards which said: "Folla de signora with de macaroni sticka," and this led to the next hostess, who had delicious macaroni served "a la Italian." She passed brown bread sandwiches. When the maid handed around a box of cigarettes, each one was found to contain a roll of paper, with the invitation to pass on for "more" at "Mrs. Blanks." Here roast leg of lamb was served with green peas and browned potatoes, and the place cards had amusing riddles written on them. Salad and wafers came at the next stopping place and there were little tissue paper parcels at each place, which the hostess said could not be opened until the last course was served. Snapping mottoes were passed last and each con-

tained the invitation to the next place, where ice cream, cake, candies and fruits regaled the party. The last stop brought after-dinner coffee with bon-bons and cordials served in the drawing room. The packages were opened and each one found a musical instrument and all joined in singing, "When Good Fellows Get Together."

Boat Party.

Did you ever hear of a boat party? Well, neither did I until recently, and I am telling you all about it just as soon as I can. This affair was given for a boy's eighth birthday, and he just loved boats better than anything else, so his mother had the tinsmith make an oval pan four inches deep, which she filled with water and put in the center of the dining-room table. Around the edge she arranged ferns and vines with moss, and in the water she placed the gold fish from the aquarium. At the toy store she bought ducks, miniature rowboats, sailboats, a little steamer, swans, frogs and play fish. There was a five-cent sailboat at each place, with the name of child on the side. The cake had a sailboat done in pink icing for decoration, with the boy's name and date of birth and present date underneath.

All this had been kept a profound secret and all the kiddies were wild with delight. This mother is noted for her successful children's parties, and she says it's because she has just the same things for each child to take home, and she usually serves refreshments first, as ice cream and cake are, after all, what makes a real party to the average child, and served early, the supper hour is not interfered with. Then, too, she says children are much happier and easier to manage when their stomachs are full.

Passing Pennies.

This is a jolly pastime much enjoyed by children and hailed by mothers as something new. Place five chairs in a row and five chairs opposite them with a small table or tabouret at each end. Ask ten children to take the seats thus provided, with a captain at each head of the line. Then the captain takes five pennies that are given him and lays them on the head table. Every other child must hold out its hands for the penny to be dropped into them, the palms flat and close together. Now the captain sitting beside the head table start sending the pennies to the other end. They pick one cent off the table, drop it in the next child's hand, then the third person picks it out and drops it in the next hand and so on until the last player is reached and the coin is laid on the foot table. As soon as the fifth cent reaches the foot table it is sent back by the same process. The side getting the five coins "home" first wins. The faster this game is played the more exciting it is and the children always want to do it over and over.

Guessing Noses.

Did you ever let the children try to guess whose nose belonged to who? It is very funny and this is the way to proceed: Hang a cloth in front of a doorway and place one-half of the company in each room, only one of which is lighted. Cut a V-shaped hole in the cloth and let those in the dark room place their noses through it, one by one, while those in the light room guess whose nose it is. When a right guess is made, the owner of the nose must join the guessers, but should the guess be wrong the one making it must join players. Game ends when all are in one room, unless there are too many children and they will tire before all have been successful. It is a better plan to stop one thing and go to the next amusement before any one wears.

MADAME MERRI.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM by William Pitt



Swat the mites.
Alfalfa enriches the soil.
Cleanliness begets health.
Potatoes should follow beans.
Alfalfa is high in feeding value.
Rain and sun are good grass growers.

Provide a lot for the cows to graze at night.
The cost of producing hogs is principally feed.
A dirty cream separator never does efficient skimming.
Throw open the barn doors and keep the building dry.
The amount of silage a calf consumes varies a great deal.

Let us plant trees, but plant just what we can do full justice to.
Sifted coal ashes are not fertilizers, but they are good soil lighteners.
Cows suffering from tuberculosis are apt to look emaciated and run-down.
A bolster spring for the farm wagon should be available on every farm.
Use fine, uniform salt in making butter, especially for private trade.

The American hens produce annually eggs valued at over \$40,000,000.
A sanitary condition is a better preventive of disease than is drugs.
What sort of scheme have you for keeping milk and cream cool in summer?
You can usually depend upon the hardness of fowls that feather slowly.

Of all animals on the farm sheep are among the most economical meat producers.
The dairy sire is half the herd, whether he is a scrub or the best of pure-breds.
Any sudden change in the calf's diet is likely to start trouble. The change should be gradual.
Grit, charcoal and granulated bone should always be mixed with the young chicks' feed.

Having the churn too full of cream will make the butter slow in coming. Half full is enough.
The surest test of the value of a feed is in the result obtained from the cows to which it is fed.
The "pot-bellied" calf is the product of irregular meals, milk of all temperatures and over or underfeeding.

Lay aside and plow a good rich strip of land, near the house, for a garden and fruit plantation. It will pay.
Ducks kept entirely on land must have deep drinking vessels, so they can get their heads under water.
Experiments show it costs four times as much to raise a calf on whole milk as it does on a skim-milk diet.

It is best to salt the morning mash, but not more than one ounce for one hundred head of stock should be used.
Young pigs will begin eating solid food very early in life if given a chance. It is good policy to give them a chance.
There is no danger of corn silage causing dairy cattle to have tuberculosis or producing a tendency toward that disease.

If fowls are to do their best they positively must have clean, cool drinking water. Keep it in clean fountains in the shade.
Give the chicks as much range as possible, even if you have to limit that of the old fowls. Exercise is a means of development.
In building barns for cows don't neglect, when drawing the plans, to arrange for plenty of light and sunshine, as well as for ample ventilation.

Don't be irregular about the milking time; have a definite hour in the morning and a definite hour at night, and milk at these appointed times.
When the fowl acts dumpy, has a poor appetite, and seems generally out of sorts, it is best to pen it alone for a few days and give a good physic.

Grow your own protein.
Keep the separator clean.
Sweet clover is very hardy.
A good appetite shows health.
Fumigation kills disease germs.
Alfalfa balances the corn ration.
No two colonies of bees are alike.
Alfalfa sod grows larger corn crops.
Manure spreaders are always in style.
Watch the cows carefully at calving time.
Do not plant poor, diseased or inferior seed.
Never buy a scrub chicken nor set a scrub egg.
Cowpeas and soy beans make good green manures.

Corn and filth are frequent causes of hog cholera.
Alfalfa fills the hay mow and pays for the privilege.
The weather has a lot of influence with the hay crop.
Alfalfa is the cheapest and best feed for beef cattle.
Alfalfa is the agricultural wonder of the twentieth century.
Alfalfa insures larger yields from the crops that follow.
Alfalfa contains more protein per ton than clover or corn.

To get desired results the brood sow must not be constipated.
The currant worms finish feeding on the leaves in about six weeks.
As a general rule, potatoes should be planted on fresh ground each year.
Rhubarb is one of the standard garden crops in the vicinity of large cities.
Be careful that you plant only seeds that have been tested and are proved fertile.

Clover is a natural restrictive. Rotate with clover at every opportunity.
The wildest colts often make the best horses if properly broken and trained.
Long, straight rows will make easier work with the horse cultivator or wheel hoe later on.
In fruit orchards the most destructive false caterpillar is the pear slug or cherry slug.

Rotation of crops in the garden has the same arguments favoring it as rotation in farm crops.
You must help the hog lift by giving him good care and feed, if he is to be a mortgage lifter.
A plot of ground 40x60 will supply a family of five or six with all the vegetables they can eat.
Alfalfa that is too thin on the ground will become weedy, and grow coarse and woody in fiber.

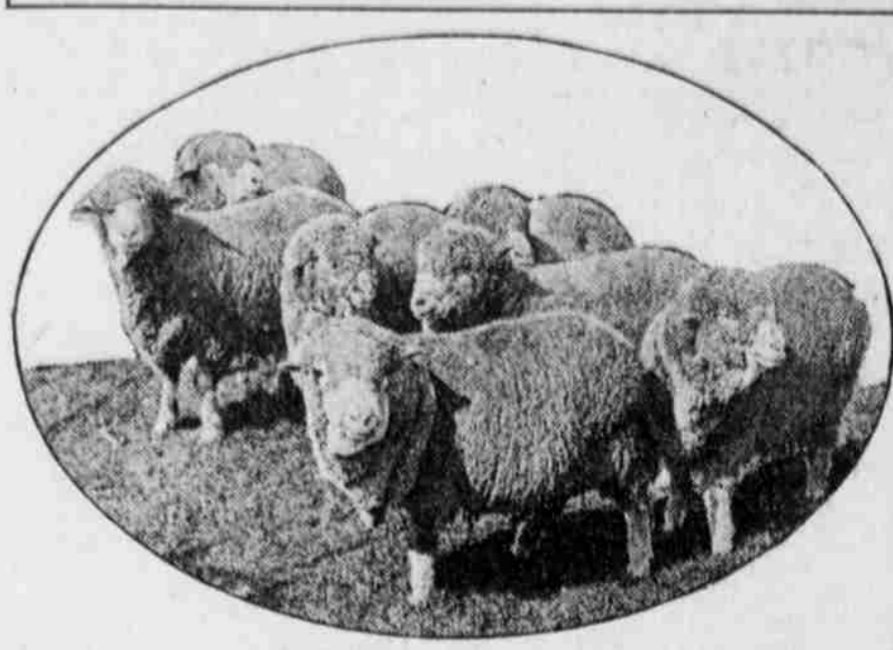
The currant worms cast their skins or molt about once a week, getting considerably larger each time.
Asparagus is a hardy plant. It does not need a winter mulch to keep it from being killed by freezing.
For very young calves it is better to feed them oatmeal, that is, ground oats with the hulls sifted out.
Beans will grow in a variety of soils but it is a mistake to think that a soil cannot get too poor to raise beans.

Protein that is grown upon the farm is often more valuable than that which is purchased in concentrated form, and it is also cheaper.
If it were not for lice, poultry raising would be an easy matter. At the same time it is not difficult to rid the henhouse of this pest.
Did you ever think how much ground a good ear of corn will plant? It is just that much ground wasted if you plant a poor ear.

For the first two weeks give young chicks all they will eat. Afterward, require them to clean up what you give them before nightfall.
The application of business methods to farm management will do more than all else combined to make farming profitable and pleasant.
The first great lesson for a farmer to learn is that it costs less to grow 75 bushels of corn on one acre than it does to grow it on three.

It is not at all necessary to stop grain growing because twenty to forty hogs are kept on the place. Hogs fit in well with grain growing.
The poultry business has been spoken of as a get-rich-quick scheme but the people who have succeeded can testify that this has not always been the truth.

SHEEP EXCELLENT AS SOIL IMPROVERS



Profitable for Wool and Mutton.

(By R. S. CURTIS.)
It is universally accepted that sheep droppings under like conditions contain a larger amount of fertility than that from either the horse, cow or hog. One of the desirable features of this product is the uniform distribution made by the sheep over the land. In the leading European countries, such as England, Scotland, France and Germany, the value of sheep in improving impoverished or naturally inhabit the rough mountain lands, and the precipitous cliffs of these countries, where only scanty and coarse herbage exists, manifest their great value in making otherwise worthless land bring in profitable returns.

Much of the gullied land and waste hill-sides of this country could be utilized profitably in the production of sheep. Many prominent farmers have proved this to their highest satisfaction. Much of the land which now grows reeds and other coarse vegetation can be restored to profitable tillage by the use of sheep. Fortunately the sheep is a ruminating animal and with the compound stomach, can make use of much of the coarse grass and weeds which thrive on these depleted soils.

In European countries where sheep raising is carried on extensively and usually profitably, little concentrated feed is used, except through the flushing and lambing season. During other periods hay, grass and roots form their mainstay. Any farmer who is willing to give to sheep the same amount of intelligent care that he gives to other livestock will find them not only profitable, but good soil improvers, bringing into cultivation large areas of otherwise waste land.

CONDITION OF THE FARM WORKINGMEN

Many Farmers Do Not Know How to Use Help of Any Kind, Says Hired Man.

There is no doubt that the condition of the farm workman has been greatly improved during the last few years. That this better condition is the result of the scarcity of help nobody can deny. The plain truth is that there were too many farmers who did not know how to use help of any kind. They imagined that \$20 per month entitled them to the last ounce of muscle in a man's body without regard to hours, decent food, bed or any of the ordinary comforts of life. These men have done more to drive good workmen from the farms than anything else. Good workmen with self respect refused to labor under such conditions and the result is that thousands have left the farm to work in the cities where they at least believed they would be better off. Now that farmers are learning that it pays to give their help fair treatment and better pay the tendency of many good workmen is again towards the farm and I for one believe that if the conditions continue to improve, as they must under the prosperous times we are having, that the question of farm labor will soon right itself and we will not only have a better class of workmen but higher wages and richer farmers.—A Hired Man.

PROPAGATION OF GRACEFUL FERNS

Enterprising Lover of Plants Will Find It Interesting to Do Work by Spores.

The enterprising fern lover will find it most interesting to propagate by spores, and perchance produce a really valuable addition to these beautiful and graceful plants.
The ordinary way to propagate this class of plants is by dividing the plants, by the creeping rhizomes, by the little bulblets that form on the fronds, and by the seeds or spores that appear on the underside of the leaves.
Procure a seed pan or box with plenty of drainage holes, and cover the bottom with broken crockery. On this place half decayed sod, and fill with carefully mixed and sifted leaf-mold and sand. Make the surface of the soil perfectly smooth and level, and then scatter the spores on it, and leave them without any covering, that is, of soil. However, they must be enclosed in glass by placing a pane of glass over the seed box or pan.
Water by placing the seed pan in water, and keep it there until the water appears on the surface of the soil. Then removed at once, for too much water will destroy the spores. Keep the box in the light, but not the sun, remembering that ferns naturally grow in shady places and that we should try to follow nature's lead.

HOW TO MAKE THE HOME BEAUTIFUL

Microphilla Rose Is One of Prettiest Things for Odd Corners Around Garden.

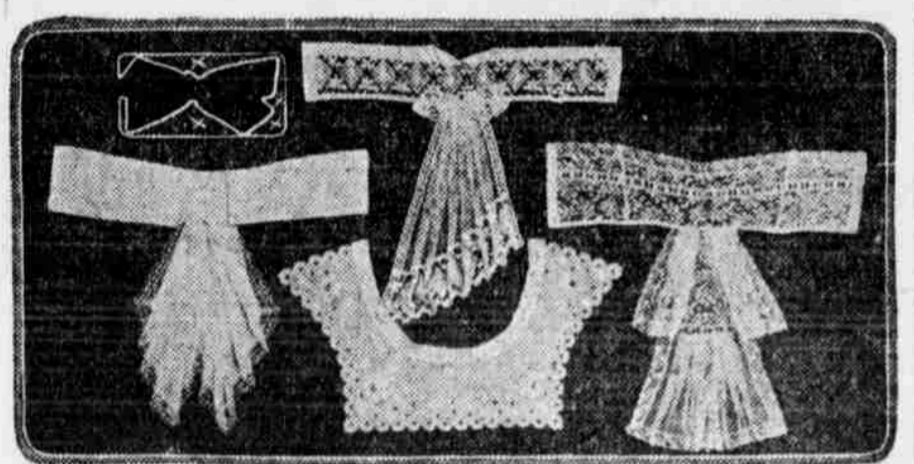
(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)
Nothing is lovelier than the dentzia; perfectly hardy and low-growing. One of the loveliest things for an odd corner, or to train over a trellis, is the microphilla rose—literally covered in the spring with tiny white or pink roses, full of fragrance, followed by clusters of red berries.
Plant a row of hollyhocks along the path to the barn; keep them growing and see them bloom next year.
Get one or more packages of the mixed seeds of perennial and biennials and plant them in rows or beds and see what they will give you.
Don't go too strong on "novelties," unless you have time and money to throw away. Many of them are worthless.
Plant a paper of Everlasting flower seeds. They make beautiful winter decorations.
Plant cannas and dahlias seeds in the hothed or boxes now. They are easily grown, and make fine showing of flowers the first year.
For dahlias and cannas, the soil must be good, with warmth and plenty of water. As easy started as field corn.

RAISE CABBAGE AND POTATOES

First Put Land in Best Possible Condition and Mark Off in Three-Foot Rows.

I always plant the seed of my late cabbage where I want plants to stand. I put the land in the best possible condition, mark it off in rows three feet apart and plant four or five seeds in a place where I want the cabbage to grow.
When the plants come up I let them get about as large as they would be if I were going to transplant them, then I pull out all but the strongest one in each bunch.
This allows the plant to grow from the start without any setback and the heads are larger than they would be had the plants been transplanted.
I do not sow the seed until late in June and have raised good cabbages, the seed for which was planted after early potatoes had been dug up and the land smoothed down.
Potatoes make an excellent first crop where late cabbages are to be grown. Even if the plants are to be transplanted they may be set between the potato rows before the potatoes are dug.
Digging the potatoes works the soil deeply and makes the best possible condition for the growth of the cabbages.—P. L. B.
Testing Associations.
Cow testing associations are being organized in many neighborhoods.

Dainty Neckwear in Favor for the Midsummer Season



Neckwear is designed so that it may be easily laundered of sheer but strong laces and of embroideries. For the waists cut with a round or pointed opening, turn over collars of self material are provided. These are protected by turn-over collars of embroidery or worn over small gimp and standing collars of lace or embroidery. Waists made at home are finished with a band at the neck and the separate collar and jabot is pinned to this. Two or three such collars keep the waist fresh looking and save its too frequent tubbing.
Shadow laces have proven well adapted to these neck pieces. They are combined with narrow beadings and edgings and often made up with net. A pretty example is shown here having a plaiting of net set on to one of the lace.
Strong cluny lace is so durable and at the same time so dainty that it is of all the favorite for trimming summer gowns and for making neckwear. A collar and jabot of this lace shows the straight band of lace edged with fine batiste. Two little points are turned down and fastened with small buttons at the front. The jabot at tached is of net edged with the lace. A little cravat makes a finishing touch, joining the collar to the jabot.
One who can embroider will be able to make the elegant neck piece which shows a straight plaited band finished with turn-over collar and an attached jabot. The jabot is cut in a graceful shape and finished with a narrow dainty lace edging.
Small bows of velvet centered with black enameled buckles set with a single rhine stone are chic and great favorites. They are worn with (or without) collars of all descriptions as a finish at the point where the blouse fastens at the neck.
An exquisitely fine embroidered sailor collar is a good example of the management of neckwear this season. The lines are curved, the scallops indented, the flower spray graceful and the work done with exact neatness and finish. The effect shows much intelligent care. Neatness and fine finish are the ideals of the neckwear designer, for they are in demand by the buyers of the pretty accessories of dress.