

Women and the Home

Radio is the slender wire that brings the world and its affairs into the tiny kitchens and living rooms which hitherto had isolated so many housekeepers in the performance of their duties

—Margaret Bondfield



Further Needs of The Young Child

Summary of a talk by
MRS. C. E. BEEBY (V.)

LAST week we discussed the child's need for love and security. To-day I want to talk about some of the other things necessary for his happiness, and the first one is the need for a calm and peaceful background to his life. The little child's world is full enough of strange and puzzling things without the addition of a couple of moody grown-ups, who are sometimes boisterous and cheerful and sometimes miserable bundles of nerves. The child doesn't know where he is in such a home, and he will develop not one character, but half a dozen, to fit in with the varying moods of his parents. I know it isn't always easy for the mother of a family to be calm and serene. . . . I think the best advice to give a mother who feels tired and over-worked and touchy with her children, is to tell her to neglect all but the absolute essentials in housework. If we could only remember that a child's happiness is more important than highly polished floors and immaculately tidy rooms!

Some mothers say to me, "How on earth can I be calm and serene when I'm naturally a jumpy,

irritable sort of person?" I know it's much harder for some people to be serene than others, but it's astonishing how the habit can be cultivated. And it does help to give the little child the feeling of security he needs if he can have any sort of situation accepted with a serene matter-of-factness. . . .

The next thing the small child needs is a regular routine about his life. The same thing should happen at the same time every day: meals, bath, going to bed, and so on. A young child who doesn't have a quiet and orderly routine has very little chance of developing good habits himself, and he will always be feeling confused because he doesn't know what's going to happen next. . . .

Now I come to the last, and perhaps the greatest need of the child, and that is the need for freedom to grow, and every child should have this, no matter what his age. . . . Most of us, when we were young, had tucks made in our clothes to allow for growing. It's rather a pity we can't do something the same thing in regard to children's minds. We make a set of rules for the control of the three-year-old, but we often forget to let out the tucks as the child grows, and the boy of thirteen may still be under the same discipline as fitted him ten years before. . . . We have to be always reminding ourselves to let out the tucks, as it were, and we must be prepared to allow our children more freedom and more responsibility as they grow up.

(To be continued)

These Should Interest You:

Talks prepared by the A.C.E. Home Science Tutorial Section, the University of Otago:

"In Furnishing, Accessories Count": Monday, July 31, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 2YA 3 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m.

"When There's Meat on the Menu": Thursday, August 3, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m.; Friday, August 4, 2YC 3 p.m.

"You—NEED—Milk": Wednesday, August 2, 4YA 3.15 p.m.

"When Accidents Happen at Home": Friday, August 4, 4YA 3.15 p.m.

"Leaves From a Backblocks Diary—A Private Line": Mrs. Mary Scott, Friday, August 4, 2YA 8.44 p.m.

"They Passed That Way—Their Voyage Out": Mrs. Mona Tracy, Friday, August 4, 3YA 9.5 p.m.

"Louisiana Holiday, Round the Gulf Coast": Dorothy M. Neal, Wednesday, August 2, 4YA 8.41 p.m.

"My New Hat": Josephine Clare, Monday, July 31, 3ZR 3 p.m.

A Small Boy's Garden

In a recent broadcast talk, "Margaret" told about a young friend of hers: "One small boy I know, aged only three when he gardened with me, was a pure delight. Every morning in the spring we had to talk round the garden to see what new flower was 'just peeping,' as he called it, and we had to talk about them in whispers 'case we disturbed them.' And when a flower had bloomed and died he always buried it carefully and gently, putting it 'bye-byes,' he said, till next year. He really loved the flowers and knew everything in my small garden, and could plant small things like primroses as well as I could myself. In his own small garden he had the weirdest mixture. Tomatoes and sweet peas struggled for possession of the wall at the back. Violas, pansies, stocks, blue bells, and marigolds all were crowded in. If I'd planted them so closely they would have sulked and probably died, but in his garden they ran riot, and how proud he was when he could pick a bunch of his own flowers for me or for his mother, and arrange them himself in a vase of his own choice."

Cycling Over the Arctic Circle!

Those of us who own a bicycle know the joys of that economical if leg-weary means of travel. In a recent "Listener" you may have read about Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hill's adventures while cycling round Europe on a bicycle built for two, and now here is a report of two girls who cycled into the Arctic Circle. One of this venturesome pair, Barbara Cotton, says: "To bicycle over two thousand miles, on a journey of five thousand miles, sounds a formidable holiday, but it's really not beyond an average cyclist. I did it with a friend last summer, crossing Denmark and Sweden to Finland, and up through Lapland to the Arctic Ocean. . . . The roads in Finland are rather bad for cycling—anyhow, the ones

we struck. The great Arctic Highway sounded more promising, but it turned out to be the very grand name for a glorified cart-track! But it's the only road in the world to the Arctic Ocean. Often it was easier to get off and walk, and we used to envy the people there who jogged along comfortably on their huge cushion-tyred cycles. Our machines looked

Boys and Girls

This week, boys and girls will find their items of news in a special section on page 27.

like toys compared with them; though I must say they stood up to the strain well, even when we had to take them to pieces and wash the thick dust of the highway off in a lake—and then, of course, found we had forgotten how to put them together again! We didn't have a single puncture. . . . At last we crossed the Arctic Circle. It was a blazingly hot morning, which made the notice announcing 'Arctic Circle' seem very unreal."

The Eternal Problem

We are all glad to learn of practical fashion hints: what accessories to choose, what lipstick should suit us best, and so on. In a new series of fashion talks at present being given from 2YA at 11 a.m. on Mondays, "Lorraine" presents much helpful advice on women's dress problems. This Monday she will tell listeners, among other things, of an infallible guide in choosing colours to suit one's particular type of complexion.



WEEKLY RECIPE

American Doughnuts

Ingredients: 2 eggs, 1 cup castor sugar, 1 cup sweet milk, 1½ tablespoons melted butter, 3 teaspoons baking powder, pinch of salt, tiny bit of grated nutmeg, 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Flour that has been sifted twice, sufficient to roll out in a soft dough. Roll thin and cut with a round cutter and a smaller cutter to make a hole in the middle. Fry in a deep pan of very hot lard until brown. Lift out carefully and dry on paper on a cake stand. Dust with castor or icing sugar. Cinnamon may be added to the sugar if desired.