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"Days Are So Long"

PLANNING THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 13.)
narrate them when she will no longer
be able to read them.

ONE more thing is included in her Old Age Plan. Up till now her gardening has been desultory and amateurish. To-day it is thorough and far-seeing.

She is studying her garden from the viewpoint of old age. She has become interested in the art of the herbalist and she is learning the stories that have grown up with each old-fashioned plant and flower. She is learning the leaves and petals that were used in the old-fashioned simples for healing, for magic—even for love potions.

She will be a very fascinating old lady. She will be friendly and wise, and she will have the magic of charm.

ONLY the other day a young girl said to me: "Who are the people who have charm?" We talked it out while the band played noisy dancemusic and the pretty-coloured frocks whirled all about. There was youth, gaiety and attractiveness in the room. But charm?

"Only the very young and the very old have charm!" she said, wistfully.

AND I thought of some of the old ladies that I knew, all over eighty. There is one who loves parties and when she stays out after midnight takes off her shoes and creeps to bed like a guilty schoolgirl.

There is another who loves racemeetings and church equally well. Brought up by strict parents, she still feels uneasy in her conscience when she goes to a race-meeting. So next day she always goes to church and prays for forgiveness,

There was one old lady, I remember well, who had the gift of swearing in a pleasant, damn-your-eyes manner, that gave her a singular fascination to all the young men of her acquaintance. Though bedridden, she never lacked visitors.

They live, these old ladies, to the top of their bent. They have character that makes youth seem insipid and middle-age dull. They have seen much and learned much. Old age has no terrors for them. They do not know it has already come.

I think, when they pass on, they will be saying to themselves: "What a pity I should die so young."

IT is doubtful if the average radio listener realises the painstaking hours of rehearsal that go into an act before it goes on the air. Jack Lumsdaine and Sheila Riddette spend many hours rehearsing their session for 2GB every week. Mr. Lumsdaine is a strong believer in perfection, and he certainly achieves it in his radio sessions.

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