Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Reader:—1. Baked beans, brown-bread nut sandwiches, coffee, apples, pumpkin pie, doughnuts and nuts would make a good, old-fashioned Hallowe'en supper. And, by the way, the old-time Hallowe'en menu is by far the most up-to-date one! If, however, you prefer something a little more dignified serve broiled oysters, chopped celery salad in hollowed-out apples and ice cream molded in shape of little witch hats. In the old-fashioned menu all kinds of sandwiches can be substituted for the baked beans and sweet cider for the coffee. 2. The three-bowl fate is a very old one; take three bowls the same size, fill one with clear water the second with soapy water, and leave the third one empty; blindfold the aspirant for knowledge and instruct him or her to use the third finger of the left hand (wedding ring finger). If he dips into the clear water the future mate will be young and good looking, if into the soapy liquid, the mate will be a widow or widower, and if into the empty bowl, no marriage for a year.

Housewife:—To build a new house in the spring with all possible labor-saving devices and with electric power installed—yours is indeed a pleasant task and I am happy to make suggestions. Arrange for attachments in all your rooms so that you can use the various electrical appliances. You will want a vacuum cleaner, of course. You can also use this power for laundry work, cooking and the sewing-machine.

An open fire is a never-ending source of pleasure, so plan to have one or more open hearths. A clothes chute leading from the first and second floors to the basement saves many steps, for soiled clothes are simply dropped down the chute into a receptacle below. Connect the furnace by wires with the floors above, so that the drafts can be turned on or off without a trip to the cellar.

Well-planned and well-lighted cellar stairs add much to the comfort of the women folks. The best plumbing and fixtures are none too good. Together with the lighting fixtures they should be plain in construction and pattern, but the best you can afford. A lavatory on the first floor is a great convenience, while a well-equipped laundry is most desirable. Place your woodbox and your refrigerator so that they can be filled from the outside. This prevents the tracking of dirt into the house. The kitchen needs special attention. A convenient arrangement of sink and stove should be provided for, as well as good cupboards and a cabinet. If the lateer is placed against the dining-room wall, opening into both rooms, much of the work of carrying dishes from one room to another may be saved.

You can scarcely have too many closets. One for linen should have wide deep shelves and drawers. Plain trim and good finish for your wood work will make it easy to keep clean, and a good quality of window-glass will give equal satisfaction.

Many up-to-date houses have a sleeping-porch. Build one now or plan to add it later.

Julia:—Hope chests vary greatly in size. The small ones are about thirty-six inches in length, while the large ones takes up as much room as a box couch. Cedar is the favorite wood, as the cedar keeps moths away; some chests of mahogany and walnut are cedar lined, although there are others of plain mahogany, walnut, cherry or similar woods. The engaged girl usually keeps all of her household linens stored in a chest of this kind, sheets, pillow cases, towels, centrepieces, etc. I am unable to furnish you with the names of stores at which these chests can be bought or the prices of same, but as all the large stores keep them in stock you can easily obtain this information by writing.

Viviette:—You will be sorry to learn, Viviette, that the class to be held for dairymaids at Guelph has been postponed and that instead of starting about the 1st of October it will start some time in January.

Curious:—Following is a list of the "fancy meats" available on the market at a lower rate than the primal cuts, but little used by the average housewife: Beef brains, sheep brains, pork brains, lamb fries, beef fries, calf and pork feet, calf, lamb and pork heads, calf, veal, beef, pork, and lamb livers, calf, pork and sheep plucks, beef and pork tripe, beef and calf sweetbreads, pork and ox tails, pork ears, beef hanging tenders, beef, pork and sheep hearts, jowls, pork kidneys, pork snouts, p ork lips, pork tongues, lamb, beef and calf tongues. And in this connection, how many housewives of this busy generation know of the careful economies of our pioneer grandmothers? Of the cow or the hog killed and used to the last half ounce of its food value? In the evolution of time the factory took charge of the killing-out and dressed and placed on our shop counters the neat and high-priced roast and steak and chop. But we seem to have gradually forgotten about many parts of the animal. Pigs and cows still have feet and legs and livers and backbones, snouts and ears, tails and tongues, notwithstanding the fact that the use of these toothsome dainties has become unfashionable.

CLEAN UP THE GARDEN

Late in the fall after the farm work is done, one of the first chores about the farm yard that deserves attention is that of cleaning up the rubbish, dead plants and weeds. During the past summer the farm garden came into more prominence than ever. It is well to plan now on getting the maximum production from this source next summer when it will probably be more important than ever to have a good home-grown supply of garden stuff and vegetables. Dead weeds, tomato vines and all other litter should be raked into heaps and burned. Such rubbish, if left through the winter, provides shelter for noxious insects and pests that will hibernate through the cold weather, reproduce their species and be ready to pounce upon and injure the new garden.

Manure Garden in Fall

After the garden is raked and cleaned, a good coat of manure should be spread over the ground and plowed under. Fall plowing not only hastens the decay of the manure, but it destroys a good many grubs and cutworms. For best results, plenty of fertilizer is required on garden soil. A small garden properly managed can be made to furnish more vegetables for table use than one several times its size improperly cared for, and will require less time for planting and care. If the garden is not fenced in and the chickens are allowed free range, then it is a good plan to fence off a good garden space with chicken tight fence this winter so it will be ready to protect the garden next spring.

Clear Away Untidy Things

After the grass is dead, no doubt a good many old bones and sticks will be found in the yard where they were deposited by the family dog. Such things look untidy and should be carried off to the rubbish heap. Old tin cans and the like, somehow get into conspicuous places, possibly one time a treasure of the smallest boy on the farm. It takes only a little time to clear away such untidy things from about the yard, and it can be counted as time well spent. All gardens and especially our emergency gardens need the addition of plant food and organic matter. This will put life into the soil; it will make it loose, friable and easily worked in spite of the baking sun, beating rain or continued tramping.

Nothing will so quickly and effectively bring about these results as will a liberal application of barnyard manure. Give your garden a coating six inches deep if you can obtain it, but do it now.

Burn Garden Refuse

Before applying the manure clean up and burn all the refuse and trash of last year's garden as it furnishes a splendid place for diseases and insects to spend the winter. By cleaning up the garden you are taking the first step necessary for a pest-free garden next summer.

Spread the manure over the lot evenly and then plow or fork it under, but do not attempt to level, since the rough, ridge-like effect will allow all the water to soak in and more quickly the ridges will quickly dry and the garden may be planted at least a week earlier.

No one thing will tend to increase the productiveness of your garden or make it easier to handle than manure, and lots of it. You will be surprised at the vigor, thrift and succulence of the vegetables as well as the quantities obtainable from a very small area. Year after year, as you keep adding the annual application of manure the soil will improve so that gardening will be a profitable pleasure. Straw, grass and leaves may greatly help in maintaining the life and fertility of your garden soil. They are especially rich in plant food and organic matter. It is for this reason that forest land when first cleared produces such abundant crops.

Leaves should never be burned. If you have large quantities, haul them into a corner of the garden and pile them, mixing first a thick layer of leaves and then a layer of dirt.

If the leaves and grass are handled in this manner, they will soon decay and form a rich organic compost, fine for all garden crops, and especially good for forcing.

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INTERNATIONAL LESSON
OCTOBER 27.

Lesson IV. Isaac and Rebekah—Genesis 24. Golden Text, Prov. 3. 3, 4.

Time and Place.—Isaac was about forty years old at the time of his marriage and made his home at Beer-lahai-roi, near the edge of the wilderness. He came to his father's encampment to await the result of Eliezer's quest. The distance from Beersheba to Haran was above four hundred miles.

Verses 1-9. Thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred—In Palestine to this day the father takes the initiative in the son's marriage. The great significance of the event is indicated in the care Abraham took in arragning for its consummation. He selected the most honored retainer in his household and, placing him under the solemn oath, charged him to the most solemn oath, charged him to kindred in Mesopotamia. The marriage was a religious matter, therefore it must be with a woman who was a worshiper of the true God. The blood of the chosen people must be kept pure from the idolatrous strain of the Canaanite population. The servant received full power to negotiate the marriage. It was a marriage by proxy.

12, 14. O Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham—The servant has full power to act, but he casts himself upon the favor of the God of Abraham. He proposed a test by which the will of the Lord might be made known; the maiden who should freely give him drink from the well and draw water for his camels should be the chosen one. In itself this would be an indication of the girl's character courtesy and friendliness are valuable indications of character among any people. Great issues are often determined by very simple actions.

22-28. The man took a golden ring, etc.—This was not the bridal present or dowry, but a gift as a reward for the kindness shown and a token of the standing and wealth of the family to whom the servant was attached. Blessed be Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham—He worshiped God on account of the success of his mission. He had been directed to the family of Nahor, the close kindred of Abraham, clearly a providential fact.

50. The thing proceedeth from Jehovah—Laban and Bethuel recognize the providential leading in the matter; they could not speak one way or the other; the matter was decided.

57-59. We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth—The relatives had agreed to the surrender of Rebekah, but they pleaded for delay. Jacob had to wait long for his bride in this very place. Eliezer was unwilling to tarry; he knew the dilatory ways of his own East. His was a high commission from the servant of the living God. The negotiations between the messenger and the girl's kindred came to an end; the girl must give her consent. This consent would practically complete the formalities of marriage. All that remained was to convey the bride to the home of the bridegroom. I will go—She took the matter in her own hand. As the sequel shows, she was a woman of energy and decision. Isaac was meditative and devout: his life had few changes and no adventures. He lacked the initiative of Abraham and the energetic shrewdness of Jacob. Rebekah supplied his lack in these respects.

60. Our sister, be thou the mother of thousands, etc.—This blessing brings out the great value placed upon posterity by the Hebrews. It is even so with modern Jews. Parenthood was the highest honor and greatest evidence of the favor of God. To be the mother of a great people was the greatest blessing a woman could desire.

64-67. She alighted from the camel—In the east it is customary for men and women to dismount when a great personage is approaching. Women also frequently refuse to ride in the presence of men. Th servant had informed Rebekah that the man whom she saw approaching was her future husband; she therefore took a veil and covered herself. The putting on of the veil is a part of the marriage ceremony. The bridegroom is not permitted to see his bride's features until she is absolutely committed to his care. Isaac brought her into his mother's tent—Sarah died three years before. To lead Rebekah to his mother's tent was to install her officially as the recognized wife of his clan. Isaac was comforted after his mother's death—This indicates the prominence of the position of women in the lives of the patriarchs. Her place was subordinate, but her prerogatives were definite and her influence great.

THE TRAPPER.

Women and Trapping.

The exodus of men to the war and the war industries has given occasion for the women to display their versatility in doing much of the work which has heretofore been considered man's exclusive property. In city and country alike, women are filling many of the vacancies in the different occupations created by the departure of the men. Little wonder we have, then, when we hear that a good number of the gentler sex have gone in for that activity which has hitherto been completely dominated by masculinity—trapping.

The pleasures and profits of trapping will not be long overlooked by women when they discover the increasing scarcity of men who were formerly engaged at this occupation. The war is getting its share of trappers. Every trapper that goes to war leaves behind a valuable fur harvest which is sure to be lost unless someone is there to take his place. Everything is set for the entrance of the woman trapper or, following the rules of modern parlance, the trapperette.

The women who have already undertaken trapping have found the trapping life to be a complete surprise in its healthful aspects, representing, as it does, the most refreshing and invigorating exercise. The actual work of trapping is not too heavy for the ordinary woman; in fact, the action and life in the open infallibly builds up new strength and vigor in the feminine sex. From the woman's standpoint, too, trapping is one of the most interesting activities in which she can engage. A few months of trapping will undoubtedly give the new trapperette a number and variety of experiences she has never met with before.

Trapping is not so hard to learn as some may think. It may require a little time for the woman to become an expert in trapping; but an adequate proficiency can be acquired within a very short time, and after that new knowledge rapidly and continuously comes to the trapperette with a corresponding increase in her skill. Many women have already shown the skill and ability of veteran trappers.

Perhaps the most appealing side of trapping to the woman is the real profits that lie therein. Men trappers consistenly engaged at this activity have made a great deal of money. Women can do the same. Whether working in spare time or full time, the trapperette will find this easy work very remunerative—bringing unexpected returns both in money and in health. Someone must replace the trappers gone to war. The country always presents a fine market for fur catches—is willing to pay a good price for the right kind. Here is woman's chance to be genuinely useful in supplying this demand and be paid well for her work. Wise women are beginning to embrace the healthful and profitable life of the trapperette.

Poultry

The average person when confronted with the words "a balanced ration," knows little or cares less as to its meaning. "Poultry" or "birds" are seldom alluded to by him—he keeps "hens."

Each year the various counties have their fairs and poultry shows; to these large numbers of country folk go, but what do they learn from the exhibit? What do they want with a "show bird?" What need to worry about "strain"? "Hens is hens."

Now it seems there should be a happy medium. It is not necessary that the farmer should equip his hen house with the latest scientific devices to make his poultry business a success; but it is necessary for him to have good, pure-bred utility hens, and know how to feed them.

There are two important things for the beginner to remember: First, to decide on the breed advisable for the locality; second, to start in a small way. Better a pen of pure-bred pullets than a barnyard filled with mongrels.

"Every show a better one" is the slogan of the Toronto Fat Stock Show, and the 1918 Show promises to be no exception. The sale which follows the show is attended by buyers from all over the continent and each year the prices paid are better than previous prices. There is always a demand for choice meat at Christmas time, and farmers are realizing the big advantage of marketing their stock this way.

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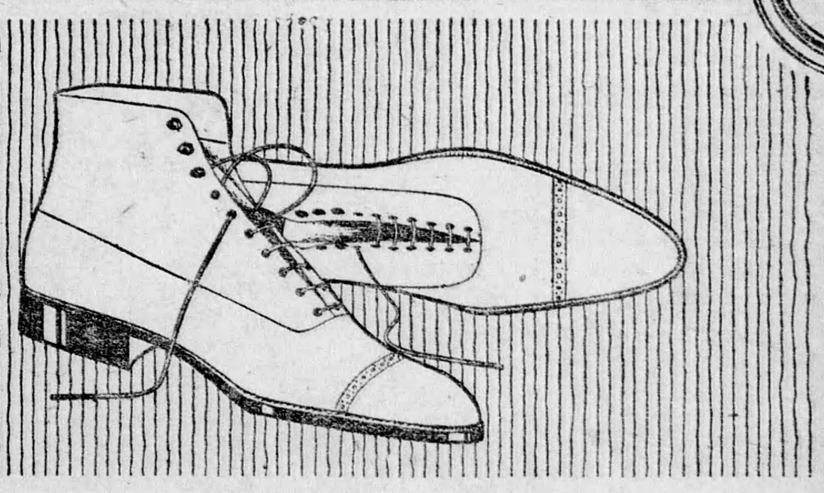

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