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THE BLONDES OWN SHAMPOO

YOUR GARDEN AND MINE

By Ann Earncliff Brown (No. 61)

A FEW weeks ago my lawn, or more correctly, my mown grass, was just a stretch of brittle brown ends resembling the business end of a switch broom. Of course I bewailed the loss of cool green verdure, and prayed for rain. Now, having pushed a lawn mower over radiantly green but rather too exuberantly revitalised lawn I'm just a little tired of nature's response, and am almost in agreement with a friend who threatens to lay his city 1/8 acre in green concrete and paint a few flowers in suitable borders and beds. As he is an artist, naturally he has an advantage, but even he may be surprised at the initial cost of his labour saving green. Tennis enthusiasts know how near perfection is the well laid concrete court, and those of us who have felt asphalt or concrete, set in even the loveliest of lawns, to be a regrettable scar, are losing all grounds for aesthetic objections. The new delightful green surface on cement courts has certainly taken away much of my personal preference for grass courts—but alas! these are still very much luxury items.

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However, I mow my grass in the cool of evening, working till the light fails. Apart from the advantage of coolness, I find towards the last that I cover the ground surprisingly fast—that is, until daylight reveals the increasingly generous missed strips.

I have strictly limited the area to be machine-mown these days. Beyond, the grass grows unchecked into its second and in places third haycrop. Until the scythe once more lays the grass in long swathes, I find myself enjoying wild flower posies gathered from this handkerchief meadow.

I could add to this list, but of course I fear to shock you who have or aim to have a perfect lawn. Were I also seeking perfection, I would need to find some other locality, and begin bringing my lawn up in the way it should grow. The most obvious outcasts from this ideal lawn are dandelions, buttercups, daisies, white clover, moss, plaitain, and yarrow. All of these seed at mid-summer, so of course I would treat them before they could drop their seed. If my lawn were small I'd weed surface rooting, yarrow and buttercup by hand, or use a tiny weeding fork. A special tool for prodding dandelion roots right out would be needed. Working very carefully all over I'd then fill up the weed spaces with sand and lawn seed, and roll. Even so I would not be able to look on my ideal lawn, for,

as every lawn expert knows, weeds are great warriors against whom one wages endless war.

If the lawn should be larger I could use lawn sand, or any of the excellent liquid weed killers now on the market. Or, I could perhaps afford an expert gardener.

Meanwhile, I delight in your ideal lawns as I glimpse them in passing but lie happily on my bit of mere grass.

DICKENS SERIALS

A number of short serials on Dickens stories has been secured by the NBS for inclusion in the Women's Morning session. At the moment they are running from Station 2YA only but when the serials running from other stations are concluded, the Dickens serials will be heard. The first, "Dombey and Son" concludes at 2YA on Wednesday, March 19, and on Saturday, March 22, episode 1 of "Great Expectations" will be heard. Each serial has 13 episodes

Uses For Those Old Stockings

(By L.J.S.)

WHEN stockings have eventually run to ladders and holes too big to mend, do not throw away as useless. Actually, they can be used to prolong the life of other pairs of silk stockings still in use, as threads drawn from these old stockings are by far the best thing to use when mending ladders. Take a strand of silk from a pair which matches in colour the stockings to be mended, and then do a series of fine chain stitches down the length of the run. The result will be a practically invisible mend.

As a saving for the toes of stockings, try the following. Cut neat toe-caps from the old stockings, slip them over the new ones, and stitch by machine, cutting away the edges close to the stitching. These will last a long time without fraying, the seam will not be felt, and the stockings will last longer.

Another handy idea is to use an old silk stocking as a paint strainer. Roll down the top of the stocking and fit it over the outside of the tin—stocking inside—and, provided that the foot has not run to holes too badly, the silk will make a fine and effective strainer.

Stockingette undies can be mended with the remnants of silk stockings. Any patching could be done in the form of appliqué work, but in this case be sure to stitch closely to avoid flayed edges.

Soaked in water and wrung as dry as possible, silk stockings are an excellent substitute for chamois leather when wiping over windows and mirrors.

The following notion will be found useful when packing a much pleated skirt. Cut the leg off an old stocking, and then after folding the pleats into place, drag the whole skirt through the stocking, and pack it carefully without further folding. In this way the pleats will arrive uncreased and the skirt will take up far less room than usual.



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