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AN AUTUMN DRIVE

Grandad came in one day with some especially good news for the twins, the doctor had said Jock might go for a drive, if they didn't stay out long. Jock had been moved to the sofa in the big sitting room every afternoon for several days although his leg was still in splints.

"But how can he sit in the buggy without bending his leg?" Jeannie asked anxiously.

"Don't worry about that, little nurse," said Grandad, "You bring a lot of cushions and we will make him comfortable."

Uncle John carried Jock carefully out the front door and there, was not the buggy, but the big wagon with the bottom thickly covered with straw. They put Jock in and Jeannie tucked pillows around him until he said, laughing, that even if the wagon upset he wouldn't be able to fall out. Mother and Aunt Madge decided that they would take a little holiday and go with them so off they all went in the golden October sunshine, all smiling and happy because Jock was able to be out again.

The world seemed to have changed while Jock was ill. The little frost fairies had been busy with their paint brushes and had put all sorts of gorgeous colors on the trees and bushes. They had never been in the country at this time of year and even Mother hadn't been there for a long time. The lane down to the front of the farm was hedged on both sides with soft maple trees whose branches of yellow leaves met overhead.

"We are going through a golden tunnel," sang Jeannie, "The frost fairies turned all the leaves to solid gold."

But when they turned along the road the twins soon saw that all the trees weren't yellow.

"Oh there's the big maple tree by the bridge," cried Jock, "It is so red it looks as if it must be on fire. And what is that brown red one, its just the color of Daddy's dressing gown?"

"That is an oak," said Grandad, "they don't go to bed as quickly as the maples, some of them keep their dead leaves on all winter in spite of the rough north winds."

"I guess it's to keep them warm," said Jock, "like the pine trees and cedars do."

"And oh," said Jeannie, "look at the dear white birch tree ladies all dressed in yellow lace!"

They drove along slowly so as not to jolt Jock who lay on his cushions enjoying every minute of it. They had to stop every little while for Jeannie to climb down to get some treasure for Jock. She picked a branch of scarlet leaves, then some witch hazel with its yellow tassels, then a deserted birds nest, then a bunch of purple asters.

At one of these stops Mother drew forth a surprise from under the seat—a picnic basket with a bottle of hot cocoa for the twins and sandwiches and cake for everybody.

"A picnic in a wagon, said Jock, "isn't this fun!"

They heard a funny noise—Clack, clack—in a nearby field and drove slowly on to see what it was. And suddenly, all about them, thousands of blackbirds rose, their whirring wings making a noise like a big wind storm.

"What are they and what are they doing?" cried the twins.

"They are Grackles," said Aunt Madge, "coming from a little farther north and resting here, perhaps waiting for other bands to join them when they will fly south together."

"Mother," said Jock drowsily as she was tucking him in bed that night, "I know what the red and yellow trees made me think of. They look like the fireworks at the end of the Exhibition."

"Indeed they do," said Mother, "perhaps that is just what it is—Summer's way of saying good-bye."

Seasonable Recipes

Vegetable Soup

One cup potatoes, one-half cup carrots, one-half cup onions. Put all through food chopper, add one pint water one teaspoon salt, cook until tender. Add one quart of milk, piece of butter, salt and pepper to taste.

Potatoes and Onions

On a platter put alternate layers of hot mashed potato, fried onions with a slight sprinkling of sage, and white sauce. Place in a warm oven for twenty minutes before serving. Delicious with sausage.

Turkish Pilaf

The recipes for this foreign dish

Window Gardens

If a woman loves a garden, have one she always will. If its only red geraniums on the kitchen window sill.

Geraniums and begonias will always be standbys for our window gardens but we should try a few bulbs every year as they seem to be especially suited to this kind of gardening. They are, of course, more expensive to begin with than cuttings which we acquire from friends and neighbors but when their blooming time comes we feel that they are worth many times the few cents which we paid for them. Then too, they will thrive in low temperatures and will stand a sudden frost which would put the begonias out of business altogether. I have found a crust of ice on top of the water in which Chinese Lillies were blooming and the flowers were not damaged in the least.

Children love bulbs, they seem to have an air of mystery which appeals to childish imaginations. The hard round things which look so much like onions are hidden in the dark cellar for such a long time and then, one day, the pot is full of roots and a green shoot appears. This grows so so quickly when it is brought to the light that they love watching its development. Then on the day when the flower finally opens what excitement there is about the size and shape and color and perhaps fragrance. It is well worth while to let each child plant at least one bulb for his very own and Mother will derive added joy from the blossom when she sees his joy.

There is no special knowledge needed for this phase of window gardening. There are just a few main points to remember—a porous soil, good drainage, plenty of room in each pot, a cool, dark place for making root growth and gentle heat and sunshine for top growth. The bulbs themselves will do the rest. For the average amateur, better results will be obtained by planting the early spring flowering bulbs in a mixture of good garden soil and leaf mold, in about equal parts. A five-inch pot is large enough for one large hyacinth bulb, and a seventeen inch pot for three.

In potting leave the top of the bulb even with the surface of the soil, give good drainage, and moisten thoroughly. Store in dark cellar or storeroom and let remain for six or eight weeks, being sure to see that the soil is kept moist but not wet. It is well to protect from the light by covering with old sacks being careful not to exclude air. When the roots find their way through the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot bring the plants to the light and in a few days to the sunshine, a cool atmosphere is better than heat. A liberal supply of manure water and plenty of fresh air aids materially in producing perfect blooms, but do not apply the fertilizer until the flower spike is seen.

Nearly all the bulbs are ready for delivery in late September or early October, and it is a distinct advantage to pot your bulbs as soon thereafter as possible. Bulbs are not injured by being kept in the cool dark cellar for a time longer than necessary, where a later supply of bloom is desired, but to bring them to the light before a good root system is developed is fatal to success.

In forcing Crocus do not attempt to grow more than one color in the same pot as the different colors bloom at different times.

Polyanthus Narcissus, especially the paper white, grow readily and perfectly in water, and are very desirable for forcing as well as being easy to grow. They may be brought at once to the light but do best in a cool atmosphere. These bulbs come into bloom about one month after planting. They keep well in cold storage until after Christmas when they will come into bloom in even less time.

Hyacinths are also grown in water but need the six weeks in the cellar to make root growth. Daffodils in water may be put directly in the light.

Bulbs grown in earth store up enough energy to be worth planting in the garden the following year. Daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses, tulips, scillas, snowdrops, will all make themselves at home in the garden after winter blooming in water. It is well to add a few bulbs to the garden every year as well as getting them from the house. Do not put them in set beds which have only to be dug up later to make room for something else. Plan to have a riot of spring color in the perennial borders, a clump of Darwin tulips here, some Breeder tulips there, Poet's Narcissus in the shrubbery and the smaller things—Scillas, snowdrops and crocuses wherever there is room. These all give satisfaction as they spread each year.

It is well to give bulbs a slight protection of leaves or manure through the winter months. This should be removed in April. The depth for planting is about three times the depth of the bulb and the time for planting in the garden is just as soon as you can get them.

varies in different cook books but this one has been found satisfactory.

One-half cup of uncooked rice, one onion, two tablespoons butter or bacon fat, one can of tomatoes, salt, pepper and sugar. Place butter in hot frying pan, add the dry rice and the onion chopped. Fry until rice is nicely browned. Then add canned or stewed tomatoes, seasoned with salt, pepper and sugar to taste, cover closely and let simmer until rice is thoroughly cooked.

Tomato and Celery Soup

One head of celery, six large tomatoes, one onion, one cup water two teaspoons salt. Boil all together until celery is cooked, then add one-quarter teaspoon baking soda, and a dash of red pepper. Thicken with two tablespoons cornstarch, add one quart or more of milk, bring nearly to boiling point, add one tablespoon butter and serve.

Chopped Pickle

Nine green cucumbers, four onions, and one head of celery all chopped finely. Let stand three hours in brine. Drain, add the following dressing and boil for two or three minutes. Dressing—one-half cup flour, one cup sugar, two tablespoons mustard, one tablespoon, tumeric, one-quarter teaspoon cayenne pepper, pinch of salt, one scant quart of vinegar.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

A generous pinch of salt added to jam while it is boiling will improve the flavor.

Plums will need less sugar and lose much of their tartness if treated thus; place in a large kettle, cover with boiling water and let stand for ten minutes. Then drain and can as usual.

Celery leaves may be thoroughly dried, powdered and stored in baking powder cans to be used for flavoring soups and stews. Parsley may be treated in the same manner.

A tablespoonful of sugar will improve most any soup.

Save old paper bags to slip on the hand that wields the stove polish brush.

An excellent floor polish is made as follows. Place twenty-five cents worth of dark beeswax in a gem-jar, cover it with gasoline, fasten top securely and let stand for twenty-four hours. A thick paste will result which may be used as it is or thinned with gasoline until of the desired consistency.

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