

ELLEN'S DIARY

By an Island Farmer's Wife

The same blue as that yesterday we saw above a hilltop today, tending low to touch the arms of the wide-spread birch tree there. . . a sunny silvery, blue, reminiscent of something. It is curious how the like will return a scene to mind. Even though many years have elapsed since one garnered and stored it there: A patch of sky, a bridge of moonlight, a wishing star, a rainbow rain on the roof, wind about the eaves.

"Let's sit here a few minutes and talk about the long ago—when you were a little girl"—granddaughter will suggest sometimes when the day is drawing in and twilight commencing to spread its star-dust. "I must go soon but" with a gay smile, "we have a little time yet." So little, folks sometimes have . . . and there are occasions when a light word or a way of the hand at parting we unsuspectingly have said a long good-by. But what would we have said, could we have seen the hovering shadow?

Would we have sent our friend or acquaintance so casually away? Should there have been tears and sighs? Not these to mar any parting. But we could have expressed our gratitude for the friendship, could have told something of our appreciation and regard. . . . And then, as we learned again this week at the sudden passing of a lad we had known, one who had spent many days at Alderlea in his work of carpentry—a shy, quiet fellow—there was no time to say it. Lips that might have replied are suddenly dumb, smiles stilled forever. And our world made poorer . . . as life goes on.

But this has nothing to do with death, though it was born of shadows, but only with life. And the silvery blue was the shade of the bride's gown. Taffeta it was, like a tiny wind in the poplar trees in summer, it rustled along the aisle and changed color with every play of the light. Was it blue, after all? Or more nearly silver, reminding of the sea on a warm lazy day—star out, when tides are low? We found it difficult to determine the hue, even though seated in the pew behind we had opportunity to study it. When a surbean, a modest reverent one of the Sabbath, stole in from a window to caress it, it was shot with many a lustre.

The bodice was fitted—we knew there were strips of whalebone within to give substance to, and fit its wearer. Intriguing ruchings of white lace were at neck and wrists. And we recall wondering just where the openings might be. Likely on the shoulder and beneath an arm—fastened invisibly with hooks and eyes. The skirt was long and wide after a fashion of those years, made severely plain, the better to display the loveliness of the exquisite material.

The hat too, was wide and pinned in place above the pompadour with long hat-pins with blue-jewelled heads. Of fine braid it was white, flowered and feathered and softly veiled. All white but the nosegay. It was of pink, velvety forget-me-nots, quite scentless we knew, in spite of their natural air. The plume which was draped along the crown was a lovely thing . . . cropped from an ostrich in that far country we had some acquaintance with—down where the war had been.

Until tomorrow—Diary—
Good-night

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Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. Is it ever permissible for an employer to take his woman secretary to luncheon or dinner?

A. When strictly a matter of business, there is nothing wrong with this.

Q. When wearing an evening gown, should a woman wear gloves during the entire evening?

A. This is optional. She may remove them and check them with her coat if she prefers.

DOROTHY DIX'S COLUMN—

Worried Student

Education Need Not Mean Loss Of Faith

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm a first-year honor student at a university, taking such subjects as philosophy, psychology and comparative religions. As our philosophy professor himself says, the purpose of an arts education is to jolt the student into thinking for himself. My parents, who have not had a university education, call me a cynic, skeptic and a generally doubting, heartless person. I think the fact that I am going through for social work indicates I do have some regard for the feeling of others.



Muriel Nissen

I was once a very religious person—now I don't know. Surely there would be no progress if we all accepted what we were told as gospel truth. It is evidence enough that so much of what was once accepted as true has been disproved. The motto of our college is "The Truth Shall Make You Free"—or is ignorance bliss?

Surely my present confused state of mind will not last but is only a phase necessary to realize how little I know. Surely my education will fill the void it has created with other worthwhile things. Or must I always wander worth nothing to cling to?

CAROLINE M. M.

ANSWER: Since you are in a quaking mood, may I also remind you that "A little learning is a dangerous thing," and you, who are embarking on the great experience of a university education, have acquired very little as yet. The enormous fund of the world's knowledge is at your feet, but you will walk a long way before you do much more than wade about its edges.

TRY THE BIBLE

Now let me recommend a little reading. Your university's motto is taken from the eighth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. Read it, and you will see that truth in this instance, as in all others, is God! Knowing that God is the Truth will free your mind of all doubts as to your ultimate destiny and your immediate aims. To ally the confusion that has crept into your soul through a sudden overdose of higher education, why not make an appointment for some good discussions with your pastor?

While it is true that knowledge has disproved many facts once held to be true, there are certain immutable verities that have held since the beginning of time, despite countless efforts to prove them worthless. The fundamentals of your church, the integrity of your country, the love and devotion of your family, are things you live with day in and day out, accepting them unquestionably.

I know something of the university you attend, and nothing you will learn there will make you waver from these essential truths. As you progress in your quest for knowledge, you'll learn that education only emphasizes the necessity for faith in these basic things of life. Knowledge should be constructive, not destructive; use it to build your intellectual resources, not destroy them!

Since you have chosen social work as your calling, you will have more than an average need for faith, a humane heart, and complete selflessness. Don't let a wrong conception of the word "truth" throw you off balance into an abyss of disbelief and apathy.

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm 18 years old, two years younger than my fiancé. He expects to be drafted and we'd like to get married before he goes into the Army. My parents are willing to sign for the marriage license but his people aren't. We've known each other for two years.

UNDECIDED

ANSWER: Your fiancé is too young to be married, and in view of the uncertainty of his immediate future, is in no position to assume the responsibility of a wife. Abide by the decision of his parents; postpone the wedding until he's back in civilian clothes.

DEAR MISS DIX: My sister and I disagree on this case. A few weeks ago, on a party, a friend of mine of long standing had a few too many cocktails. She was, to be brief, making a fool of herself. People were staring and talking. I like the girl and didn't want to see her belittled herself, so I talked to her and tried to make her come to her senses. I thought I was being a friend. My sister said I should have minded my own business.

D. R.

ANSWER: There are times to mind one's own business, and times to interfere. This was one of the latter. I don't see how a friend could stand by quietly and watch someone she liked make a public show of herself. You were perfectly right to make an effort to set the girl straight. I hope you succeeded.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of general interest through this column.

and spraying, clipping, leaf gathering and such jobs for the person who is mechanically inclined or who has a really big piece of ground.

The Stars Say --

By Genevieve Kemble

First Plantings

Strictly speaking, the first plantings will be the seeds started in flats on the window sill or in hotbeds or green houses. These are sown early in April and by the time they are ready to transplant to permanent quarters outside they will be six to ten inches high. Things that should be started early in this way are those that if sown directly out of doors would hardly have sufficient time to mature or flower. Tomatoes, cabbage, and peppers come in this category in the vegetable and petunias, zinnias, begonias and scores of other flowering plants.

Many gardeners in the cities and towns are able to buy these as started plants in flats from seedsmen or nurserymen. But in some cases, of course, this is not possible. Then again there some gardeners who, to make certain of particular varieties, grow their own plants anyway. Where the garden is large and several hundreds of started plants are needed, it is cheaper to grow one's own. In this case, however, a hotbed is advisable. For the construction of these affairs one should consult a government bulletin. For starting seed indoors use a good mixture of sand and fine loam.

First planting outside will be very hardy things that are not afraid of frost and like to make their best growth in cool weather. Sweet peas are in this group, and grass seed and nursery stock. The latter is the trade name for young vines, shrubs and trees, ready for transplanting. One can hardly plant these things too soon.

Short Cuts

One of the easiest shortcuts both with flowers and vegetables is to use started plants as described earlier. These can go outside almost as soon as it is safe to sow seeds. If handled carefully one can have flowers and new vegetables at least two weeks ahead of usual in this way. Another trick is to sow some seed of each packet a week or two before the normal time and then protect the young seedlings with paper caps, pieces of glass or upturned flower pots until the weather really turns warm. Some people start a hill of melons, squash or even corn in a berry box indoors, then plant box and all outside without disturbing the roots.

For Tomorrow

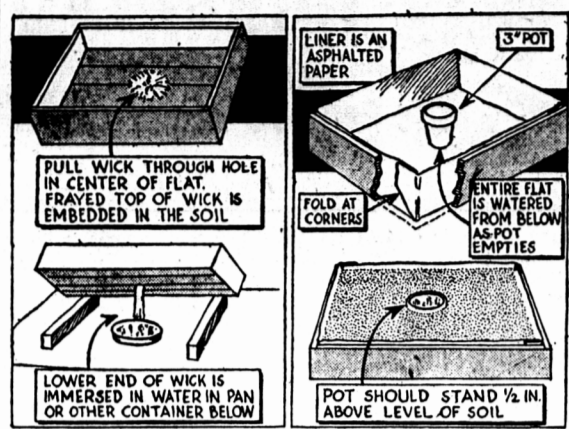
AN intriguing day, with some auguries of contradiction. While the energies and impulses may be keyed to definite and concrete objectives, the inner creative forces and mental faculties have a more aspirational or idealistic root-source. For genuine and lasting attainment, with soul introspection rather than external drive, it would be wise to supplement necessary activities by a play of higher motives and intuitions. Romance also inspires.

For the Birthday

Those who on birthday it may be spurred to apply energies and initiative in putting over practical and workaday objectives with rare initiative and talent. Such should incite to shrewd organization with creative skill and ardent purpose. While vim and determination may be essential to real progress, back of concrete efforts and decisive action there may be subtle compulsion from inner sources with inspired incentives. Such should not be smothered or suppressed, but bring idealism into sordid materialistic accomplishment.

A child born on this day is graciously endowed with intangible or idealistic urges for very mundane or practical ambitions. Sourced in spiritual and creative purposes, it should have a romantic and worthy life.

You Can Water Seed Box Safe Way Florists Use



Two Methods of Watering Seed Box O. K.'d by Science.

Automatic watering methods, which are widely practiced by florists can easily be adopted by amateur gardeners who start seeds in their homes. They make it possible to provide constant moisture for indoor seed boxes without danger of overwatering, or forgetting to water the plants, with possibly fatal consequences.

Amateurs who prefer to start their own seeds indoors rather than purchasing seedlings plants, are able to make important savings, and to enjoy an unlimited selection of the subjects to be set out in their gardens. They can grow exactly the varieties they prefer, including the latest novelties, or old favorites. Latest methods of preventing disease, using artificial light when needed, and regulating moisture make success certain for those who use them.

Most failures of flower and vegetable seeds to grow are probably due to either a lack or an excess of moisture. If the soil gets too dry, the tiny seedlings with their shallow roots may perish in an hour. If kept too wet, fungi may develop, resulting in the fatal disease called "damping off." To keep the moisture "just right" was formerly a matter of experienced judgment, and required a constant watch on the seed flat, difficult for the amateur.

But science has found two methods which may be followed, both better than spraying on water from above. These methods are illustrated. On the left is the wick method; on the right, sub-irrigation.

The wick method consists of using a burlap wick or one of fibre glass, inserting one wick in the centre of the flat spreading it over about three inches in diameter on the bottom of the flat inside and letting the wick hang in the water. The water then moves up to the soil by capillarity and keeps the flat at a constant uniform moisture content.

In the subirrigation system a waterproof liner is used to hold water until it rises through the soil above. If a pan sufficiently large is used beneath the flat, in using the wick method, sufficient water for several days may be provided, and it will rise only as fast as needed, enabling plants for a day or two, when necessary. With either method there is danger of tiny seedlings being washed out of the soil when water is applied.

How Can I . . .

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I easily wash painted walls?

A. Use two pails of lukewarm water. Wet a cloth and sprinkle sparingly with baking soda. Wash a convenient space, rinse with clear water, and wipe dry. All grease and dirt disappears with very little rubbing.

Q. How can I polish faucets?

A. Nothing is better for this purpose than half a lemon after the juice has been squeezed out. After scouring, wash and polish with a soft, dry cloth. It will shine like new.

Q. How can I remove varnish stains from fabric?

A. Rub the spot with turpentine or benzine. Then wash the fabric thoroughly.

Morning Smile

Worth it

"You don't mean to say you went to that expensive place in the High Street to have your photograph taken?"

"But, my dear, they take marvellous photographs. Molly went there and you couldn't recognize her!"

Argument

"Just look at that bunch of cows."

"Don't say bunch, say herd."

"Herd of what?"

"Herd of cows."

"Sure, I've heard of cows."

"What do I care if a cow heard. I haven't said a thing that I'm ashamed of!"

Cook's Corner

LIVER CORN MEAL PIE

(6 servings)

Liver Filling: One pound beef liver, 1/4 cup shortening, 2 table-spoons flour, 1 1/2 cups tomato juice, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, 1/4 teaspoon chill powder, 1 cup sliced onions, 1 cup green beans, 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce.

Cut liver in one-inch strips; flour lightly. Melt shortening; brown liver in hot shortening slowly on all sides. Sprinkle the 2 table-spoons flour over liver and stir to combine; then add tomato juice, salt, pepper, chill powder and onion.

Stir until ingredients are well mixed; cover and cook slowly 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans and Worcestershire sauce just before putting filling in pie shell.

Pastry: Two-thirds cup corn meal, 1 1/2 cups approved flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup shortening, 5 to 6 table-spoons water.

Sift together corn meal, flour and salt. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse bread crumbs. Add water, a little at a time until mixture will hold together. Roll out 1/2 of pastry to fit an 8 or 9-inch pie pan; put liver filling in pan.

Roll out remaining pastry to make top crust; seal edges well; nick surface to release steam. Brush top with milk or cream, if desired. Bake in very hot oven (450 degrees F.) 10 minutes; reduce heat to moderate (350 degrees F.)



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and bake 10 to 15 minutes longer or until brown. Cut in wedges and serve.

HISTORIC PORT
Digby in Nova Scotia was named in honor of the admiral who commanded the British convoy that brought loyalist refugees to the port in 1785.

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