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YOU MAY have heard something about General Electric developing a new and entirely different way of heating the home automatically—with a furnace so efficient, so economical, so foolproof, that it is absolutely unique.

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Seven years ago, when G-E engineers started work on oil heating, they found that existing boilers were a stumbling block to any real advance in oil burning. They developed an improved burner, but found that trying to combine it with a coal boiler was like trying to make a steamship out of a sailing vessel. The burner and boiler just weren’t made for each other.

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An oil flame is big, intensely hot, and fast-burning. It needs more space in which to burn than a coal flame does. A boiler, to absorb all the heat of an oil flame, must not only be big enough to hold it, but must have enough water-backed surface surrounding it to trap and absorb the heat so quickly given off. When you burn oil in a coal burner, its free natural draft allows too much of the heat to “run away” up the chimney and be wasted.

Also an oil flame subjects a boiler to terrific strains. It comes on with intense heat, shuts off, then does the same thing all over again dozens of times each day. There are good reasons why the oil flame should work that way—but the boiler must be made to stand it.

Even if you build a special boiler for oil, it can’t be most efficient unless the oil is atomized properly, and has enough air added for complete combustion. It must be broken down into a fine mist. Unless this is done—if the oil particles are left too large—they can’t burn completely. This means more waste. If too much air is added, that also results in wasteful burning of the oil.

A new and better way
So the engineers proved that the only way to achieve real balance between the boiler and the burner would be to design a complete, coordinated unit. That would be the ideal way of burning fuel, with every part of the unit designed and made to work with every other part.

With all these things in mind, the G-E engineers started from scratch. They worked for five years on the G-E Oil Furnace. They invented a new way of atomizing fuel oil. As they were designing a boiler as well as a burner, they were able to put the burner on top. This made possible a new and more effective way of burning the oil—similar to the way it is burned in power-house boilers. By this method the oil burns quietly, completely. There is no soot or smoke or smell. Fuel savings average 20% to 50%.

The G-E boiler in itself is remarkable. It is made of steel boiler plate, arc-welded together into one piece. The fire-box is tailor-made to fit the burner. The first thing the flame touches is high-grade firebrick. This quickly becomes glowing hot. Carbon has no chance of forming on it. In fact, you could wipe this brick with your clean handkerchief—and the handkerchief would still be clean.

With this furnace, everything is enclosed in the beautifully lacquered steel shell. There are no parts outside. The burner oils itself with the fuel oil. No oil smells can leak out. In fact, the inside of the furnace is under a slight vacuum.

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You have automatic hot water the year round—in summer as well as winter—because this furnace never takes a vacation. Of course, you get no heat when none is needed.

You have a complete, coordinated heating unit. You have comfort such as you have always wished for. You would think it should cost more to have than ordinary heating. Instead, it costs you less—far less. The fuel savings with the G-E Oil Furnace in some cases would sound unbelievable if they weren’t based on absolute fact.

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The American Home, December, 1934
Merry Christmas to you!

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National Edition

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Christmas packages shown on the cover by courtesy of DuPont Cellulose Co.
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Who wouldn't welcome such a stunning, useful gift as the Chase Smokewack? Perfect for bridge and dinner tables. Holds twenty cigarettes. Finished in gleaming non-tarnishing chromium, in bronze, and in black nickel. Just $1.00.

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This good looking Chase Candy Dish has a three-compartment glass container which makes it practical for serving varied sweets, nuts, after-dinner mints. Comes in four beautiful finishes—nickel and black, brass and copper, all brass or all copper. Only $1.00.

**$1.50 to $3.00**

Whether she serves chocolates, mints, nuts or olives in it, she will always remember receiving this useful and lovely gift. The Chase Bon Bon Dish is finished in copper and white enamel, copper and green, or in gleaming chromium and black. And it is just $1.50.

Here is a gift that will delight a man 365 mornings a year—the Chase Newspaper Rack. Keeps the daily news out of the breakfast butter. So good-looking that even wives like it. In English bronze, or brass and copper. And it costs only $1.50.

The Chase Drum Lamp is a grand gift for boy, girl, man or woman. An excellent night light. Soft light shines through both drum heads. Colorfully finished in red and blue, also in white and black. Complete, with cord, $1.50.

One of the smartest and most useful of all Chase gifts is this modern Mist and Nut Dish. Perfect for serving two kinds of olives, nuts, candies, mints and appetizers. In non-tarnishing Chase Chromium. Also in brass and copper. $2.50.

This practical Chase Breakfast set is a welcome gift for it can be used every day. For breakfast trays, after-dinner coffee, tea and luncheon, it is ideal. Finished in modern Chromium, it will never tarnish. The set (creamer, sugar and tray) is modestly priced at $3.00.

**$4.00 to $4.50**

The person who receives this stunning Chase Sauce Bowl will be delighted with it. First, because of its beautiful design, and gleaming chromium finish. Second, because it is ideal for serving all salad dressings, gravies, hot chocolate sauce and other sauces. Complete with ladle—but $4.00.

This smart, modern Chase Ice Bowl and Tongs will be welcomed many times because it has so many uses. For potato chips, crackers, marshmallows, nuts, as well as ice, it is ideal. Beautifully finished in silvery chromium, also in brass and copper. $4.50, including tongs.

This modern Chase cocktail shaker in gleaming, non-tarnishing chromium is as easy to look at as it is to shake. The sleeve top fits snugly and a good strainer makes it practical. Finished in polished chromium with red, green or black enamel rings. A beautiful gift, $4.50.

Whoever gets this clever Chase Pancake and Corn Set will bless your generosity. So useful. The Chromium pitcher for serving syrup, hot chocolate sauce, melted butter, cream. The Chromium Spheres for sugar, salt, pepper and other condiments. Tray, in blue glass and chromium. $4.50 for the four pieces.

The Chase Deck Lamp is a superb gift because it does what few lamps do—makes reading and writing easy. Swivels in all directions. Smartly finished in chromium or bronze. With ivory shade—only $4.50.

If you have any difficulty in buying these or any other Chase gifts write directly to Chase Brass & Copper Co., Dept. A-3, Chase Tower, New York.

The American Home, December, 1934
Christmas morning in the Black Fores

Courtesy, German Tourist Information Office
One for adoration, two for celebration

Mildred A. Kenney

Light is not just light at Christmas. It is a symbol. Every one who sets a candle in the window at Christmas will have in his heart reasons of his own—reasons colored by all that has gone before and summing up his “luminous, unconquerable hope” and faith in those things which are to come. To the child who strokes the flame of the candle, to the traveler whose way is lighted by its rays, or to the one who placed it there, a candle in the window at Christmas is above all else a symbol of Joy and Peace.

The very first use of candles for Christmas is not recorded in the annals of any nation, but I have no doubt they or some flaming counterpart lighted the halls of good King Arthur in York where in 521 A.D. he is said to have kept the first Christmas feast. Following his example, the custom became general. Yule logs burned. Vying with them in size were the wax tapers which chandlers presented to their customers and—strangely enough—the poor gave to the rich.

The ancients regarded light as a great blessing and used it to illustrate the relationships of God to man and of Christ’s mission to the world. Prophets foretold the coming of One whose word should be a light unto their feet and a lamp unto their pathway. Wise men followed a star to a place where the young Child was. By the third century tapers symbolical of that star and His light burned before Christian altars.

The illumination attendant upon old Hebrew and Roman Feasts of Light were transferred to that of the nativity to bring the joy and peace of the “Christ Mass” nearer to the hearts of the people.

The Roman church developed an elaborate ritual of lights for the altar. At the celebration of Mass at least two, symbolical of the divine and human natures of our Lord, were lighted. Many more in prescribed numbers were burned for occasions of greater solemnity. Edward VI permitted “Two lights ... for the signification that Christ is the very true Light of the world” to remain upon the altars of the Church of England. Hastings says, “Long ago one could have seen, in not a few churches, upon Christmas Eve, two small lights symbolizing the Divine and Human natures being gradually brought together until they blended in one brilliant flame.”

For ceremonies of joy white...
The candles themselves were burned at the Christmas feast. That candle which went out last indicated whose life would be the longest. In Scotland a candle burning out before midnight foretold some great calamity. In Scandinavian countries the father or oldest member of the household extinguished the Christmas candles at sunrise. Animals were crossed with what remained of it to insure their health and usefulness during the coming year. Fowls were fed upon the melted wax to protect and increase the flocks. Ploughs were smeared with it to make the furrows straight and fertile. Lighted candles were snuffed in boxes of mixed grain and carefully withdrawn. The grains which clung to the wick were anxiously observed and counted. Many kernels of any grain foretold that crop would bring a profit. Fields were planted according to the warning of the candle. In Norway silver and pewter and other household goods were set where they would catch the rays of the candle, for in candle rays on Christmas there was to be had benediction. Village children in Lancaster presented candles to their schoolmasters on the last day of the term before Christmas. Carollers on the Isle of Man sang carols as long as the candles which they carried burned. The "Croatian" child lighted his candle from one in the hand of his father, saying as he did so, "Christ is born." German wives set a feast, decorated the Christmas tree and left lighted candles for the angel who passes while we sleep. In Scandinavia it was to guide "Kristine" in bringing gifts. Candles lighted by the youngest child—or one named Mary—burned across the dark heath in Ireland and the doors were left ajar for the Stranger who was expected.

It is good to remember, too, Scrooge and the Fezizwigs ball, the homecoming at the Cratchits, and how Wassailers, young and old, with wreathed bowls and carrying candles sang carols at the doors in Somersetshire; that candle set stars were held aloft on candlelight and roses—a perfect combination for Christmas, or any other time! And all the more perfect when put together in one holder, a modern replica of an old-fashioned candle mold, painted white and gold, with graceful handles. There can be two candles, or four or six or whatever number you prefer, and as many or as few flowers. It comes from Ovington's candlelight and roses.

Candlelight and roses— a perfect combination for Christmas, or any other time! And all the more perfect when put together in one holder, a modern replica of an old-fashioned candle mold, painted white and gold, with graceful handles. There can be two candles, or four or six or whatever number you prefer, and as many or as few flowers. It comes from Ovington's...
Mary E. Hussong

There is something lovely about the thought of a woman decorating her table. One thinks of medieval ladies superintending the placing of the boar's head, and of Russian princesses laying out services of silver and wondrous enamels inside a snow-banked palace. But when it's America with Christmas approaching, one sees a charming woman with a light heart and a happy face deep in plans to create the most beautiful table that can be achieved out of imagination and wedding silver and her nicest china and happiest inspirations.

Naturally, the woman whose Christmas table will be the most perfectly imagined will be the woman who all the past year through has counted a spray of flowers, a bowl of fruit, and a handful of amusing figurines as essential a part of her dinner table as bread and butter. This is the woman who one day last spring bought fat little jugs, filled them with pert daisies, and set them around her table; the woman who chose last summer a luncheon centerpiece of wicker basket lined with green leaves and filled with plump red old-fashioned strawberries; the woman who in the fall floated two yellow stemless chrysanthemums together with green leaves in a shallow crystal bowl for table decoration. When such a woman plans a Christmas table her mind will let loose a hundred new and fanciful ideas and her eager fingers will be impatient to begin with tissue, flowers, and fruit.

Ourselves, we have always held that there should be four Christmas tables in every home. First of all comes the Christmas-eve table for that night of fun and frolic and anticipation. The table for the night when many women add another member to the family in the person of the high school history teacher far from home, or the little boy whose own Christmas, save for this one dinner, will be a grave, dreary grown-up sort of affair. On such a night let informality be the keynote and gaiety your sole objective.

For a table centerpiece we suggest that you use a great big wooden bowl filled almost to overflowing with wonderful large popcorn balls. On either side lay great swags of evergreens, extending nearly to the edges of the table. Put out all the overhead lights except two, and from these two sockets remove the ordinary bulbs and screw in two bright red ones! These red bulbs can usually be bought at a Woolworth store. Get out your red goblets and plates. This is the night of nights to use them! Should you have no red plates in your china cupboard, a five and ten cent store can supply you with red beetle ones for a song. Of course, you'll not only want your house to look like Christmas, you'll want it to smell like Christmas. So—just before dinner is served, burn a little fresh pine incense in the dining room. It will add a subtle touch to your Christmas eve atmosphere. And we're confident that you won't neglect to have a cheerful fire of dried logs crackling up the living room chimney.

When it comes to the food, order just an awfully good dinner with as many of the family's favorite dishes as you can work
in. We suggest that as a decorative touch you add little bowls of green mint jelly to the table during the meat course. And when it comes to dessert, cut your cake in squares, ice these squares all over in bright red, peppermint flavored icing and stud them with candy stars and silver balls. Let the ice cream be green pistachio.

As for yourself, don't neglect to dress up to your background. Get out that very gay dress which you bought in an abandoned moment and in which you have never quite had the courage to face your friends. This is an occasion which needs a hostess wearing such a frock. And don't fail to add those long earrings that you picked up for a quarter in that outlandish antique shop.

Our second table is for Christmas morning. Yes, one must eat breakfast on such a morning. Dinner never gets under way before two. Ourselves, we wouldn't dream of missing a nine-o'clock-breakfast with the family gathered round, faces bright with anticipation of the day ahead, and everyone falling over himself to wish everyone else a Merry Christmas. Insist on a family breakfast this year and let the tree wait until ten. If you decorate your table with sufficient interest, and do it all the night before behind closed doors, your family will be on hand at nine, eager to see what you have done. Don't miss Christmas day in the morning!

At nine o'clock throw open the doors and let the large bell suspended with red taffeta from the chandelier be struck to peal forth a summons to a merry meal. This is the time of day for bells and singing and wide awake eyes.

"Awake and sing.
The church bells ring.
For this is Christmas morning!"

Amid the ohs and ahs which will pay you back to overflowing for your trouble, let the family find places at the table. Since it's the time of day for presents, the centerpiece might be a large box wrapped in red and white checked tissue paper and tied with red Cellophane ribbon ending in a lordly bow. An excellent center decoration as the air is heavy with secrets, suspense, and surprise. At each cover lay a nice fat roll tied with a merry red ribbon. And at the side of each glass place a bright red apple polished like mirror. Over the table scatter sprays of holly, the nice sort with plenty of big fat berries. And this is the moment for the dog to receive his present. Have it ready on the table for him: a red taffeta collar with little bells suspended all around. Don't make him wait to try it on!

In the middle of each plate arrange a miniature red stocking. You can buy doll's stockings for this purpose. Into each stocking insert a present. These are the first presents of the day, and let them be funny. A rubber cigar for father, for mother those amusing scissors which will open only when you hold them behind your back, for small brother a telescope that

Only an exciting breakfast table can tempt the family to sit down before the packages are untied. We've made a centerpiece out of a box wrapped and tied with brilliant red Cellophane and surrounded by a frill of holly. For the table on the preceding page select your best white damask, shining silver, crystal for centerpiece and candelabra, and red, red roses
without his knowledge will blacken his eye, and for big brother a handful of chocolate coins wrapped in silver. To three popular sisters a miniature phone, a huge diamond ring from the handy five and ten, and a hat box containing a handsome doll's hat! Five hours slip by like so many minutes. The living room is littered with red and silver and blue papers, with seals and ribbons and cards. Will Marie give notice when she sees this? It's almost time for dinner. The crowning meal of the whole Christmas season! The doors are opening. Grandmother and grandfather lead the family procession into the dining room.

Ourselves, we hold firmly to the idea that Christmas dinner should be a traditional meal with all the classic dishes. Experiment at some other time, but confine Christmas dinner to turkey, cranberry sauce, plum pudding, and the other standard Christmas dishes. For this table we would make no concession to frivolity. Let the damask be snow white, stiff, and proud and formal. Set out your handsomest china, silver, and gleaming crystal. In the center of the table place an old-fashioned crystal bowl and fill it generously with big red, red Christmas roses. Across each service plate lay a single perfect red rose.

See that the plum pudding is served on a tray, and before it is brought in encircle it with tiny ten-cent store candle holders into which have been inserted tiny red candles. Light the candles just before the pudding is brought to the table. For the final course have a big brown wicker basket brought in filled with oranges, cracked nuts, and dates. Let the family hand it around from one to the other in the good old-fashioned way. And when finally the finger bowls are set before the exhausted diners, see that a sprig of holly is floating in each one. Everyone agrees that he will never again look food in the face. But somehow—well, one has walked to the movies or to a friend's house, or tried out the skates and snow shoes. And, yes, a light pick-up lunch might be very fine in an hour or so, around eight. This is the fourth Christmas table. In the living room grown-ups are talked out; children are played out. Some one proposes music. Sister opens the
Christmas Welcome

The principal decorative feature of the arrangement at the left is the use of stars to harmonize with the fine Adam doorway. Against a background garland of Spruce or Pine boughs are placed silver stars, while the same motif is repeated on the door panels and is used for the lighting fixture too.

Elizabeth
Brooks
Peasley

Windows at each side of the door were hung long sprays of cultivated Juniper decorated with red and silver balls. In each window was a candle set securely in a cluster of Pine.

An old Colonial house with tall pillars had a very dignified arrangement of dark green against white that took in the whole front of the house, little green trees being placed, one each side of the doorway, and one in front of each pillar. The big wreath on the door was made of Hemlock clippings and White Pine, with a huge spray of Jerusalem-cherry across the top taking the place of the usual ribbon bow. In the two front windows were candlebra of nine candles each, designed in pyramid shape.

A little pale green house had its doorway decorated in silver and dark green. The wreath on the door was White Pine, Redcedar, and Spruce, with a tiny Christmas tree standing up at the bottom of the wreath, the top banded with silver ribbon, with two Sumac heads to balance the tree and clusters of silvered Holly berries.

Above: Perched on the roof of the entrance to this house is Santa himself with his bag of toys. Drooping sprays of Arborvitae and Fir are used to frame the door and roof above it.

At left: For this Dutch Colonial entrance a wreath was selected which could be seen against the dark green of the door itself. It was made of glass fruit, leaves, and artificial snow on a ground of Scotch Pine with a red bow and Jerusalem-cherries as accents. The garland is of Pine.
At right: This very smart formal effect is achieved by using the garden urns as units of a balanced group.

Below: A Spruce wreath and Pine branches used as a background for brightly colored Christmas tree decorations. A simple but vivid entrance decoration

and leaves on each side. The side windows were covered with black paper having a star cut out and the light of candles shining through. The hood over the door was decorated with White Pine and Scotch Pine, with a bell covered with Pine which was suspended from the center.

An old house of the Revolutionary period had a beautiful doorway with two bulls-eye glass windows and a massive knocker. Some of the Ivy which grows thick and close to the house was trained up around the pillars on each side of the door. On the door itself was fastened a long narrow box with cotton spilling over the side to resemble snow. In the box was a little Christmas tree trimmed with silver stars, with a very stiff red oilcloth bow at its base. Each of the downstairs windows had a cone-bearing tip of Pine tied with a red oilcloth bow, and in each of the upstairs windows was a candle.

Another doorway featured a four-foot Santa Claus perched on the roof of the entrance with his bag of toys. The edge of the roof was trimmed with drooping sprays of Arborvitae and Fir, and the doorway was edged with a narrow band of the same. On the door was a big wreath of Box, tied with a red satin bow in true Christmas style.

Many of the houses decorated were on the main street of the town, and the effect as one drove through was most attractive. The response to the idea was so enthusiastic and the results were so gratifying that it was decided to repeat the contest this year as a community affair.

Below: The owner of a butter churner can put it to good use in a decoration such as is shown here. Combined with a chestnut or wood basket and filled with green foliage the effect against a natural stone doorway is very pleasing. The garland above the doorway is composed of natural vari-colored gourds.
Flower pictures for gifts—or for yourself

Ruth Jessie Merriam

The neglected orphan amongst framed pictures seems always to be those bright spots of cheerful color and composition that go so well in the less formal rooms of a home. No one ever seems at a loss to know how to frame a fine old family portrait or a rich, beautiful landscape, an etching, or a photograph. But have you ever given a thought to the possibilities that lie in the framing of the casual colorful flower groupings and spots of bright design that will always, if treated right, enhance the livableness and charm of a room?

With these smaller pictures, water colors, colored woodblock prints, and dozens of others, tradition has no restraining hand. There are no limits to what you may or may not do with the mat, the glass, or the frame. Just see what we have produced, once we let ourselves go, with some of our own American Home covers!

For instance, take the one in the upper right-hand corner of the opposite page. Imagine the possibilities in using some colored paper (this one happens to be yellow with black polka dots), a piece of glass cut to size and ribbons (pink and white here) to bind it all together and at the same time serving as part of the mat design. The flowers we culled from July's cover.

We shall lay all our cards on the table in explaining the one below it. The white delicate formation around the picture is not lace. It is simply small paper doilies, cut into semi-circles and laid in an overlapping pattern on a light blue paper with white polka dots. The frame is off-shade white and quite inexpensive. You might try some experiments yourself with some of your old discarded frames by sanding them down to natural wood tones or painting them white.

The next one, at the bottom of the opposite page, has no tricks at all. Its effectiveness is due to the bright quality of the yellow and green flowered paper mat with fine black lines drawn on it, and to the natural wood frame with a narrow black inside moulding. Do you recognize it? It was our August, 1933, cover.

Now we come to the most unusual of all. Close inspection will reveal that the quaint spray of iris is in reality the January, 1934, American Home cover that has been cut away from its yellow border. On top of red and white striped paper is laid an oval paper doily, and on top of this the flowers and a very fancy actual bow of paper ribbon completes the composition. Cover with glass, bind the edges with white passe partout tape and where could you find a better example of Victorian quaintness?

The features of the one at the far left on this page are the matting and binding. Red and white diagonal candy striped paper overlaid with white criss-crossed Cellophane forms the mat. The glass is simply held in place by pasting gold seal stickers—the kind any stationery carries—around the edge.

Try figuring out your own combinations of frames and mats for the pictures for the children's room, for your own bedrooms or for gifts. Fancy wrapping papers, passe partout binding, some gay spots of color, and a pair of shears—and you will be surprised and delighted at the results. Don't limit yourself to any combinations of materials. You might even try taking the pressed flowers out of the family album and...
arranging them under glass. But always bear in mind that about one half of the effectiveness of small casual wall pictures lies in the taste and charm of the framing selected—not the intrinsic value of the pictures themselves.

Give your imagination free rein in mounting and framing some of your favorite magazine covers or other prints that you have been collecting for a long time and did not know quite what to do with. Charming effects may be produced at very little expense by using some of the accessories that are shown here: passe partout type, paper doilies, ribbon, and scissors.
Merry Christmas from us to you

THE ENTIRE EDITORIAL STAFF
The theme is an old one, but for more than a year Miss Plumb searched old books and manuscripts in the British Museum and through the British Antiquarian Reports of the Archeological Society to give us the origin of Christmas dining. Together the authors present here a most unusual and delightful story of Christmas festival customs—with authentic old recipes that include one three hundred years old.

Beatrice Plumb and Clementine Paddleford

The evolution of our Christmas dinner is a story of robust, merry feasting, of wholesale hospitality reaching down the centuries. Just where and when the first Christmas feast was laid, records fail to tell. But by the eleventh century old manuscripts report strange and marvelous dishes loading the long tables in the holly decked banquet halls where with "mirth and princely cheare" our husky ancestral cousins dined during twelve days of bountiful yuletide feasting.

"Roger," one can imagine a medie­val lady saying to her lord as she planned the menu for Christmas Day, "get me the yuletide bird, and see that his feathers are of the handsomest."

And her lord and his men, having brought home the bacon, medievally known as the Boar's Head, would then sally forth for the Christmas peacock.

The autocratic peacock graced the tables of England's great feudal lords as the democratic turkey graces ours today. Skinned before roasting, stuffed with spices and sweet herbs, and then reeled with its own feathers, it was finally brought to the banqueting hall, not by a servant, but in stately pageant by the "first lady" of that distinguished company. To the strains of music the honored guest, attended by her retinue of lovely young maidens, carried in Juno's bird. Around it flocked young knights-errant to make their solemn vows over its feathers, and pledge their swords to the romantic adventure of rescuing fair maidens in distress.

The bird was dry eating—even the cooks of that far-from-finicky day admitted it—but, served in all its gorgeous plumage, with its bill gilded to a glittering gold, it was something to at least feast the eyes upon. Nor was it always a dry bird! For sometimes the beak held a sponge saturated with a fiery fluid that, once ignited, rose in rollicking flame—as no lemonade ever did! And there was always gravy; tubs of gravy, though we doubt the story of three fat wethers being needed to make gravy for one bird.

Even the proud peacock was preceded by the ceremonial of bringing in the boar's head—a custom of greater antiquity. It had become a tradition.
as early as 1170, when records tell of the ceremony being performed "according to the manner"—or as decreed by the Emily Post of those days.

Let's stand aside and see how they do it. There is a good deal of music outside, profuse rather than refined, like the menu. Then, in bursts the jester, more gaily goosy than ever. Ah! The Boar's Head! Instantly the entire company rises to its feet as though the radio had suddenly burst forth into "O say can you see—?"

Two handsomely costumed heralds raise silver trumpets to their lips. Before the notes have died away, the chief cook carries in a massive silver platter on which is the boar's head, garnished, not with a wispy bit of parsley, as we trim our roast pig today, but with a substantial wreath of bay, with sprigs of rosemary in its ears and a roasted red apple placed in its mouth.

The lordly dish is followed by the minstrels, and then come the upper servants, each carrying aloft some lesser dish, that is to grace the Christmas board. And thus the menu moves in regal state to the high table, while the minstrels sing that age-hoary carol appropriate at this time:

The Boar's Head in hand bear I,
Bedecked with hays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio.

The Boar's Head, as I understand,
Is the chief service in this land;
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland,
Servite cum cantico.

This is the same carol that the young Oxonian sang when the pig's head was carried in at Squire Bracebridge's Christmas dinner Washington Irving wrote about a half a dozen centuries later. The old squire, you will remember, insisted upon the custom "not merely because it is stately and pleasing in itself, but because it was observed at the college of Oxford" where he was educated.

To this day the ceremony of the Boar's Head is still carried out at Oxford, where a fellow of Queen's College sings the famous carol—the earliest printed carol extant—as the grim Boar's Head is borne in on a platter and placed before the Provost at the "high table."

Not only in England, but in many lands, pig plays a special role in the Christmas menu. Historians argue over its significance. It may be that the bringing in of the pig's head to table has a symbolic renunciation of heathenism; men ate that by which their ancestors had sworn. Perhaps the best explanation is furnished by the medieval interpretation of the 80th Psalm: where Satan is "the Wild Boar out of the wood" who has long wasted the vineyard of the Lord. Now his head is carried in triumph as a testimony of his final defeat. But whatever its significance, when one recalls what those robust days, it cannot be denied that there was something piggily appropriate in that initial form of dish.

What else did those husky revelers eat? What didn't they eat? From ancient account, surely gastronomic capacities must have been enlarged for the occasion, as the energies expand to meet great emergencies. One writer, John of Salisbury, tells of a Christmas feast that began at three o'clock in the afternoon and ended at midnight, when delicacies were brought from such remote places as Constantinople, Syria, Egypt, and Babylon. A fifteenth-century manuscript gives us a rhyming list of subordinate dishes that fairly makes one calory-dizzy! Oh, the variety of birds that were enthroned on the yuletide table in those dark ages before the turkey strutted out of the American prairie, about 154, to top the bill!

Read this procession in verse of five hundred years ago:

"Then comes the second course with great pride;
The cranes, the herons, the bitterns by their side,
The partridge, the plover, the woodcock, and the snipe;
Larks in hot 'schow'—"

But that's enough. We never cared much for roast crane, did you? And even though "schow" might be something quite respectable, there would still be a dead lark in it!

But in those days the eager eaters "had sharp stomachs as well as sharp knives." The only recorded instance in which there was a failure in good stomachs is that historic one which occurred in the Court of King Arthur, when the Christmas gaiety was disturbed by the interference of the Boy with the Mantle. Under this test of that Imp of Discord, there was but one knight of all the hungry knights, who sat at the Round Table, whose weapon was sharp enough to carve the boar's head on hand steady enough to carry his cup to his lips without spilling the lamb's wool.

Yet little wonder! Listen to the things described by Whistlercraft as served when King Arthur kept Christmas "in merry Carleile" with the Queen Guenevere "that bride so bright of blee."

"They served up salmon, venison and wild boars
By hundreds and by dozens and by scores
Hogheads of honey, kilderkins of mustard,
Muttons and fatted beeves and bacon swine;
Herons and bitterns, peacocks, swan and bustard,
Teal, mallard, pigeons, widegeons, and in
Plum puddings, pancakes, apple pies and custard
And there withal they drank good gascon wine
With mead and ale and cider of our own
For porter, punch and negus were not known."

Swans were a common Christmas dainty in 1300. The Duke of Northumberland's household accounts for the year 1512 show five swans were dished up for dinner on Christmas Day, and another four on Twelfth Day. It is cheering to note that a menu of fifty years later, while still retaining the roast swan, includes a goose and a "turkie!" Yet they insisted upon boiling, not roasting, King Turk, even to the days of Queen Victoria. Boiled, and with celery sauce was the orthodox way to serve him.

And the roast beef of Old England, the huge sirloin, whether boiled or roasted, the great sides of roast beef so loved by our forefathers, a savory reminder of the bullocks when the sacred mistletoe was cut! Perhaps the old story of Sir Loin knighted by Charles II is all a myth, but a "baron of beef" (that is two sirloins not cut apart, but cut as one bone) is still the Christmas roast for the King of England's table. And in many a humble home, the main dish for the great dinner is the sirloin roast, which has been hung from seven to ten days.

"Cold roast beef, mince pie and beer" seemed to be Sir Roger de Coverley's idea of what to serve at these twelve-day hand-outs. "I love," he says, "to rejoice the hearts of the poor at this Christmas season, and to see the whole village merry in my great hall. I allow a double quantity of malt to my small beer, and set it running for twelve days to everyone that calls for it. I have always a piece of cold beef and a mince pie upon the table, and I love to see my tenants pass away a whole evening in playing their innocent games."

Where are the vegetables? They were included all right, but not
Bringing in the boar’s head had become a tradition as early as 1170. To this day the ceremony of the Boar’s Head is still carried out at Oxford, where a fellow of Queens College sings the famous carol—the earliest printed carol extant—as the grim Boar’s Head is borne in and placed before the Provost at the “high table.”

And how did that plainly nourishing mutton broth ever become “plum porridge”—a fearful and wonderful mess, thickened with brown bread but still served as a semi-liquid from a soup tureen? That boiled wheat mixture must have been pretty awful; for every Christmas we find somebody trying to do something about it by adding an egg or two, a dash of mace, a slice of ginger cake, or a handful of raisins, currants, or prunes. Then the whole concoction was boiled up into a pulp—but still served in a soup tureen! It still hadn’t reached the boiled-in-a-basin stage.

Later the prunes—dried plums—were supplanted by other ingredients, and lumps of good English suet were added, until about 1670 the old pottage, after centuries of culinary evolution, had sweetened and stiffened into plum pudding, much as we now eat it.

The modern mince pie?

That, too, in its original form was more meat than sweet. Crippen gives a recipe from a manuscript written in 1394. If we modernize the wording, it runs:

Take a pheasant, a hare, a capon, two partridges, two pigeons, and two conies. Chop them up, take out as many bones as you can, and add the livers and hearts, two kidneys of a sheep, force meat made into balls with eggs, pickled mushrooms, salt, pepper, spice, and vinegar. Boil the bones in a pot to make a good broth; put the meat into a crust of good paste, made craftily into the likeness of a bird’s body; pour in the liquor, close it up and bake it well. And so serve it forth, with the head of one of the birds at one end and a great tail at the other, and divers of his long feathers set cunningly all about him.

One feels that this enterprising cook, while retaining all the trimmings of the famous peacock dish, had evolved a way to make the eating less dry and tough. Those three significant words, “chop them up,” may have ushered in the centuries of chopping that made Christmas cooking a chore!

Two hundred years later, in Herrick’s time, the famous Christmas pie had become a little more like its modern descendant, the mince pie. It still called for neats’ tongue and chicken, but added to these were eggs, raisins, orange and lemon peel, sugar, and various spices. So that it was:

“A mixture strange of suet, currants, meat, Where various tastes combine, the greasy and the sweet.”

It was called “shrid (shredded) pye” or “minc’d pye” in the cook books of 1661. Also in certain religious tracts of that day it was called “Idolatrie in crust!” Because it was shaped like the Manger of Bethlehem, and the richness of its ingredients were symbolic. “Doth not the minced pye,” asks a writer of that day, “a compound of the choicest productions of the East, have in it the offerings of the wise men who came from afar bringing spices?”
"Constitution" is the name of this dignified Federal lamp, of brass with black trim and crystal prisms. The shade is of gold taffeta, bound with the same and reeded with black. Chase Brass & Copper Co.

Of crystal, clear with a delightful frosted design, is a huge round platter, for sandwiches or cold cuts or salads, with matching serving fork and spoon. From E. Wanda Baker

Of Chinese Chippendale inspiration is a graceful hanging bookshelf, also delightful for one's favorite little ornaments and knick-knacks. Baker Furniture Factories

Milady's dressing table will be all the more lovely for a mirror framed in white wire, and a powder box to match. The glass powder container is divided inside, for perfect convenience. From Ovington's

Of pewter is this Poole platter with well and tree. Its strikingly simple design is dignified and at home for any dinner whether the table be set for very formal or informal service.

No one need go without flowers these days, with such perfect artificial ones available. This huge box is filled with a variety which will provide bouquets for every room in the house, and for every possible mood! From the California Artificial Flower Co.

There is a crackled finish on these bone white accessories for the dressing table, the very newest thing. The metal box for cold cream papers has a graceful wire edge, and the round powder boxes are of wood. They come from Ovington's

As acceptable and quaint as can be is a little maple footstool with a comfortable cushioned top. From H. T. Cushman & Co.
Garden clubs have put their seal of approval on the shape of this vase, which is made of the new Kensington metal, and is simply though decoratively designed.

A comfortable wing chair is a thing no home ought to be without! This one, in antique pine with sturdy upholstery material, is particularly roomy and comfortable. It comes from Charak Furniture Co.

Woodenware is extremely nice for informal entertaining, and now you can have almost your entire service in wood. Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co. have a wooden salad bowl and serving implements with crystal ball feet, wooden goblet, serving and salad plates, knife and fork with wooden handles.

Gift suggestions of food in attractive wrappings will be found on page 44.

For magazines or music in a new stand strongly constructed of metal. It comes from the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

The Waverly desk set in the new Kensington metal makes a pleasant gift for man or woman. Its extremely simple design but definite decorative quality gives it real distinction.

Because its polka-dotted box with the scalloped edge looks just like a well-dressed closet shelf, this gift set of Cannon bath towels is called the Closet Box Bath Set. 5- or 7-piece assortments.

No more lukewarm tea! Here is a little stand in crystal or topaz with a fat candle inside which will keep the tea at just the right temperature as it stands on the metal plate. Fostoria—Lewis & Conger.

Severely classic is a sterling silver dressing table set, the brush and mirror with conveniently long and graceful handles. It is made by the International Silver Company.

If you are giving potted plants for Christmas, consider these gay flower pots to hold them. There are attractive designs and interesting colors for everyone. From Carbone, Inc.
The droll expression on this nursery beastie will intrigue any child and before he knows it, he will know how to tell time. Warren Telechron have given a thought to children in this clock, called "Smug".

Britannica, Junior, is the new edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, written for a juvenile readership, and housed in a grand, practical bookcase of molded Bakelite. The globe on top is a fitting touch.

A set of flat silver might not seem exciting in competition with amusing toys, but what child could resist them when carried gaily by a pert frog or a sly elephant? International Silver Co.

There is a new element in child education, the typewriter. Experiments and research show it to be of educational value both at home and in school, and Remington have brought out a Noiseless Portable that is quite perfect for the purpose.

Here is a toy chest that should stir the imagination of any young engineer-to-be! The hinged boiler top of the engine serves as the lid of the chest, and there is a compartment for books in the "cab." It comes from Bird & Johnson.

A clipper ship to make, with all the necessary parts ready cut, even to the flag, anchor, and sails, along with simple directions. From Daniel Low & Company.

Let your child develop imagination and poise with a toy theatre! An English firm has brought out a miniature stage, with backdrops and characters that can be moved around. Abercrombie & Fitch.

If Junior can get it ahead of his Dad, he will be thrilled with a new ship construction book. With it he can build five ships, modeled after famous ships of history—The Santa Maria, the Mayflower, the Constitution, Flying Cloud, and a New Bedford whaler, with history of each, all for $2.75.

Among the new books for children are these fascinating titles, beautifully illustrated, and many more there is not room to show. You will find a list of books on page 46. From Lord & Taylor's Bookshop.

If Junior can get it ahead of his Dad, he will be thrilled with a new ship construction book. With it he can build five ships, modeled after famous ships of history—The Santa Maria, the Mayflower, the Constitution, Flying Cloud, and a New Bedford whaler, with history of each, all for $2.75.
-and for men

Silver-backed military brushes, beautifully packed in a mirrored box, make a perfect gift for a man. International Silver Co.

A Ciné-Kodak Eight will be invaluable in recording the adventures and good times of all the family. An Eastman Kodak

Now you can have a handsome cover for your favorite tin of cigarettes. These separate covers come with different designs to suit your temperament or any particular occasion—a dog, a horse, a tennis racquet—and simply snap onto your regular tin of cigarettes. From Bernard Rice's Sons, Inc.

Photographs by F. M. Demarest

The head of his favorite breed of dog may be reproduced on new glasses for the man of the family. From Abercrombie & Fitch

If he must read his paper at breakfast, keep him from tipping over the cream with his newspaper by giving him one of these convenient stands, made of brass wire. From the Chase Brass & Copper Company

A slight press of Scotty's tail will open this little humidor, which comes from Spalding's

If your men friends are nautically-minded, send them a tray like this with places for eight glasses and revolving cocktail recipe device in the center. From John Wanamaker

Spalding's are bringing out a new Bowling Game, with pins attached to elastics. If you want to assure a fine time for all, be sure one of your friends receives this for Christmas

Here is the General Electric Workshop, for the man who loves tools and knows how to use them. All compact and complete, this will make a most unique gift
For bridge, the newest thing is a tip-top table which, with flower-painted top, can serve as a fire screen when not in use. From Ferguson Bros. Manufacturing Co.

For the person who is fond of Colonial furnishings, here is a perfect little lamp, which can be used in a dozen different places. In metal, with cut-out stars to decorate the shade. The Lightolier Co.

Drums are very popular these days, and here is a whole set of them, designed for entertaining. A drum top tray, beverage glasses, flower vase, and even cigarette holder and ash tray, make it complete. Lyda Norton & Al Bolender

What more perfect gift can one imagine than a ticket for one of the fascinating cruises now being planned by the big steamship companies? You can go around the world, or to Bermuda, South America, the West Indies—the land of your dreams!

A new idea for hot rolls, hot dogs, or sandwiches, is a wooden "scoop" with painted decorations on the sides—particularly useful indeed for the informal party. From Ovington's

Left—There will be no housing problem for your birds if you keep them in a decorative cage like this one, in colors to match your room, with bright metal, by way of contrast. From Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., Inc.

Below—This gaily painted tray is a foursome for after-bridge refreshments. Its little glass dishes will hold ice cream or sandwiches or what you will. Ovington's

Here is a blanket bound with TruHu crépe, an exceptionally fine, durable, and beautiful silk binding. The blanket, known as "Famous," is 72 x 90". Kenwood Mills

Of chromium with Pyrex food containers is an electric snack server for the family breakfast, the party supper, or any occasion when it is desirable to keep food hot. This is a Chase novelty and may be obtained from Lewis & Conger
The Metropolitan Museum of Art issues perfectly beautiful color prints of paintings hanging in their galleries, for the thoughtful Christmas gift. The one reproduced, 8" x 10", is "The Adoration of the Kings," of the early Flemish School. These are only $1 each, and come in portfolios of six for $5. The museum also has a fine selection of Christmas cards of unique charm.

Shaped like a four-leaf clover is a new tray, which can be completely set in the kitchen and brought in with refreshments after the game of bridge. Handles make it easy to carry without spilling a thing. Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., Inc.

Sterling silver containers for the Worcestershire and Tabasco sauces that must be served in their own bottles make a charming gift to the hostess or the bachelor who does a lot of entertaining. The Watson Co.

Delightfully tied up in special Christmas packages are Mar­tex towel gift sets, which of course come in all the new colors and in many different patterns. Very acceptable for a bride

A monogram gives the final touch to the perfect gift, and Utica sheets can be ordered with any three letters. Wrapped in Cellophane, they make a gift which will be much appreciated

A scatter-size domestic hooked rug is patterned after some fine European designs, and will fit into any room ensemble. Especially at home with maple. From the Firth Carpet Co.

A piercing brass gallery adds a distinctive finish to a round coffee table of particularly graceful design. From the Kittinger Co.

A carrying case only 13 x 8 x 12 inches will hold the new featherweight portable Singer sewing machine, which weighs only 11 pounds, case and all, and is a gift which will indeed deserve everlasting gratitude

It fits in anywhere, the new Westclox Pickwick—at home or in the traveling bag. Small and compact, in black and nickel finish, it has a luminous dial and hinged back

The new Sunbeam electric coffee maker has a glass rod to serve as valve between the two bowls, thus eliminating the need for coffee straining. Its "collar" and handle are of jet black Bakelite. Made by the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company
A BIT OF GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN FOR GARDENER FRIENDS

Convection has it that “grandmother’s garden” was a most satisfying riot of colorful growth bursting with bloom from early spring, enduring through summer, persisting long into the late fall and even carrying defiance after the first frosts of winter. Yes, indeed, grandmother’s garden was this and more as seen in memory, because of a quality of nature that burns into our recollections with an undying memory of the things that were splendid, that satisfied; and buries under a mantle of quick forgetfulness the temporary shocks and bitter disappointments.

But grandmother’s garden was indeed full of color because grandmother grew a multitude of flowers each year from seed. She turned so easily to the annuals which were not only easy to procure when new supplies were needed, or even on a rare occasion an entirely new thing was wanted; but grandmother even saved her own seeds and carried on from year to year with a content self-satisfaction that stamped everything that she did.

Grandmother’s garden began when grandmother was quite a young girl. She carried on with the traditions and the sentimental recollections of her earlier days of the flowers that were easy to pluck in the moonlight walks. The flowers that shed fragrance over the sheltering bowers, the summer house and arbors, were the flowers that persisted in her mind and lived through the years. Grandmother’s garden was even somewhat disorderly, in that it lacked the geometric balance and precise effect of static plantings. It was an unfolding each year. The same flowers? Ah, but what different pictures they made each season! No two seasons alike. Very rarely were there new acquisitions. The red of the Poppy, the fragrance of the Mignonette, the tenderness of the Sweet-pea, the abundant fluffy flowering of the China Asters. Oh yes, and there were Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots and the true blue of the Cornflower; the Four-o’clocks—sometimes yellow, sometimes crimson; Forget-me-nots for sentiment; and the old Sweet William and its near relative, the Marguerite Carnation for fragrance; and Pansies or Johnny-jump-ups of Colonial days. Oh, delightful memories these and all of them equally fit for temporary shocks and bitter dissatisfying riot of colorful growth.

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And then the flowers of next summer recreating the memories of a gracious thought and foresight at this time.

And Delphiniums and Hollyhocks! Are you restricted to varieties? No, no, indeed! In re-creating the spirit of grandmother’s garden we need not be too literal; for, in fact, the world does move. Today, the contemporary prototypes of all of the old-time favorites are vastly superior. No longer must the Poppy be blatant red. In keeping with refinement of modern culture you can have it in all the pastel pinks under the name of Shirley Poppy and the newer Pansies are more gorgeous than the ancient, and bigger too. The Nasturtiums are now fully double with all the gorgeous color that grandmother had in the singles. Modern Delphiniums are something to write home about, indeed. More costly, indeed, are those products of the modern specialists who save a few seeds from a few hand-crossed flowers and a few selected flowers, but modern Delphiniums are twice as big and more enduring than the old-timers. And China Asters in a great range of
fluffy, threadlike or quilled balls and with a tendency to revert to the simplicity of the single flower—light pink, blue, purple, and red. Paris Daisies in a variety of colors—indeed!

The modern garden in the spirit of grandmother’s garden can be vastly more beautiful, more luxurious, more colorful now than the thing it memorizes. Some of the seedsmen make up collections of modern types of old-time favorites which would be welcome to grandmother who may see some of the things of the past through magnifying glasses, and to keep the modern young housekeeper fully abreast with contemporary progress while yet expressing the spirit of the old. This is modernism for the old-time garden. Can you think of a better gift for your garden friends than a well-thought-out selection of seed packets of such old-time favorites?

Here are some popular flowers belonging to Colonial Days offered for sale in Massachusetts in 1760: Lavender, Lemon African Marigold, Branching Larkspur, Hyssop, Tall Hollyhock, Iceplant, Canterbury Bells, Dwarf Mountain Pink, Ranunculus, Colchicum, Indian Pink, Lobelia, Rose Campion, Red Hawkweed, French Marigold, Thyme, Purple Stock, Sweet Rocket, Gladiolus, Persian Iris, Scarlet Cacalia, Catchfly, Snap Dragon, Cape Marigold, Carnation Poppy, Tree Mallows, Scabiosa, Sweet William, Curled Mallows, Star Bethlehem, Lupine, Convolvulus, Summer Savory, Sweet pea, Globe Amaranthus, Everlasting, Pink, Honesty, Starry Scabiosa, Mixed Tulip Roots. Surely enough to choose from for a good gift now!

Those who cherish sentimental or romantic memories of by-gone days will find in this fantastic bouquet a few of the old-time flowers that recall these memories: Pansy, Sweet William, Forget-me-not, Cornflower, and Four-o’clock.
The fact that a piano may have been a legacy from great-aunt Minnie, or that its wood is so beautiful that some day you plan to have something else made out of it, is neither reason nor excuse for keeping it. But if there are musicians or music students in your family or among your friends, or if you enjoy an occasional musikabend, do give a little more thought to the placing and care of your piano than does the average owner.

In the first place, the instrument should not be treated primarily as an article of furniture. Unquestionably, the appearance of the modern piano, which is the instrument we shall consider in these first paragraphs, is a happy improvement upon the styles of the past, especially the new spinets for Colonial living rooms. However, the usual piano is still a vexatious topic for most decorators. What must be remembered—first, last, and always—is that the piano’s real reason for existence is to produce music.

With this in mind, consider first of all the proper placement of a piano in a room. This consideration, of course, involves not only the piano itself, but also its relation to light, to changing temperatures, and to other furnishings. We may take a very profitable tip in this connection from those persons best informed upon the subject—the professional pianists. How do they treat these various matters?

Recall, if you will, the arrangement of a concert platform. Invariably, the piano is set with its straight left side toward the back of the stage—and usually parallel to it, while the curved right side swings out toward the audience. There is a sound reason back of this arrangement. That curve of the piano is not just somebody’s idea of ornamentation. It is there to accommodate the different lengths of the piano strings, and the strings on the short right side are the light treble strings, while the heavy long strings at the left produce the low bass tones. Therefore, in placing the piano with the curved side toward the listeners in the audience, the lighter tones of the high treble strings are heard clearly above the rumbling accompaniment of the heavy bass strings of the instrument.

Remember this point in placing your own piano. Keep that heavy left side away from the listener. Very often it is possible to place it directly against one of the walls of the room. This will produce an exceptionally good effect, not only from a musical standpoint but from the standpoint of decoration as well. For the curved side, set toward the center of the room, is much more pleasing to the eye than the cumbersome left side. This curve also affords a graceful niche in which a singer or violinist may stand with good effect at your home musicales. Furthermore, this placing brings the performer at the keyboard into proper relation to his listeners, for no pianist—whether he be man, woman, or child—relishes playing with his back to his audience.

In placing your piano, try to obtain a position where a steady light from a window will fall across the shoulder of the person seated at the keyboard. A light that falls directly from behind is not so desirable for it may cast the shadow of the performer upon the music rack. Inasmuch as the reading of music is more or less trying under the best of conditions, particular attention should be given to this matter of lighting. Above all things, do not place your piano so that the player will be obliged to look directly into the light.

Lighting at night should, if possible, fall from the same direction as the daylight. This is particularly desirable if children use the piano for practice. Frequently their practice periods, especially in winter, overlap from daylight to dark, and it is surprising how the simple necessity of adjusting a light to his position at the piano will disturb even the most earnest of young players. A lamp placed in front of the window or slightly to one side proves an admirable solution of this problem. Choose this lamp as carefully as you choose lamps for other reading.
always bearing in mind that a steady, diffused light is much the best kind. Some pianists like an indirect-ray lamp that can be set almost any place in the room, while others prefer a light that is attached to the music rack. A little experimenting with the various kinds will soon show you which lamp is best suited to your particular needs.

In placing your piano, try as far as possible to keep it away from direct contact with heat radiators and open windows. The dampness and dust that sweep in through many windows, and the varying heat of the radiators, will eventually prove harmful to the instrument. The tone of your piano will be affected by extremes of temperature which cause expansion and contraction, and as a result, you will be put to the necessity of very frequent retuning. Furthermore, not only will the tone be impaired, but the fine finish of the case may be permanently injured by grit or heat, and the dampness may rust strings so badly that you will be obliged to have them replaced.

Of great importance in placing the piano is its relation to other furnishings in the room. Very few families have or desire a separate music room. Therefore, the piano in the average American home must live on friendly terms with its furniture neighbors. This need not mean that it must lose its identity or become a victim of frustration. Not at all. It merely means the observing of a few rules laid down for all good decorating.

Just as every well-arranged living room has a conversational group of furniture, a writing corner, and some specially comfortable arrangement for reading, so, too, is it possible to build a small music unit about the piano. With a well-placed piano, some provision close at hand for storing sheet music and music books, and, perhaps, a place for the radio, you will find you have given dignity and importance to any musical activity in your home. In fact, when this is done successfully, the arrangement takes on the air of a miniature music room within another room.

Inasmuch as the piano is usually the heaviest piece in the room, it is well to balance its mass with some other heavy object or grouping of smaller pieces. Otherwise you will produce the sea-sick sensation that the room has listed to a perilous angle. A charming effect can be created by placing a comfortable seating arrangement across the room from the piano so that listeners may watch as well as hear the performers. This is especially nice for informal musicales, and it is more than nice in dealing with those persons who still feel that the real purpose of music is to promote conversation.

The lid of the piano is seldom raised in a private home because volume of tone is not required. Some ornamentation of the top, therefore, is not only admissible but very desirable. Decoration of this kind is a purely personal matter, depending much upon the room.

The piano in your own home will hold objects that reflect your interests—cherished bits of porcelain, glass, or silver, a favorite photograph, small objects that may have a sentimental value for you, perhaps a lovely lamp. Bowls of flowers are a perfect decoration.

Above, music group in the living room of the Editor's home. The graceful spinet piano is perfectly at home with the Currier and Ives' print on the far wall and the Colonial lamps—but, unlike its overpowering predecessor, does not claim a lion's share of the room.
Symbols of European children’s Christmas

These Christmas symbols were part of an exhibit called “Children of Europe,” recently held in New York by B. Altman & Co. More than two thousand pieces were gathered together from many European countries, toys, games, books, clothing, miniature houses and farms, and dozens of other things—a veritable panorama of child life in foreign countries.

In Sweden, at Christmas time, every household sets up a symbolic little ornament like the one with the rows of candles in front to light it. Adults and children alike enjoy this symbol of the Christmas season, but chiefly for the children is the toy farm, with its little animals and its doll master and mistress.

Nowhere is the Christmas tradition stronger than in Austria. And below is a beautiful little Austrian crèche, the clay figures garbed in colorful painted costumes, the stable where the Christ Child is sheltered roofed over with rough grass and straw, casual trees placed about, and farm animals resting quietly near by.

Christmas is a season of quiet religious observation in Denmark. It is celebrated not with gaiety but with thoughtful reverie as one can see in the little old couple sitting before their Bible in their quaint native dress. Beside them is another couple, hardworking folk in rough clothing, carrying their store of faggots and vegetables from the fields to their little home. In the background are two dramatic toys for the Danish children—a brave cavalryman and his horse and a gallant sailing ship—both carved out of wood.
The quiet end of Christmas day

GERTRUDE ORAM

The most beautiful day of all the year should end beautifully. Especially for the children it is tragic when something that happened in the spirit of high anticipation, ended in nearness and disappointment. Christmas is the day of days for building family traditions, and some group occupation planned for the quiet end of Christmas day may easily grow into one of the most cherished of family customs. If there are young children in the family, this ceremony should take place in the late afternoon, carrying the children to bedtime in a relaxed, happy mood. As they grow older it may be put over to evening, but it should always be a quieting pleasure, never a tense or exciting one.

Here are a few suggestions for family entertainments that have been used successfully to bring the happiest holiday to a glowing, appropriate close.

Candlelight: The old custom of lighting the Christmas tree with candles has wisely been abolished for general use because of the fire hazard involved. But one family, to whom the candle light was a tradition of great importance, use electric bulbs for all the time the tree is lit except on Christmas night. Then, with a small fire extinguisher at hand and a pail of water and a heavy blanket, the tree is lighted with dozens and dozens of little candles all set in their old-fashioned holders. The lighting is done after everyone has gathered in a comfortable semi-circle, the children often on cushions on the floor. The littlest girl holds her newest doll. The baby is snuggled into a wide chair beside his mother. There is a quietness that falls on them all as one by one the lights are added. With no other light than the soft candle flames they sit watching, talking quietly, making plans.

Someone says, "I choose the white candle on the very top branch."

"I'll take the green one just underneath it."

"Mine is the red one there, way out to the right."

Christmas candles have a way of burning unevenly, melting down now quickly, now slowly. The family and all the guests choose the one that each thinks will burn the longest. Even baby has a candle. It is a family saying that the one whose candle burns the longest will have good luck all the year.

With the tree watched so closely all danger is eliminated, and the full pleasure of its beauty enjoyed. There is laughter as the straight, tall green one chosen by the usually canny uncle flares up and then melts rapidly, drop by drop over the metal holder. Some one hums softly, and others join him. There is quietness and beauty, too, as Christmas slips into the past on the flickering flame of the very last candle.

Stories: President Roosevelt reads the Christmas Carol to his family on Christmas day. Many families have made it a happy custom to end the Christmas festivities with a story told by the group's best teller of tales. Sometimes it is the first Christmas story itself, told year after year with growing meaning and beauty. Often it is a new story, chosen as a surprise and looked forward to as the final treat of the day. It must, of course, be chosen with care and told well to earn its place in the family tradition.

Little Christmas tree: When all the regular gifts have been taken from their wrappings and explained over, they begin to sink into the more usual category of possessions. By the end of the day everyone is ready for more. A little Christmas tree laden with miniature gifts is brought out as the final gesture each year in one family. The tiny tree is trimmed differently each year, and each gift, which according to the rules must never cost more than ten cents, and often less, is tagged with a humorous verse to be read aloud as the gift is delivered. Every one's dearest wish is granted, at least in intent, in these little gifts, which call for the exercise of ingenuity and imagination. They carry the spirit of gaiety through to the very end of the holiday.

Puppet show: Have you a toy theater? There is no need for professional skill or an elaborate equipment to make the marionettes show a perfect family entertainment. If the theater is a much used family favorite, all the old often used pieces may be done again, or a special new performance may be planned for the end of Christmas day. Adults as well as children get great amusement from even the simplest antics of these little figures but, if there are children to be considered, be sure to allow one of the toy actors to sit on the edge of the stage and talk directly to his audience. This act always brings down the house. A skillful amateur in one family does this extemporaneously with delightful success, but the material may be written out ahead. If well done it leaves each member of the audience in a delightful, chuckling humor, and the admonition, "For the last time, now. Merry Christmas, and good night. Go to bed and sleep tight," seems to come with better effect from one of these friendly and amusing little creatures.

Christmas sing: To many fam-

[Please turn to page 46]
Christmas is a good time for visiting

Some months ago, you will remember, we visited some Mid-Western readers’ homes. The Editor made the unfortunate error of calling them “Western” readers’ homes, and was forthwith chided by all true Westerners. This time, however, we are West, and we felt that Christmas time is a fine time to peek into some California readers’ homes, exchanging a little of our snow for some of their golden sunshine.

We all think of California homes as stucco bungalows, very Spanish in architecture and decoration. Here, however, we find Colonial interiors even when the exteriors conform to our idea of California tradition. All proving that only by travel and visiting can we ever really know and understand how our neighbors live—even how our own fellow Americans live!

The home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stevens, in Berkeley, California. At the west and back of the house lies the three-terrace garden, which makes a shelter of vivid bloom and fragrant shrubs around the outdoor living room. The brick walks are bordered with small pieces of Oriental pottery in which are planted lovely exotics.

The Stevens’s living room expresses the spirit of its owners. It is reminiscent of English country homes, informal in a distinctly dignified and beautiful manner.
This unusual and delightful provincial cottage is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Mayhew in Berkeley, Cal. The whitewashed clapboards, hewn oak trim, the thick walls and shuttered windows of the house make an harmonious and delightful whole. Brick stepping stones form a path to its fan-shaped entrance steps.

The living room walls are of natural knotted pine. Note the uneven and interesting treatment of the walls. The quaint fireplace is covered with a beautiful dull copper hood, and the jars which hold the pussywillows are Mexican terra cotta. Pine poles hold the copper and yellow toned window draperies. The end of the room is almost wholly a large window, where beautiful San Francisco Bay, Mt. Tamalpais, and the Golden Gate spread out before one's eyes in truly unbelievable beauty.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Rees, also in Berkeley. The Rees garden is one of the most beautiful in Berkeley and is filled with rare flowers and shrubs, carefully studied as to blending of color and lovely in its smallest detail.

One finds this lovely and inviting tea house at the end of the Rees garden. Its moss patterned flag floor is edged with exotic flowers and vines. An aquarium, comfortable garden furniture, rare succulents in colored pots and wall jars, make an interesting background for the tea table. We might even add that it is one of the most alluring invitations to live in sunny California that we have ever seen!

Photographs by Ralph Young
At the right, the Oakland home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Herrriott. The woods of the beautiful Oakland hills enclose it protectingly, the hills that Bret Harte and John Muir loved. Below, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Hoadley, also in Oakland. The steep slope of the front garden gives opportunity for a rock garden, with wild strawberries forming the ground cover and an irregular border of flowers and succulents making a delightful entrance approach.

Above, the walled garden side of the home of Mrs. Edith Hansen which is not far from the sea in San Francisco. The walled garden is planted with bush semi-tropical shrubs and flowers and the porch above it is an open invitation to the refreshing breezes of the Pacific.

At left, the English house of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Stoddard tops one of the high hills of Berkeley. Behind its neatly clipped hedge lies a distinctly interesting small formal garden.
A story book house

The home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Homer Yeager, in Berkeley, should stand in an enchanted wood. And the simple charm of this little home goes straight inside. With our back to the window nook of the photograph at the right, we face a fine old spinet piano, exquisite family portraits in old oval frames, and fine Colonial furniture, some of which are shown here.
At the right, the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keenan on a Berkeley hillside. The primula-bordered entrance walk welcomes one to the house and a garden sweet with scented shrubs and bright little flowers, quaintly planted like the little Dutch garden of song. Throughout, the Keenan home—house and garden—seem one. Below is the Colonial entrance hall.

Dignity and a feeling of breadth and spaciousness is achieved in the planting before the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Corda in Oakland. The clipped hedge serves to emphasize the sweep of fine lawn, while trees and shrubs give an air of seclusion to the house.
Yes, your enthusiastic man-gardener likes big flowers—enormous Dahlias, huge Chrysanthemums, giant "Glads!" a well-known horticulturist informed his audience of garden club women. "Most men are crop mad." He smiled then and spread out his hands in an expressive gesture. The women stirred, pleased at the unspoken compliment. For isn't it true that the majority of women do prefer flowers in their less outraged forms, and have a weakness for all diminutive plant material which offers beauty of line or vigor of growth?

The shops and greenhouses are full of these smaller specimens which can usually be bought for just a few cents, and are so adaptable to house culture. As soon as a home-loving woman sees them her quick imagination is stirred. This one will look attractive under the white light from the living room lamp, and this will catch the sunlight on that window sill, half way up the stairs. She makes a tour of investigation in the shops for interesting containers. There is a wealth of them. Highly glazed or duller finished pottery in odd shapes, metals with rich tones, bowls of many forms, the conventional-shaped glazed pots of many colors and sizes—all are considered for her diminutive house plant. She remembers the "antique" pottery and bronzes at home. They, too, will be useful. As far as her imagination goes, she is planning one hundred per cent. But probably in two or three months she'll be saying, "My plants didn't do so well, somehow. I guess the old clay pots are the only practical ones, after all."

What was at fault, however, was not the new type of pot, nor the fact that the plant material was diminutive, but that the question of a drainage hole had not been considered. "What!" you exclaim, "are all containers without a drainage opening just worthless?"

In a general way there is much to be said in favor of these newer, hard-finished containers. Experiments have proved, it seems, that the old-fashioned clay pot isn't so virtuous as we used to believe, because it really doesn't allow all that credited aeration through its sides. Most of this aeration actually takes place through the surface soil. That's a good argument for keeping it stirred up! Besides that, the clay pot is really greedy in absorbing moisture so that it dries out the roots nearest its sides and necessitates overwatering of the entire root system, to keep these contacted roots just normal. On the other hand, glazed pots are unabsorbent and, therefore, guarantee an even distribution of moisture and require less frequent watering. What's a housekeeper with an imagination going to do, then, when she likes the looks of so many of them but finds that so few have any drainage holes? Go back to the clay pots? They're hideously ugly. They're unbearable.

Here are some plants suggested which, by the simple trick of knowing exactly what they want, fit themselves to a healthy life. Drainage hole or not—it's all the same to them! They're all set on decoration! And oddly enough some of these species like to be very, very dry, and some on the other hand love damp feet, or if you gave them a chance they'd take to the water itself. None of that mealv-mouthed business for them of "medium moist," or an equally disturbing "fairly dry." "To the drainage hole for you!" would be their saucy retort to these other vacillating creatures.

Most diminutive of all of those moisture-loving plants is Helxine soleirolii. Like a popular school child it has plenty of nicknames—Irish Moss, Baby's Tears, or Friendship Plant. It's an adorable mosslike creature from Corsica which, if given time enough, will
be cascading all over the sides of its container. It makes a pretty cover plant, too, in pots of large plants where its shallow roots can be conveniently kept moist, irrespective of the other plant's habits. Ivy (Hedera), also loves a moist soil, and offers an interesting range of varieties. Besides the large English Ivy which we all know, there is a miniature type, gracilis, with delicately shaped leaves, only a fraction as large, and just as hardy. Creamy-white are the markings of another large-leaved variegated variety against the dark green foliage. When once established new cuttings may be made from all of these and rooted either in water or in sharp sand if kept moist.

Wandering Jew (Tradescantia), since it will flourish in water alone, is especially adapted to the moist soil of a container without drainage. Not too rich a soil, and not too much sunlight will agree best with it. It also will be the parent of many future generations if its strength is recuperated outside next summer as stock for winter cuttings. Every one does not know that other lovely trailer—Philodendron—which adores a moist soil and will in fact grow, but not thrive luxuriantly, in water alone. Its great heart-shaped, richly shining leaves unfold rapidly from coral-colored sheaths. Cuttings can be made from this plant by allowing one inch of stem below and above a leaf joint, and rooting in sharp sand. Small specimens of the so-called Chinese Evergreen or more properly Aglaonema modestum may now be bought for twenty-five cents, and will thrive in a moist soil. It is a true water-loving plant, too, and will flourish in water as well. Like so many of the broad and vigorous leaved specimens that come from tropical climates it carries that assurance of lush growth which makes it satisfactory indoors.

At left, home-grown Grapefruit seedlings make a miniature picture with this gay tropical fish container. Below, a miniature-leaved Begonia—easy to keep indoors come true from leaf cutting, and root division must be used instead. Then, to bring up this list of moisture-loving specimens there are also the little Grapefruit plants, which do not cost even the proverbial quarter, but may be home grown. Their usefulness lies in their beauty for even as tiny plants they are pretty in a group as dining-room table decoration or as trees in miniature indoor gardens. Their foliage is richly shining, and fragrant when rubbed. However, they cannot endure dryness, and will drift off their leaves at once. About four weeks is needed for germination even when the seeds have been nicked or soaked. A three-year-old specimen is one of the handsomest house plants possible.

Well, as it's easy to keep all these moisture-loving plants very wet without a drainage hole in their containers, it is just as possible to have as healthy specimens and rooted either in water or in sharp sand if kept moist. Wandering Jew (Tradescantia), since it will flourish in water alone, is especially adapted to the moist soil of a container without drainage. Not too rich a soil, and not too much sunlight will agree best with it. It also will be the parent of many future generations if its strength is recuperated outside next summer as stock for winter cuttings. Every one does not know that other lovely trailer—Philodendron—which adores a moist soil and will in fact grow, but not thrive luxuriantly, in water alone. Its great heart-shaped, richly shining leaves unfold rapidly from coral-colored sheaths. Cuttings can be made from this plant by allowing one inch of stem below and above a leaf joint, and rooting in sharp sand. Small specimens of the so-called Chinese Evergreen or more properly Aglaonema modestum may now be bought for twenty-five cents, and will thrive in a moist soil. It is a true water-loving plant, too, and will flourish in water as well. Like so many of the broad and vigorous leaved specimens that come from tropical climates it carries that assurance of lush growth which makes it satisfactory indoors.

Somehow similar to it, is another moisture-loving plant which we should all be on the lookout for this winter. It will soon be popular for its vigorous habits. Because of its arrow-shaped leaves it is often called popularly Arrow-head Philodendron, but, its true name is Nephthys libericra, and not a bad one, either, if you can finally get it to roll off your tongue!

Ficus repens, that Lilliputian member of the Rubber-plant family, will thrive in wet soil, and makes a dainty trailer to hide the edge of the pan on which potted specimens are sitting, or as a creeper up a window. Cyperus, the umbrella plant, as it will grow in water alone, enjoys being altogether moist. It likes plenty of sun, though, and a lean diet in the soil. Cuttings can be made by giving some of the leaf heads a close bob and placing them in sharp sand. A variegated variety is also interesting, but it will not come true from leaf cutting, and root division must be used instead. Then, to bring up this list of moisture-loving specimens there are also the little Grapefruit plants, which do not cost even the proverbial quarter, but may be home grown. Their usefulness lies in their beauty for even as tiny plants they are pretty in a group as dining-room table decoration or as trees in miniature indoor gardens. Their foliage is richly shining, and fragrant when rubbed. However, they cannot endure dryness, and will drift off their leaves at once. About four weeks is needed for germination even when the seeds have been nicked or soaked. A three-year-old specimen is one of the handsomest house plants possible.

Well, as it's easy to keep all these moisture-loving plants very wet without a drainage hole in their containers, it is just as possible to have as healthy specimens
A remodeled Cape Cod cottage in Batavia, Ohio

The home of William F. Jenike

Richard R. Grant, Architect

This little house could not be rented or sold before remodeling and was considered a shack by the villagers but now, in spite of its eighty-five years, it is the show place of the town.

In this interesting old house the gutters were hand hewn from a log and are still in good condition. All framing is of hand-hewn oak and poplar timbers, and floors are of oak plank. The foundation is of stone and is over two feet thick. In addition to the necessary replastering, replacing of rotted posts and siding, and painting and repapering, a basement was excavated, new heating and electric systems installed, as well as modernized plumbing including two baths and a new kitchen—all for $4,000.
The original Dutch Colonial houses, built by the early settlers from Holland in New York State and New Jersey, have probably never been seen in reality or in photographs by the builders who construct houses which they too term "Dutch Colonial." The originals are charming from ridge to grade, the would-be adaptations are too often clumsy as they "just miss." The two main points of difference are these: the old houses depended for their character and finesse upon the roof, which had no projecting eaves on the gable end, or none to speak of, and seldom (if ever) any dormers.

Gerald K. Geerlings

The small drawing at the top of the page is representative of the usual modern "Dutch Colonial" house, with its enormous gable-end eaves, and its dormer which almost blots out the lower slope of the roof. If either of these features were an improvement on the originals nothing would remain to be said. But the effect of the eaves is to make the house look as though it were wearing its father's sombrero, and the dormer as though it had taken an elevator ride directly through the roof—and forgotten how to get down again. These problems are dealt with in details, Numbers 1 and 3. The dormer is not eliminated, but merely made as inconspicuous and consistent with the balance of the house as is possible. The only structural changes in the alterations is that shown in Number 5, where the base of the chimney is widened. The terrace in front requires stone flagstones, but otherwise an intelligent carpenter can execute all the changes without either much time or much expense being necessary.

Detail Number 1: Number 1 detail deals with the middle window of the dormer. On the existing house it is divided into three parts, each being a casement (swung on its side), with the glass divided into small panes. The three windows are flanked by two shutters, but there does not seem to be much sense in providing only two out of three windows with shutters, so these are removed, and the entire window unit is taken out and made into a double-hung sash like the others throughout the house. Even though the window serves a bathroom and does not have to be as deep, the unit glass size can be approximately the same as the other windows. The flower box will disguise the difference in height, and is therefore retained. In the existing house the dormer is painted white, the same as the balance of the house. If instead it be painted a pale gray (provided the roof be a weathered in color), the dormer will be less conspicuous. Whatever the color of the roof, the dormer will profit greatly by being painted a paler shade of this same hue.

Detail Number 2: The existing house has two clumsy brackets flanking the doorway, used to support a hood which breaks into the roof. The result is not to make the en-

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There's a popular song right now that is all about the dear little woman and wearing the same shabby dress. And the moral of the piece is "try a little ten-der-ness." It's a very affecting song—if you happen to feel that way at the time. But it started me thinking. Thinking about children—my children and your children and the art or job or joy of bringing them up. For it's all of these and more.

It seems to me that we've tried, and been told to try, just about every method in the list. We've been told to be firm, to be hands-off, to be impersonal, to be dotingly lax. Why not instead "try a little ten-der-ness"—and common sense.

We use both those qualities in the care of our material possessions. We wash our delicate fabrics in mild soap suds—and do not wring them. We polish our silver with something that does not scratch. We ease the curtain gently through the casing—so it won't tear. We give bone meal to the tulips and cotton seed meal to the lawn and we don't dig around the rhododendrons to prove to ourselves that the roots lie close to the surface. We know they do and leave them in undisturbed tranquility. We use patience and persistence and politeness in our relations with "things." And the same patience and persistence and politeness would get equally satisfactory results with our children.

There would be no "problem children" if there were no "problem parents." Ask anyone in charge of a child study clinic and you will be told that their difficulty is in adjusting and changing home conditions and parental attitude. When these are right the child adjusts himself—except, of course, in the very small percentage of cases which have real mental or physical defects.

But most children are normal. Their desires are normal. They get hungry and tired—even as you and I. They want to excel and to be praised for it—which isn't anything so unusual. They want the center of the stage and the full glare of the spot light—so do most of us, really, only experience and the years have taught us there isn't room in the center for everyone and the spot light makes only one small circle.

Children have mental curiosity and a desire for new experiences to a much larger degree than most adults. Someone has defined gossips as "prolonged childhood" and I believe it. What is creative gossips but an intense curiosity and enthusiasm and determination along some line? Yet that trait in our children annoys us and we term it stubbornness and meddling and destructiveness. We try to train out of them with irritation and scolding and punishment those very qualities which, if developed, might lead them to unusual accomplishment.

Why not use a little tenderness and patience, and the brains with which we are endowed, to find out why Johnny takes the works out of the alarm clock and Susie sets fire to her doll's hair with the curling iron? If the curtain rod sticks we don't rant and rave and jam it through—just to show who's boss. We find out why it sticks and patiently, at least outwardly, take out time to overcome the sticking. We're courteous and considerate with our belongings. We have to be if we don't want to ruin them and do want to keep them. Yet spiritual tears and scratches with a child are so vastly more important and lasting. And these tears and scratches are so easy to produce with senseless and harsh methods.

But I don't mean to let Johnny and Susie do just whatever their little hearts desire. After all the personalities and needs of the other members of the family have their fair rights too and Susie and Johnny have to go out into a world where consideration and fair play are the lubricants of social relationships. They have to be trained in these things. But why can't we take our time to it?

The garden goes on season after season and year after year and we expect of it only gradual growth in vigor and beauty. We expect weeds and insect pests and good years and bad. We treat delphiniums one way and lupins another and we don't ask spring blooming bulbs to burst forth in the fall of the year.

Yet, "My goodness," says mother to five-year-old son, "can't you shake hands and say, 'good morning' to Mrs. Whoozit? Where are your manners?"

They're there, as a matter of fact, and small son would like to get them out. But he doesn't know how. He'd like to get them out because he likes approval and pleasant contacts. But the only way we can help him to do this is to give him something along that line to imitate. Wonder if mother and father and the rest of the grown-ups are always careful to say good morning to him, always careful to make their requests politely and pleasantly, always punctiliously alert to thank him when he does some small service?

Even in these uncertain monetary days I'd be willing to bet my bottom dollar that they don't—because I know we don't. And yet I know, just as surely, that when we watch our manners properly we don't have to watch the children's. I was reading something the other day that proved this very point. Nora Wain, in writing of her experiences as a member of a high caste Chinese family in The House of Exile, speaks of the beautiful and multi-mannered little children in the Children's Court of this Oriental home. They are always treated with the utmost courtesy and dignity and seem to feel instinctively that any other behavior would be out of key with their surroundings. Children are natural born imitators—we've all observed. What are we giving them to imitate?

The trouble with most of us is that we're easier to preach politeness than to practise it. But why blame the youngsters?

"See which one of you can close the door most quietly this noon," is twice as effective and three times as pleasant as, "For heaven's sake stop slamming that door." Only it takes more thought and more self control and those are two things which we so often think are most impossible when we're tired and edgy. But habit is a regular weed when it comes to growing. Do a thing several times and it's easier to do it several more times—whether it be constructive or destructive.

"Children desire security" states one child psychologist. And that is, it seems to me, another fundamental desire of all humanity. Security means not only enough food and warmth and shelter. It means enough love. Enough sense of the unchangeable place we hold in the hearts and lives of the people who are close to us. Of course children desire that. But they don't have it, no matter how they are surrounded with physical luxuries, if there is constantly an atmosphere of criticism and blame and censure.

Kenneth Grahame in his exquisite study of childhood—The Golden Age—tells of the meeting of a little boy with a roadside artist. They had a perfect time together with sympathy and understanding and beauty. Then it ends and the little boy strolls home—"back to the house where I never did anything right." To me that is tragically pathetic. More pathetic than if that child had come from a home of neglect. The adults were so anxious that he be perfect, according to their standards, so anxious that he grow up ahead of time that they made him feel a sense of hopeless failure.

We, all of us, so often regard our children as something that must be a credit to ourselves, to our families. They must be a credit to ourselves. Most of all and if the right qualities are there, the rest will naturally follow. We stress superficial traits and habits such as neatness and order and social manners because the lack of them inconveniences and embarrasses us. Yet these...
Christmas puddings

Christmas puddings! What a stir they make—and what a stir they take! The proof, they say, is in the eating so, whether you choose English or American, we hope the proof—and the sauce—will be adequate.—GÉNEVIEVE JEWELL

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

Photographs by F. M. Demarest
**Christmas puddings**

**In England, each and every member of the family, from youngest to oldest, stirs the plum pudding three times around and makes a wish as he stirs. Why not revive this jolly old custom this Christmas?** — Genevieve Jewell

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<th>Plum pudding</th>
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**Dessert garnish with ice cream.**

**Plum pudding**

- **Dessert garnish in boiling water.**
- **Serve with whipped cream.**

**Chocolate plum pudding**

- **Soak gelatine in cold water.**
- **Put milk, chocolate, and sugar in double boiler.**
- **Add egg yolks, and stir well.**
- **Fold in whipped cream.**

**Fig pudding**

- **Mix dry ingredients.**
- **Add sugar and eggs.**
- **Steam two hours.**

**Pennsylvania plum pudding**

- **Mix all ingredients together.**
- **Steams three hours.**
- **An excellent accompaniment for cooked plum puddings.**

**Orange sauce**

- **Mix sugar, salt, and water.**
- **Stir and cook until thick.**
- **Serve in double boiler when needed.**
MANY families who could not accept the "canned soup" idea, now eat Heinz Soups regularly. It is because Heinz Soups actually are the homemade kind... In the Heinz soup kitchens you will find no huge vats. Merely individual open kettles, in which small batches are slowly and patiently simmered, stirred and seasoned... The recipes from which these 18 delectable soups are made are highly prized home recipes. The ingredients are of the grade served on your own table. Vegetables well-bred and flawless. Meats of the kind sold by the better butchers. In Heinz cream soups only pure wholesome cream is used... Heinz Home-Recipe Soups, when cooked, are first tasted by the Heinz Flavor Jury, then sealed, while hot, into stout tins. Thus when you serve them, they taste precisely as they did when passed by the Flavor Jury. For Heinz Soups are finished soups, ready for heating and serving. Nothing need be added... Your grocer will tell you that sales of Heinz Soups have been increasing at a speedy rate—especially to families in homes where, until recently, only homemade soups would do... Try two or three of your favorite soups from the list below.

Learn why your grocer's sales of Heinz Soups have grown so fast.

HEINZ homemade style SOUPS

Cream of Green Pea • Scotch Broth • Vegetable
Cream of Mushroom • Clam Chowder • Noodle
Gumbo Creole • Cream of Asparagus • Beef Broth
Cream of Spinach • Bean Soup • Mock Turtle
Cream of Oyster • Cream of Celery • Consommé
Cream of Tomato • Pepper Pot • Onion Soup

The American Home, December, 1934
for Christmas Presents

**Fostoria Suggests**

Three charming table accessories—ideal for bonbons, almonds, and lemon slices.

Tiny birds for almonds—leaves of glass for salt—in crystal or colors.

This new tea warmer has a tiny candle in the base which does the trick beautifully.

The graceful bubble candy jar in crystal or in Fostoria's gem-like colors.

Two outstanding examples of strikingly modern design: the cylindrical and "triple action" cocktail shakers.

Has any home enough decanters? Not so here are two of unusual beauty, ideal for fine wines or liqueurs.

**Gifts for the hostess**

A great big wooden salad bowl filled with delicacies—artichokes, pâté de fois gras, marrons, honey, Welsh rabbit, and antipasto, will be useful long after the food is gone. It comes from Gristede's.

An enameled Dutch Oven will be a splendid gift, especially when filled with cans of Heinz's new soups.

Food luxuries packed in glass make exceptionally nice gifts. Here are some suggestions: stuffed oranges in grenadine, mint sauce, calf's foot jelly, peaches in crème de menthe, fresh peaches. From Gristede.

A cake plate and cover decorated with tiny red cherries is another suggestion that is both decorative and useful. The G. S. N. Co.

Another casserole is of copper, a pleasantly shallow affair with its own cover and a pair of convenient handles. It is shown filled with goodies from Vendome, and tied with Cellophane. Casserole from Revere Mfg. Co.

**Fostoria**

THE GLASS OF FASHION

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1934
"I'm a Widow... with 5 Children

...and I can't afford to take chances with cheap, doubtful baking powder.

Skimp as I must, I won't give up Royal"

(An interview with Mrs. Merle Brown, of Kansas City, Missouri)

"My husband left no insurance, so I have to be the breadwinner. But we manage somehow on our $100 a month. It isn’t easy, though, with five growing youngsters to feed, clothe and educate.

"When we had more money, I always used Royal Baking Powder because it made my cakes so fine-textured and delicious.

"And now, I wouldn’t risk using any other, because I just couldn’t afford a baking failure. Good butter, eggs and milk cost too much to be trusted to cheap, doubtful baking powder."

Very sensible, Mrs. Brown! Women who stop to figure the cost of the ingredients they put in a cake know it is always poor economy to take chances with inferior baking powder.

After all, you need only two or three teaspoons of baking powder to make a cake. And that much Royal costs only one cent.

Only it for Royal! And this trifling sum gives you sure results—every time.

You already know what a fine baking job Royal does... and what an exceptionally delicious flavor you get in cakes made with this famous baking powder.

In fact, no matter what you bake with Royal, you can be sure of above-the-ordinary results—finer flavor... more even texture... better keeping quality.

Next time you buy baking powder, remember how little it costs to use Royal. The price is now the lowest in seventeen years.

Practice the true economy of using the best—reliable Royal!

Watch for Your Baker’s Weekly “Specials”

When you bake at home, make sure of success and delicious flavor by using Royal Baking Powder for your cakes and hot breads. But don’t forget that you can rely on your baker for delicious coffee cakes, Parker House rolls, crisp dinner rolls, cinnamon buns, and other goodies to lend variety to your table. Fine cakes—from plain cup cakes to delicious layer cake—are now available to the busy housewife.

With careful attention to the housewife’s needs and wishes, trained skill and the best scientific equipment, the modern bakery offers a wider and ever-increasing service to the home.

Free Cook Book—Mail the coupon today for your copy of the new Royal Cook Book.


Please send me a free copy of the Royal Cook Book.

Name:
Address:
City State

In Canada: Standard Brands Limited, Fraser Ave., Toronto 2, Ont.
**WHEN DOES A SHEET BREAK?**

**U. S. GOVERNMENT EXPERTS RIGHTLY CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF QUALITY**

Next time you make a bed—when you pull the sheet this way, stretch it that way—when you're causing the same kind of strain by tossing and turning in the bed at night . . . consider how important it is to buy sheets that don't break easily. U. S. Government textile experts call this quality "tensile strength," and measure it with a very interesting machine that tells just exactly how many pounds of pulling a sheet will stand before breaking.

We know you haven't such a machine in your home. We wish you did have. If you could test Lady Pepperell Sheets, we know you'd buy Lady Pepperell. We insist that Lady Pepperell Sheets surpass this and all other U. S. specifications—and constantly test themselves on just such machines in our laboratories, to make sure that they do.

Pepperell believes in the consumer standard of quality as the only real measure of value. We believe that you should have frank facts about the things you buy. For example, against all tradition, we now are labeling our sheets "True Size," measured after hemming. The reliance that people have in our name has made us the largest maker of sheets in America.


**Give books to the children**

Here is a wealth of Christmas books for children this year, many of them entirely new, many new editions of old favorites. Here are some of the titles you will want to know about.

Struwwelpeter, with original illustrations (Limited Editions Club)
The Poppine Seed Cakes by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Miki by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Miki and Mary by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Ola and Blakken by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Hans by Ludwig Bemelmans (The Viking Press)
Farm Boy by Phil Strong, illustrated by Kurt Wiese (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag (Coward McCann)
The A B C Bunny by Wanda Gag (Coward McCann)
Lost Merry-go-round by Dorothy Lathrop (Macmillan)
Midight and Bridget by Berta and Elmer Hader (Macmillan)
Little Fat Gretchen by Emma Brock (Alfred A. Knopf)
Head for Happy by Helen Sewell (Macmillan)
The Wee Men of Ballywooden by A. Mason; illustrated by Robert Lawson (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard (Scribner's)
The Lord's Prayer by Ingrid and Edgar d'Aulaire (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Do You Know by J. Smalley (Wm. Morrow & Co.)
Royal Minikin by A. Gall (Oxford University Press)
Tono Antonio by R. Sawyer (The Viking Press)
Tim Tadpole by Margery Flack (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)

Fun with Michael by Dorothy and Marguerite Bryan (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
A First Bible by Helen Sewell (Oxford University Press)
Jiminy; Story of a Filly by Bert Clark Thayer (Farrar & Rinehart)
Ship without a Crew by H. Pease (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Bridges by H. Bormann (Macmillan)
Flowers of Chivalry by Marguerite Clement (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Yoosle's Holiday by Sonia Mazer (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
The Corduroy Trail by Rita C. McGoldrick (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
A Little Boy Was Drawing by Roger Duvois (Scribner's)

The quiet end of Christmas day

[Continued from page 29]
May the soft light of your Christmas candles reflect wisdom and contentment as well as gaiety, this year! And it will—if it shines on new pieces added to your sterling pattern this very Christmas.

It will reflect wisdom—because the Government's action on silver indicates that prices will go higher—never lower. There couldn't be a wiser time to make the worthwhile investment of sterling.

It will reflect contentment—because, whether you start a new pattern or add to an old one, you will never tire of the beauty of Towle Sterling. And Towle patterns are open stock for years and years—ready to add to the perfection of your hospitality.

TOWLE

Makers of STERLING only... with unbroken craft traditions

SINCE 1690

THE NEWEST IN STERLING just announced this season
CANDLELIGHT (left) adds to the table a loveliness rich and elusive.

ARISTOCRAT (right). Chaste beauty of long flowing lines and softly rounding curves.

FREE—Pictures and prices of all Towle patterns with free chart of preferred engraving suggestions.

NEW BOOK FOR BRIDES—only ten cents—"How to Plan Your Wedding." Tells what to do three months in advance...two months...six weeks...three weeks...last week...last day. Four pages for the groom. Twenty-four interesting pages—a priceless record.


[ ] Please send me free information, especially on____________________________pattern.

[ ] I enclose 10 cents for which please send me a copy of your new bride's book.
Write name and address in the margin.

SYMPHONY (left). A modern expression of Early American ideals—simplicity, character, balance, poise.

SYMPHONY CHASED (right). A beautiful enrichment of the lovely Symphony. New chased effect in its unusual ornaments.
Beauteous Gifts
IN THE MODE

How to wrap your Christmas packages

1. Place the box upside down on a sheet of Cellophane so that “face” side of gift will have a uniform surface. See that seams or “joints” come on bottom or sides of package—never the top.

2. To wrap for tone effects: Beginning at extreme left of box, extend Cellophane around the box once. Before cutting, allow for an extra flap the width of the box. Now cut—be sure to cut straight.

3. Before cutting the Cellophane from the roll, measure length of sheet required, allowing about one inch overlap in the middle.

4. Fold the extra flap back under to meet left hand edge of box. Complete wrapping as in No. 3. For a diagonal tone, follow Nos. 4 and 5, except fold diagonally as shown in No. 6. Fold need not meet corners exactly. For three tones, start the Cellophane at the distance from the right hand edge of the box. Encircle package with Cellophane. Continue sheet

5. Fold in sides as in regular wrapping. Seal all “joints” with Scotch Cellulose Tape. Now apply ribbon.

6. Note: Always wrap cellulose film loosely to allow for shrinkage. Do not pull it tightly across package. Do not let it hug corners tightly.

The Virginian Cigarette Box: $5.00
The Carolinian Cigarette Box: $6.50
The Hexagon Ash Tray: 4 for $5.00

The Stratford Bowl: $9.50
The Sussex Candy Jar: $4.50

The Yorktowne Cheese Tray: $6.50
The Snack Cracker Jar: $7.00

- If you would give beauty, seek no further. Here is the gracious softness of old silver, created in a new metal that knows no tarnishing, accepts no stains. There are sixty-odd other lovely pieces to choose from.

- Truly in the modern spirit, simple, authentic, Kensington pieces will be cherished in every discriminating home. Decorative and service pieces, and smoker’s items, and buffet accessories, and whatever!

Kensington
OF NEW KENSINGTON

Now on display at the best department stores, jewelry stores and specialty shops.

F. M. Demarest

Here are some delightful Christmas wrappings, some full of Christmas spirit, others a little simpler, for those gifts given at other times than Christmas. Ben Mont Fancy Papers. Diagrams courtesy DuPont Cellophane Co.

The American Home, December, 1934
"A Ciné-Kodak _what a gift!"

Just wind it once in a while, like you would a clock...

Paint the camera, press the button—and you're making a movie!

On the screen in your living room, your children frolic...

All the events of the year are saved, lived over...

You have a living record of them as they grow...

Every summer outing brings grand movie opportunities...

Your friends get as much fun out of it as you do...

Life is richer, more memorable, with Ciné-Kodak Eight!

---

Ciné-Kodak Eight only $34.50

Makes movies for less than 10¢ a "shot"—Ciné-Kodak Eight gives you 20 to 30 movie shots—each as long as the average scene in the news reels—on a roll of film costing only $2.25, finished, ready to show. Yet the Eight is a full-fledged movie camera. So simple to use—you'll make successful movies the first time you try. How much this gift will mean to the whole family! See the Eight—and sample movies—at your dealer's. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y. . . . If it isn't an Eastman, it isn't a Kodak.
Jeanne Eagels' performance as Sadie Thompson; "The Pool"; "The Letter"; "The Alien Corn," which many people rank among his finest work; and "The Book Bag," the story Ray Long considered one of the best he had ever read though he could not publish it. Mr. Maugham has written a remarkable introductory essay on his own work. You will enjoy every one of these fascinating tales of romance and adventure.

### 30 Famous Stories Complete in One Volume

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This big entertaining book will be given to you absolutely free if you take advantage of this special offer of Guild Membership.

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The advantages of membership are numerous. The Guild provides the most complete, economical and convenient book service in the country. It selects for you each month an outstanding new book just published. If you want the Guild selection for the month, it is sent to you on approval. You may return it in five days, or you may keep it and pay only $2.00 (plus a few cents carrying charges) for it regardless of the retail price. (The regular retail prices of Guild selections range from $2.50 to $5.00.) If you do not want to examine the Guild selection for the month, then you may take your choice from twenty other outstanding books selected from all the publishers' lists and recommended by the Guild, or the Guild will deliver, postage prepaid, any other book in print you wish at the publisher's prices.

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Outstanding of all advantages of Guild membership, particularly at this time, is the saving in cost of books. Guild savings are not merely fractional. When you can get a $3.00, $4.00, or $5.00 book for only $2.00, you can see at once that your book bills can be cut in half, and that you can afford to buy more books you are most anxious to read this way than under any other plan.

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The special features of Guild membership guarantee you greater economy, convenience, and satisfaction than any other method of book buying. Remember: members buy only the books they want and they may accept as few as four books a year. The Guild service starts as soon as you send the coupon. Our present special offer gives you the big volume, "The Collected Short Stories of W. Somerset Maugham," absolutely free. This book will come to you at once, together with the Member's Handbook giving full information about the Guild Service and special savings.
This boy is going to be near-sighted

The picture above illustrates one of the very common causes of near-sightedness... one of the reasons why twenty grade school children in every hundred have defective vision. What is happening to the boy in this picture may be happening right in your own home, damaging the eyes of your own children.

The boy is reading with his eyes too close to his book... a habit he has probably formed through being forced to read or study in poor light. Unless this habit is corrected, he may soon become near-sighted... because the eyes of a child are especially sensitive to strain.

Here is good news for parents! An entirely new type of lamp has been designed by the Illuminating Engineering Society. It is called the I. E. S. Study and Reading Lamp. Revolutionary in principle, this lamp gives an abundance of soft, glareless light... several times as much as ordinary lamps.

What better Christmas gift can you give him than this new lamp that will help save his eyes from harmful strain? Write for details today. General Electric does not manufacture the I. E. S. Study Lamp, but is glad to contribute this information in the interest of better sight.
The journal of a suburban housewife—Dorothy Blake

get out the car, Dot. I’ll take the eight six this morning.” When speech fails—there’s always an early train. That must account for the popularity of suburban life for men with young.

December 11—Beth Roberts called me up this afternoon and asked if I’d started my jam yet. Never dawned on me until that minute that Christmas is coming in exactly two weeks! I think it must be sent by air mail right after the fourth of July or it couldn’t get here so fast. Every year I plan to do things ahead and be ready and calm and then every year it sneaks up on me like this and I tear my hair trying to get everything done—but how I love it! I wouldn’t miss making my Christmas jam if I was at death’s door. Nicest neighborhood I ever saw about doing nice things for each other. Lottie Gilman sends around baskets of her homemade candy—she must make tons of it—Beth Roberts fixes up packages of pecan cookies that are the grandest things with tea I ever ate and Marcia stuffs prunes and apricots with candied orange peel and almonds. Right after the excitement of opening presents the children start around delivering their mother’s addition to the neighbor’s Christmas. I don’t know who started it but I hope nobody ever stops it.

December 13—Truck loads of trees have arrived until the main street in the village looks like a stage setting for the “Babes in the Wood.” Artie and Peg want to help pick ours out now! Might just as well because no matter when we get it we are sure to see others later that are a better shape or more green or something. Yet, every year, when ours is trimmed we turn on the lights and breathe deep with joy, “The loveliest one we ever had!” When the children grow up and Jim and I are alone, in that little tucked away house we haven’t found yet—and couldn’t buy if we did—we still must have a tree. A real tree that has the pungent sweetness of a pine forest and branches that bear their gay burden with dignity and pride—as though it said “This has been worth living for—and dying for.”

December 17—Finished the jam today and found the prettiest stage setting for the “Babes in the Wood.” Artie and Peg want to help pick ours out now! Might as well because no matter when we get it we are sure to see others later that are a better shape or more green or something. Yet, every year, when ours is trimmed we turn on the lights and breathe deep with joy, “The loveliest one we ever had!” When the children grow up and Jim and I are alone, in that little tucked away house we haven’t found yet—and couldn’t buy if we did—we still must have a tree. A real tree that has the pungent sweetness of a pine forest and branches that bear their gay burden with dignity and pride—as though it said “This has been worth living for—and dying for.”
L E T S be frank. No matter how charming the kitchen, most women would prefer to be somewhere else. At the bridge table, making small slam vulnerable, for instance. Or going places in the car.

That's why we make Monel Metal equipment both lovely and "leavable". To save you from dreary sessions with messy dishes, there's a Conover dishwasher tucked away in the base of that cabinet sink. And next to it a Monel Metal-topped Magic Chef range which almost manages to cook by itself!

Furthermore, Monel Metal has "surface charm". Meaning it has the most charming surface to clean ever invented. Rust, fruit juices, hot grease and other destroyers of ordinary sinks soon find that they have met their master—in Monel Metal.

It is, in fact, a perfect Methuselah of metals. Stronger than steel, chip-proof, crack-proof, practically indestructible, anything made of Monel Metal is sure to live to a ripe old age.

"One thing at a time" is the way the modern woman remolds her out-of-date kitchen. She starts with the sink...gets that paid for...then matches it with a range or work-table. Prices on the individual pieces are much less than you'd think from their splendid appearance. And Monel Metal dealers are perfect gentlemen about arranging convenient terms of payment. Considering which, don't you feel moved to do something about those great open spaces in the coupon below?

THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY, INC.
73 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

Monel Metal is a registered trade-mark applied to an alloy containing approximately two-thirds Nickel and one-third copper. Monel Metal is mined, smelted, refined, rolled and marketed solely by International Nickel.

---

This spacious sink is a Monel Metal "Straitline" cabinet model. Built-in dishwasher is manufactured by The Conover Company. The resplendent Stewart-Warner refrigerator is completely sheathed in Monel Metal. The American Stove Company makes the Magic Chef Range, with Monel Metal top, burner pan and broiler pan grid.
golden than ever this year and the cherries through it look like little Japanese lanterns. Wing Foo stood around with his mouth fairly dripping and his eyes so full of pleading that I couldn't help giving him a bit on a piece of bread. As a disciplinarian I'm a good cook. That dog was nearly completely ruined when Miss Pratt gave him to us and we'll soon finish the job. The main point being that we'd rather spoil him than train him—much more fun!

December 20—Beth and Marcia and I joined forces and took the children to the woods to gather material for Christmas wreaths. Had a couple of vacuum bottles full of hot cocoa and a box of sandwiches because we knew they'd be "simply starving" when we picked them up after school. The woods were wonderful with bright sunlight through the trees. They will appreciate your thoughtful pleasure for the little that it costs.

A call more than pays in station rates for three Christmas presents: 50c for 150 miles; 75c for 275 miles.

A BABY GIFT
THE WHOLE FAMILY ENJOYS

Keeping baby warm for bath or play is one important duty of an Arvin Fan-Forced Electric Heater which makes this such a splendid gift for your own baby, as well as your friends. Besides, you'll find the whole family clamoring for the Arvin on chilly mornings and evenings. Just plug it in at any 120 A.C. wall outlet, and the circulating warm air quickly raises the temperature in any small room or chilly corner. It's safe for children—approved by Good Housekeeping Institute and Underwriters' Laboratories. See the two beautifully finished models at your hardware, electrical or department store, priced at $7.95 and $9.95. Or we will ship direct on receipt of price. Noblitz-Sparkes Industries, Inc., Columbus, Indiana.

By the makers of Arvin Hot Water Car Heaters and Arvin Car Radios

"Little Chef"
ASPARAGUS STEAMER
Performs miracles in the Kitchen

FLOOR VARNISH

HEAVY POLISHED ALUMINUM
price $1.50

Send today for this unique gift

Little Chef 1

LITTLE CHEF
Dept. B
114 East 32nd Street
New York

Transforming ugly ducklings

(Turned to page 39)
the walk leads directly to the front door, and ends in such a peremptory manner that it cannot by any stretch of the imagination be used as an outdoor extension of the interior living quarters. The platform in front of the front door is too small. There is no privacy. Yet this may be the desirable exposure. The revised drawing shows a stone (or brick) terrace running the length of the house, with sufficiently large eaves and joints so that rock plants or grass may flourish. The terrace should be wide enough so that it will be useful during the summer for table and chairs, where picnics, lunches, company suppers, and evening entertainment can take place. As a necessary adjunct there is a high hedge, a fence of palings, or some similar screen, at the front lot line. Then—and only then—will the front garden become an outdoor living room which is serviceable and enjoyable. At the entrance to the garage drive two masonry piers, as a necessary adjunct to the chimney, as well as to have an identifying symbol for strangers coming for the first time, and a habitual welcome for friends on dark nights.

Detail Number 5: The base of the chimney is the problem treated in Number 5. The existing chimney is a uniform width from top to bottom—and a very slimy affair it is. Being of red brick and abutting white siding makes it frankly out of harmony. In order to get greater width to the chimney, as well as to have this addition service a useful purpose, one side is greatly increased until it extends to the front of the house. This means that on the interior there can be a wide window seat (with bookshelves or plants as a feature). The red brick chimney is painted white to harmonize with the siding. A trellis is added in the center at the base for added interest.

Detail Number 6: The garage drive at the side of the existing house bounds the property, but it cannot be said to improve the garden. Number 6 detail shows how a simple fence could be constructed (one wide board followed by two narrow ones) and placed near the drive. A simple arbor and gate would serve a useful and decorative purpose. By this means the rear garden will assume a character comparable to that in the front, whereby it would be an enlarged living space within interesting but low “walls.” As the rear there might very well be a small reflecting pool and curved seat, with a hospitable tree as a background.

In case there be a too-near neighbor in the house, as shown at the left, it will improve both properties if a leafy screen of some sort be planted between them on the dividing line.

**CHRONOTHERM**

**modernizes your present automatic system**

... and saves fuel!

You probably have a Minneapolis-Honeywell control, no matter what fuel you burn. 90% have! You think it’s good. And it is! ... for its date. Each year there have been improvements—and the biggest of all is the Chronotherm. Add it to your present system ... get greater comfort and SAVE FUEL!

**WAKES FIRE ... PUTS IT TO BED**

Think what the Chronotherm’s electric clock will do that your manual thermostat can’t. After you go to bed, it automatically cuts the temperature to an economical, healthy level. Before you arise, it notifies your heating plant to get busy. You sleep better. Jump out from under the covers into cozy warmth.

**GIVES YOU LEVELED HEAT**

Day and night, the Chronotherm keeps the temperature on the level you prefer. 48 times a day it “feels” for temperature changes—catches them before they happen—and calls on your heating plant at time to prevent damaging “too low” or an uncomfortable, wasteful “too high.”

**SAVES FUEL AT NIGHT**

It’s simple arithmetic. Temperature cut 10° at night cuts 10 to 30 per cent off fuel costs with a manual thermostat. Leveled daytime comfort means added savings. It costs less to have the Chronotherm than to be without it.

Ask your heating dealer about the Chronotherm, or phone Minneapolis-Honeywell. Branches in all principal cities. Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., 2757 Fourth Ave., South, Minneapolis.
**THE HEALTHIEST, HAPPIEST GIFT OF ALL!**

**BICYCLE for Christmas**

The bicycle is the finest gift any father or friend can give because it's the most ardently desired today. Today, bicycling is contributing to a large degree to the physical and mental alertness of both sexes, young and old. It builds better bodies—it trains athletes for other sports—it is the happiest way to keep fit.

The gift of bicycles for Christmas is assurance of good times and insurance against the ill health of your loved ones. Modern bicycles are reasonable in cost, and there is a bicycle store conveniently located to serve you. Why not give bicycles this year?

**CYCLE TRADES OF AMERICA, INC.**

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A non-profit Association of Leading Wholesalers and Manufacturers of Bicycles and Bicycle Parts.

"It's fun TO KEEP FIT ON A BICYCLE"

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**A KitchenAid Christmas!**

"SURPRISE MODEL"


KitchenAid (the genuine) is the ONLY electrical food preparer for the home that will give you the most complete help in EVERY operation ... and apply masterful skill to each.

It is powerful, capable of ALL the tasks, both light and heavy. It is rugged, durable. It mixes, whips, beats, kneads, chops, slices, shreds, sieves and grinds. It shells peas, extracts juice, polishes silver, sharpens knives, opens cans, freezes ice cream ... and more.

KitchenAid is a lifetime servant. Here is a wonderful gift for all the family ... through all the years. There's a new "surprise" model, the low price of which now makes it possible to own the KitchenAid of which you've dreamed. Easy budget payments, too. Mail coupon for the information that is such good news!

Ask us about using your present small mixer to apply on purchase of KitchenAid

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One of the most objectionable short-comings of the existing house, and yet one not always consciously realized by the layman, is that there is practically no wall space to give a sense of quiet and repose. All good architecture has had generous, unbroken wall surfaces, from the cottage to the monumental structure. The shutters on this existing house are merely ornamental, for obviously if they were wide enough to cover the windows there would not be any wall space left. The old entrance increased the effect of nervousness. In the revised drawing the façade is stripped of its non-essentials, a restrained but tasteful entrance is substituted for a clumsy one, and two low, clipped, ball-shaped clumps flank the doorway. The terrace helps to stress the horizontal, and makes the house look like one integral conception from left to right, instead of a series of jerky interruptions.

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**Try a little tenderness**

(Continued from page 40)

...things, under average development, come naturally with the years. We demand respect instead of earning it when the least thought would tell us that anyone—child or adult—gives homage only where homage is due. We require love because we are parents—not because we are necessarily lovable. Still we have, as parents, the greatest chance in the world to be deeply loved. Our relationship with our children starts on that basis instinctively. But it's up to us whether it develops into something too fine and beautiful for expression or dwindles into a lifeless sense of duty. The same book which listed "Desire for Security" as one of the fundamental desires of childhood also listed "Desire for power and for exhibiting it." And that too is quite as common to adults.

We have simply learned to suppress it under necessity of dealing with other people who have the same and quite as strong a desire. But this urge for power and the exhibition of power can be gratified in children with benefit instead of damage to society. There are two instances of which I think of which perfect examples what can happen when grown-ups use tenderness and imagination instead of commands and brute force with children.

A boy of twelve was the school bully—principally because, for his own self esteem, he had to excel in something and books were not his forte. He saw younger and smaller boys bringing home the A's and B's plus that brought praise and reward. So he started out to balance the scale in the only way which occurred to him—by strength of muscle. The little boys were in most other ways of him and dodged down side streets on their way home to get out of his way. The parents tried scolding and shaming him and met with sullenness and silence. Then the principal sent for him and he started for the office with a cocky swagger of bravado. He came out of the office without the swagger and without the bravado—but with a serious air of pride and responsibility.

The principal was a queer man. He hadn't said a word about the picking on the little kids. He hadn't scolded. He hadn't told him he should be ashamed of himself. He looked Bill over from head to foot and he asked to feel his muscle.

"I was just wondering," he said, "if you're big enough and strong enough to help me out a little—of great deal in fact. I need a boy—about your size to take charge of the younger ones at recess and when they're crossing the street after school. Sort of look after them and see that nothing happens that's dangerous. Think you could do it?"

Could he do it? Could a duck swim or an eagle fly? Pride instead of humiliation—hon—
stead of disgrace. The desire for power and recognition met reasonably and intelligently.

A little girl of eight took a dislike to her baby sister who, naturally, required so much of her mother's time and attention. Such a violent dislike that the parents told her she must not come near the carriage or touch the baby at all. This only intensified her feeling of being an outsider and she took it out in doing everything possible to annoy her mother and disturb her sister. Loudest war whoops at the end of her clothes during nap time, letting the blinds fly to the top in a darkened room, stamping up the stairs, flipping cold water off her fingers as she passed the baby's bed. The mother was frantic and the father furiously angry. Then an aunt came to visit. An aunt with the ability to feel what other people were feeling.

"Let Marion take some of the care of the baby," she suggested and was answered with refusal. "She'd hurt her," the mother insisted.

"Mary is hurt herself. Hurt, because she hasn't learned to adjust herself to the change of not being first and most important any longer," said the aunt. "Give her a chance to love the baby. You can't hate anyone you do things for."

So the next little sister was crying herself into something that resembled a red peony the aunt called Mary.

"Come here, dear, and see if you can do anything for her. I can't get her to stop."

Mary sat down in a low rocker and the baby was put in her arms. The aunt busied herself around the room. Soon there was a gentle rocking, then a low humming. Mary's face was blissful—\n\nThe aunt busied herself around the room. Soon there was a gentle rocking, then a low humming. Mary's face was blissful—\n
The aunt busied herself around the room. Soon there was a gentle rocking, then a low humming. Mary's face was blissful—

"I did it," she whispered, "I got her to stop—and you and mother couldn't—she's my baby now!"

Just try a little tenderness. I watched a man one night working on a jigsaw puzzle, lie couldn't—she's my baby now!

If you've "dreaded" varnishing, here's a new way that is simple as dusting, easier than waxing and requires no skill. Just use MOP-IT-ON... the varnish that needs no brush! MOP-IT-ON refinishes an average floor or linoleum with a cloth spreader in 10 to 15 minutes. Using a folded cloth, it makes furniture and woodwork gleam like new in a jiffy. No sires or backaches. Dries quickly, wears long, easy to keep clean with a damp mop or dust cloth. Ask your dealer for MOP-IT-ON. You'll never go back to wearisome brushing or waxing. Costs no more than other finishes. If you've "dreaded" varnishing, here's a new way that is simple as dusting, easier than waxing and requires no skill. Just use MOP-IT-ON... the varnish that needs no brush! MOP-IT-ON refinishes an average floor or linoleum with a cloth spreader in 10 to 15 minutes. Using a folded cloth, it makes furniture and woodwork gleam like new in a jiffy. No sires or backaches. Dries quickly, wears long, easy to keep clean with a damp mop or dust cloth. Ask your dealer for MOP-IT-ON. You'll never go back to wearisome brushing or waxing. Costs no more than other finishes.

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"Home," writes one wise psychologist, "should mean affection, support, and comfort. Affection and security, the comfort underpinning in the home are infinitely more important than discipline or correction."

Childhood is neither an obscure disease nor a sentimental and poetical state of existence. It is simply a beginning on the adventure of living—a beginning with natural and human desires and limited experience. A beginning which needs help and guidance instead of censure and commands.

"Furney for pottage and venison fine"

[Continued from page 17]

Another tract-writer who " minced not his words," went further. "Such pyle," frothed he, "is an hodge-podge of superstition, Popery, the devil and all his works!" . . . There now!

Nevertheless, throughout the land, in humble cottage and royal castle alike, the making of mincemeat went merrily on. No sooner was the Harvest Home feast out of the way than preparations were started for Christmas. Even today in thousands of English homes, the chop-chop-chopping of mounds of suet, candied peel, raisins, and what-not begins in early November, and goes steadily on until the scores of plum puddings are boiling weeks on end in the great copper; until the larder shelves are piled high with jars of mincemeat, where still reposed a few choice jars of past years' vintage.

Then comes the making of the great plum cake which neither weighs and measures with all the solemnity of a sacred rite, according to the yel lowed recipe written in the precise hand of granny's grandson.

"It is a great nostrum, the composition of this pastry," wrote a foreign visitor to Old England. "It is a most learned mixture, and every family against Christmas makes it. Also a sort of soup with plums, which is not inferior to the pye, which is in their language call'd plum-porridge."

He could have added that all Christmas Eve a guard kept watch of the "pyes" because "sile

thieves," members of the professionally unemployed, with snatch ing hooks were a "nightly fear."

In Great England, it was a price wave, in spite of the fact that practically every home of any consequence in all the land had flung open its doors to the poor and needy for those twelve magic days. From Christmas to Twelfth Night.

"Feed thy poor neighbor," was the rich man's motto, and from the King down to the least Squire, they did it. The wholehearted hospitality of medieval days staggered one. Old records tell us that ten thousand poor neighbors came "every day to meat" to the King's household during Christmas-tide, 1368. One hundred and twenty thousand people "well-fared from one kitchen!"

In 1770, for instance, hear what Sir Henry Grey had cooked "all in a great dish" for little Christian" before he gave it to a few friends! Four goose, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild-duck, two woodcocks, six snipes, four partridges, seven blackbirds, two nets, four oranges, four apples, and a half-dozen pigeons. To this the cooks added a "vasty amount" of other ingredients, such as two bushels of flour and twenty pounds of butter that the enormous pie when ready to serve weighed 165 pounds, measured nine feet in circumference, and had to be brought round at table on a four-wheel cart especially constructed for the purpose! Pepsy to whom we owe so much for graphic pictures of life.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MAN AGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY 35 U. S. STAT. § 261, 1926. .

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PICKLES were getting to the Christmas table by the middle of the seventeenth century. These would probably be the flower of common ash (picked in May while the keys were full grown and tender, and not yet a winged seed), elder buds, broom buds, and ye like.

COCKTAILS? Nothing so effeminate! Our forebears drank wassail from "good brown bowls" a traditional drink as much a part of Christmas hospitality as the celebrated "minch-pye." Waesheal, or wassail, was carefully compounded of a mixture of hot ale, sugar, and nutmeg. On Christmas Eve apples were roasted on a string until they dropped off into a great bowl of this spiced ale, whereupon the beverage became automatically "Lamb's-wool," the origin of which outlandish name much unnecessary flourish, shows the boys a thing or two about mixing the mighty bowl. And as the cups go around, the mirth and wassail will echo back the joviality of long departed years.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!" will cry the wassailers.

And English housewives—even as you and I—will proceed to say "with eats!"

In America, too, punch bowls are coming down from the top shelf of the pantry while grandfather with smacking of lips and much unnecessary flourish, shows the boys a thing or two about mixing the mighty bowl. And as the cups go around, the mirth and wassail will echo back the joviality of long departed years.

HAMILTON BEACH is the mixer. IF YOU WANT ALL THESE MODERN FEATURES! 1870 Western Price 1193

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Now that it's so popular to be asked questions by enquiring reporters, we sent out our own out on a little cross-country jaunt. Here are some of his reports:

Mrs. R. L. Van D. — Youngstown, Ohio: "Do I drink pineapple juice? I love it! Our whole family has DOLE Pineapple Juice for breakfast every morning!"

Miss Wilma N. — New York City: "I like DOLE Pineapple Juice because it's so fresh and fragrant. "It's pure of yours. Please put me down for DOLE every time."

Mrs. Charles M. G. — Chicago: "Our family always has half a dozen cans or so of DOLE Pineapple Juice in the refrigerator. It's the most economical fruit juice I know of, and so convenient. Just open the can and pour."

Mr. Henry J. T. — Birmingham: "I like DOLE Pineapple Juice at night when I come home from work. Yes sir! I understand it's rich in natural energy-yielding fruit sugars and that's why a tall glass of golden pineapple juice always hits the spot when I'm tired and want a refreshing drink."


Regist'd Nurse, Mildred A. McK.— San Diego: "Because DOLE Pineapple Juice has been accepted by the American Medical Association's Committee on Foods and is a good source of Vitamins A, B and C, with important nutritional elements. I've found it especially good for children. They like it too!"

"Want 'Morning, Noon and Night' Free?"


A CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT WILL THRILL HER Can you think of any gift that will be more appreciated? The Hamilton Beach food mixer is not a luxury, but a real labor saver that will be used 365 days of the year to perform 101 kitchen tasks—that will give her extra hours of leisure and pleasure. And its distinctive streamline beauty will adorn the modern kitchen.
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THE AMERICAN HOME

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK
Is your room piano conscious?  
(Continued from page 27)

Ballet, which were very effective. Seating arrangements at the piano vary according to the preference of the individual. The choice today lies between a piano bench and a chair, for the old-time piano stool that whirled tip-tilly and squawked raucously at every whir has about passed out of the picture. You may spend much time at the keyboard usually prefer some kind of chair because it affords the comfort of a back rest during the long hours of practice. A racy, a little jazzy, the piano creates a really lovely picture. The living room illustration shows a pair of antique chairs used at the piano in a home where there are some enthusiastic players of four-hand piano music.

The problem of the upright piano is something to send the decorator—professional or amateur—to the "screaming room." Fortunately for the general, the army of the upright is dwindling, but the remnant must be reckoned with.

The same suggestions about lighting, heat from radiators, balance, may be as successfully applied to the upright as to the grand piano. But the actual placing of the instrument is different.

Occasionally some brave soul will place the upright piano at right angles to the wall with, perhaps, a screen at the back against which is set a grouping of furniture. Much is claimed for this arrangement, both as to tone production and appearance. Very few people, however, can be persuaded to adopt this position, preferring the customary way of placing the instrument flat against the wall. A little ingenuity, however, can redeem this from the commonplace and be productive of interesting results. Bookshelves may be built at either side and above the upright piano to add importance to the piano unit of your room. Again, a pair of screens set at each side with chairs or small tables before the screens will create a very unique group. As to the top, a pair of candlesticks or fine vase or bowl, a bit of Staffordshire, or even a small doll will prove good and sufficient dormant.

Too much stress can not be laid upon the matter of the tuning of the piano. Keeping the instrument in perfect tune is extremely important, not only for the sound of the piano itself but for your own aural protection and as a purveyor to your musical guests. If you persist in listening to an ill-tuned piano it will not be long until your perception of tone will be permanently dulled. This is a point worthy of very thoughtful attention in the case of children, for ear-training is a vitally important part of their musical education. Then, too, your piano must be perfectly tuned for accompaniments for singing and for ensemble playing. This subject of tuning is one that is so universally disregarded that what was said in the first paragraph may well be repeated here—if there is any excuse at all for having a piano in your home, you should feel a responsibility about its care.

Piano owners have an obligation in this regard which, it must be admitted, many of them take very lightly. All too often, people—quite nice people, too—people who would not dream of offering guinea-pig spinach or stuffed warm food—will blandly ask a sensitive musician to use a jangling piano. Occasionally, it is true, they will add apologetically: "The piano may be a little out of tune. I hope you won't mind too much." From then on, the real music lovers suffer pure torture.

In addition to periodic tuning of your piano there are many other items which should not be overlooked. A dependable piano polish applied with the softest of cloths will keep the wooden case in the pink of condition, and a modern stiff brush will prove helpful in clearing dust from the strings and felt. The mention of felt suggests another point. The little hammers which produce the piano tone by striking the strings are covered with fine wool felt, and many a family of moths has been kept off the relief rolls by establishing itself in somebody's piano felt. It is a good thing, therefore, to keep a small amount of moth preventive stowed away somewhere in the "innards" of your piano. Your piano tuner can recommend a good moth preventive—not too smelly—and also show you where to place it under the lid. A little precaution in this matter may save you the cost—no mean sum, either—of having the hammers re-felted. Furthermore, it may save some other valuable possessions. Your own, for, having exhausted the piano felt, enterprising moths have been known to advance upon other furnishings.

More than a Sentiment

Wanting your children to grow up in the home you've built for them, in the environment you've chosen, surrounded by the familiar possessions which link family members in a common interest, is more than a sentiment. You know how important this background to the building of health and character, but have you guaranteed its permanence? If you'd like to read a brief account of how this can be done with life insurance, send the coupon below.

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IMPE
Kay Francis, the pale yellow Semi-cactus winner of The American Home Achievement Medal at New York and Camden and several other distinctions elsewhere. Below is illustrated the exquisitely modeled yellow Pompon, Mrs. B. L. Bonham

Decorative display of amber colored Orchid-flowered Dahlias in an amber glass bowl which won the English Dahlia Society's medal offered for the best exhibit in arrangements at The American Dahlia Society's Show

The American Home again offered its Achievement Medal in several strategic centers of the Dahlia interests. The creation of this award for a meritorious new Dahlia a few years back had a startling effect in the little but very seethingly active Dahlia world. Offered for novelties at the leading shows it has come to be a coveted honor, especially at The National Show in New York. It must be understood that intrinsic distinction and merit are essential and the flowers must be staged in perfection of condition. It may happen, as last year, that no award can be made though the contestants are potentially so imbued. At New York this year very strong competition was brought out and so close were a couple of contestants that for the first time the accolade was conferred upon two quite distinct Dahlias. One is a clear light yellow Semi-cactus Kay Francis, somewhat reminisc.
cent of Frau O. Bracht, but better in color and of more substantial form and chaste quality and it seems to make a deeper impression on you the longer you see it. It was a hot contest indeed that gave a duplicate medal to Velvet Wonder (Hunt) one of those deep, dark red-colored blooms to a stem.

But it was at Camden, New Jersey a little later in the season that the greatest contest and the best display of novelty seedlings was developed in the contest for The American Home Achievement Medal and, again, Kay Francis won. In both places a strong contestant from the same exhibitor was Betty Davis, a clear violet rose, Semi-cactus, delightful form. This latter variety reversed the order of precedence at Baltimore.

Mrs. T. O. M. Sopwith, Straight Cactus, pink grading to paler center
— it beat its associate. An example of how conditions may at times turn the tables.

When it comes to the large bloom, the deep purple-red Murphy's Masterpiece held its own, but its security was assailed in some places by the bright yellow Informal-decorative, Lord of Autumn which established a fine reputation this season. It is indeed immense; the color is bright, the flower is borne up well and its general popularity is attested in that it was a favorite of the multitude of visitors at the

A bright note for the coming months

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Roots, $1.00. Plants, $3.00.

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**dauntly, clean-cut variety of good form and color.**

Bing Crosby, Informal-decorative (Stephenson Dahlia Gardens), winner of the American Home Achieve-ment Medal at the Los Angeles Show, Dahlia Society of Southern California, and at Seattle, Wash., with petals of yellow striped with pale red in irregular narrow lines. It is a seedling of La Fiesta and indeed so very similar in color and form as to be almost identical with its well-known parent.

California Idle, Informal-decorative (Ballay), clear, rather translucent, yellow, winner of the Award of Honor of The AmericanHome Achieve-ment Medal at Boston, and best three-year-old at the Dahlia Society of California Show. Flower carried high on long stems.

Daddy Kemp, Informal-decorative (Kemp), Luminous violet-red: broad, flat petals, gracefully loose. A contestant for the largest bloom, winning in that category at Red Bank, N.J.

Elizabeth Anne, Pompon (Bosla), another addition to the Pompons in glowing rose-red. Its perfection of form is enhanced by its definite tendency to smallness.

Forest Fire, Informal-decorative (Maytrott) lives in mind from the fitness of the name. The broad petals are yellowing red and these are subtended by orange-yellow petals that tend to the whole effect. One of the most distinctive.

Jesse Crawford, Informal-decorative (Troup), Orchid border with shadings from a light tone to the deep color you may find in the leaf of A. Carteya. Really very distinctive and striking in its color.

Kay Francis, Semi-cactus (Eastman), clear light lemon-yellow, carry-

ing the flower well on the stem: a good keeper, holding color well. Flowers freely. This won The American Home Achieve-ment Medal at New York and at Camden and has a number of other championships, such as: the Miller Cup at Maryland. A famous winner of the Specialty Class at Baltimore, with bronze medal of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. A real record on the Pacific Coast.

Miss Vivian, Miniature informal-decorative (Mack) with rich, compact formation tending to approach the ball type. Blooms carried at a lower level than are long stems. Consistently of good form and color.

Mrs. O. M. Sopwith, Cactus (Fire and Masson) pink, shading out to white at the center. A lively, quite animated looking flower. Spriugtime bloom indeed and looks splendidly as exhibited in a basket arrangement at New York. A practical medium-sized flower, carried well on long stems.

Mrs. B. L. Bonham, Pompon

The American Home, December, 1934
FLASH!
Our 1935 introduction, ANGELO ROSSI, won the President of Spain’s Trophy at the California Flower Show in San Francisco. The large apricot and violet to pink flower was 10 inches across. Winner in the undiscerned class at Tacoma.

MARY ELIZABETH REDFERN
Our 1935 introduction, ANGELO ROSSI, won the President of Spain’s Trophy at the California Flower Show in San Francisco. The large apricot and violet to pink flower was 10 inches across. Winner in the undiscerned class at Tacoma.

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Potted plants for gifts [Continued from page 37]

those which thrive when very dry, by watering very stingily, and then only when they are bone dry. Just enough water to thoroughly absorb might be one's motto. Besides they should all be grown in not too high a temperature indoors, and this treatment in itself makes frequent watering unnecessary.

Many of them have fleshy stems and leaves, and therefore are beautifully equipped by nature to carry on quite an independent life, without water.

Sansevierias we all know in the cross-variegated variety. We can looking also for the one with rich yellow bands along the edge of the leaves. It is quite handsome. There's no possibility of not succeeding with them, either. As one grower said, laughingly, "Only a florist can kill a Sansevieria!" The Crassula we know best of all in the missionary Japanese Rubber Plant, C. arborescens. It has a lot of interesting relatives which we can discover if we set out to do that very thing. Some creep and some stand all will flower in clusters usually of delicate blooms that seem in contrast to the sturdy quality of leaf. Echeverias which look somewhat like glorified Hen-and-Chickens, Sempervivum, hold in their diminutive rosette forms misty, opalescent beauty. They are sensitive to too harsh a touch and to water lying in their rimmed hearts. Tall and bearing brightly pink blooms are their fleshy flower stalks.

The Opuntia—known also as Bunny Ear, or Orange Cactus—simply can't be discouraged by any treatment! Even its little ears, when broken off, start setting up a new family. It drives a mean spine, though! Crown of Thorns (Euphorbia splendens), will guarantee deep roser flowers, and can be trained, too, flatly as fruit trees are trained against lattice forms, when it grows older.

There has been much exchanging lately among housewives of the popularly known "air-plants." Its real name is Bryophyllum and if handled properly it will reach up the most amazing, wild flung stalks of small coral-colored flowers, about February. It should spend its summers outdoors, well staked, as it snaps off easily when tall. Re-pot in the fall, and keep quite dry. Its leaves, when they drop and make contact with the soil, will sucker new roots. That unusual plant, Kalanchoe coccinea, because of its bright red clustered flowers, will come into a full popularity this winter and a reasonable price, too. Its flowering is sure, and comes just after the Christmas plants are going into their usual sad decline.

Christmas tables [Continued from page 9]

piano and voice after voice take up the lilting:

"Once again, O blessed time, Thankful hearts embrace thee."

If we lost thy festal chime, What could ever replace thee?"

Song follows song. The fire burning low. Outside, the old familiar lawn lies strange and entranced under a deep blanket of snow overlaid with mysterious purple shadows from the bushes. Suddenly the dining-room door is folded back and a light supper is announced. But how the atmosphere of the table has changed! Lights are out. A circle of whit candles burn in crystal holders around the mirror placed on the mantel. And heaped around the mirror are piles of artificial snow . . . frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. Each end of the table is a mound of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on last year's Christmas. Branches of mistletoe, thorny pepper, white and blackberry, frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. Each end of the table is a mound of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on last year's Christmas. Branches of mistletoe, thorny pepper, white and blackberry, frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. Each end of the table is a mound of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on last year's Christmas. Branches of mistletoe, thorny pepper, white and blackberry, frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. Each end of the table is a mound of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on last year's Christmas. Branches of mistletoe, thorny pepper, white and blackberry, frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. Each end of the table is a mound of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on last year's Christmas. Branches of mistletoe, thorny pepper, white and blackberry, frozen lake in the snow-cove1 hill country.

Possibly the main course will consist of nothing other than a sliced turkey, a simple green salad, and coffee. But for dessert, bring in a large white plate piled high with white ice cream in the top peak of which you have stub a sprig of green pine ... a twig growing on top of a snow-covered pine. And with the ice cream serve a white cake, iced all over in white, and studded with silvery candy shot.

It is a picture to store up for happy memory. It is Christmas day in the evening.
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