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In a Little Crooked House

BY DOROTHY DONNELL CALHOUN.

"Waffles," stated Billy Brent emphatically, as he buttered his third fast fit for a king, "make a breakfast for me, please."

"If eggs get any higher, I'll be only kings—and well-off kings at that—no one can afford to eat them!"

Alicia looked across the coffee urn at her husband, her pretty face falling into tragic lines. "Seventy cents a dozen at Tuggles' yesterday and it takes four to make one rule!"

Billy chuckled. "In other words, it eggs keep on going up, waffles will have to stop going down. Not so bad for this time of the morning! We'll have to cut down on luxuries like soap and tooth brushes and hairpins."

The frivolous breakfast cap across the table refused to make way for a smile.

"I am getting so tired of cutting things down," Alicia sighed. "Economizing seems dreadfully petty, when it's saving cents instead of dollars, when they'll eat like quilters. You need I've got to have a new dress or stay at home from the Country Club dance. It's no use trying to disguise my old black satin another time. There isn't a woman in Netherbrook who does not know that dress by heart!"

Billy pushed back his plate and came around the table. "I know, Hon! It's hard sledding. You're a good little sport. You must have been to take a chance on me!" His tone grew wistful. "Isn't it worth while, Alie, when it means having this for our very own?"

His gesture drew the sunny little room into the sun. It was a tiny room, bravely paneled and silvered after the manner of suburban bungalows built on the speculative plan. Already the "Early English" finish of the woodwork was beginning to show there, but their eyes surveyed it with wrinkles in Alicia's brow disappeared. She touched Billy's big hand.

"And only six years and nine months more before it's all paid for!" she breathed, awed. "Why, that's hardly any time at all—I guess I can make my black satin do for just six years!"

"That's the stuff!" Billy applauded. "and there's Maggie—you mustn't leave the old girl out, you know."

Maggie was short for Maggie, Billy's magnetite, necked after six years of experimenting and a sort of Aladdin's lamp to the Brents. "When Maggie is sold," was their antidote for discouragement. Two years ago, when they were first married they had said it confidently. Alicia had even picked out the fur coat she was going to buy for Billy, and Billy had chosen the very string of pearls that was going around Alicia's white throat, as if the little brass letter box, beside their front door. Lately Maggie had become mildly humorous, a mythical personage instead of one of the family as she had been hitherto.

Alicia laughed dutifully now, but later, after the eight-ten had carried Billy cityward and she stood at the key sink washing the blue-and-white yellow wage she spoke her mind energetically aloud to herself.

"They all know Billy's magnetite is splendid, only they're jealous. And I don't believe any of them looked at it anyway!" Logic was not Alicia's strong point. She wiped the blue pitcher with impenetrable dabs of the towel and carried it into the dining room.

The corner cupboard, with its quaint diamond panes of leaded glass was as cramped within as it was picturesque without, but Alicia never dreamed of keeping her dishes on the roomier and more convenient kitchen shelves. There was something almost maternal in her attitude toward the little house. She loved to humor its vagaries, to wait on it, to coax it into prettiness with flowers and gay chintz curtains; but this morning although her fingers were busy arranging plates and saucers in their accustomed order, her thoughts were on the eight-ten.

"Poor boy—he's disappointed enough in Maggie, he shan't be disappointed in me, too!" she told herself remorsefully. As if I didn't have everything in the world that's really important! Why, it's fun going without things when it means buying our own darling home. I don't know what made me flare out so—yes, I do, too. It was those seventy-cent waffles. And just as soon as I get the work done I'm going to run over to Marjorie Taylor's and see if she has a recipe without any eggs!"

Under her energetic fingers the little rooms took on dainty orderliness, and never had the bright little house seemed so pleasant to Alicia. She even found time to admire the view from the bathroom window, and to

About the House

The Comfortable Bed.

Since the night's rest or unrest has everything in the world to do with the quality of the day's work, comfortable beds for all the family should be the care of every good housewife. Sagged springs and lumpy mattresses are the worst foes to tolerate. A claw hammer or a wrench may be all that is necessary to tighten up that slacked wire which plays havoc with the comfort qualities of your bedsprings.

The best thing for a lumpy mattress is to send it directly to the renovator or the junk man. If, however, it be but slightly uneven, a folded blanket placed upon the springs under the depression will correct the unevenness. Good, well-made mattresses are cheapest in the long run. The comfort features of the shoddy article are short-lived. Having invested in the good article, the next thing is to use it well. Turn frequently, end for end, and over wool padded on both sides, turn over as well. Don't shake it. Shaking tears the ticking and disarranges the padding. Puff up the mattress by gentle blows or bringing the ends together.

It is a good plan to cover the springs with an old quilt or blanket, that in damp weather they may rust the mattress. Always use a substantial protector on top of the mattress, something that can be tubbed enough to touch trouble yet thick enough to afford satisfactory protection. The quilted ones are highly serviceable in that respect.

Remembering that your motto is "bed comfort," do not have your pillows extremely large, nor stuffed too full. Even goose-down pillow can be made uncomfortably hard by crowding too many feathers into the bed. The immense pillow may give the bed a luxurious appearance, but the small pillow which does not under the neck and shoulder, naturally bolsters the neck and shoulders. It is well to enclose the pillow tick proper in a second tick made easily removable for laundering—this in addition to the outside muslin slip—because of the difficulty of washing feather. The muslin slip does not afford sufficient protection to the tick, which will in time become soiled.

It is possible to wash feathers in the tick, but it is a tedious task to do this. When so washed, they should be hung on a line outdoors where the air will circulate freely through them, and allowed to remain for several weeks, care being taken to bring them indoors in rainy weather. Feathers will dry quickly if washed in a large bag, though this means the added labor of emptying and refilling the tick. In such case the best way to transfer the tick and sew the open end of the bag closely to that of the tick. No feathers will escape in the transfer. Next rip tick and bag apart and sew or tie up the bag securely. When dried, replace by the same method, and, with care, you will not have lost a feather.

The old-fashioned tacked comfort is not a sanitary affair. It does not admit of easy tubbing. Even though it is ripped up and the outside covering washed, the batting cannot be retacked. If the tacked comfort be used, care should be taken to keep the top end—which is soot-soiled, coming in contact with hair and face—covered with a strip of white cheesecloth extending about eight or ten inches on either side of the comfort. The cheesecloth can be replaced when soiled, washed and re-pleated. The old quilted coverlet has an advantage as a washable affair; but quilting is laborious and even at best the quilt is a thin cover.

Blankets, wool or cotton, and as many as the season requires, are good substitutes for the comfort. They can be washed as often as occasion requires. Wool blankets should be washed in plenty of clean lukewarm suds—never in hot water, which brings out the oil in the wool and gives the blanket a greasy feeling when dry—well rinsed in slightly soapy warm soft water and dried on a windy day. This treatment leaves them soft and fluffy.

The cotton blanket is very satisfactory in all ways. It is well suited to the beds of people with sensitive skins who cannot sleep in wool blankets and who, yet, for unheated rooms, find sheets uninvitingly cool in winter time. It is just right in weight and warmth for an outside covering in summer time. It is not hard to wash and is inexpensive.

In making a bed the under sheet should be tucked well down under the head of the mattress, as all the track on this sheet is from the top. Tuck the upper sheet well under the foot of the mattress, the strain on this sheet being from the top. Always lay the sheets with the wide hems at the top, the smooth sides of hems coming together. The practice of some housekeepers of making sheets with hems of equal width top and bottom is not a good one; it ad-

with a little piecing a bib can be made with straps sewed into strings at the back.

This makes an apron that can be put on with one motion. No pins and no buttons and bib always in place.

Does Kitchener Know?

Along the far flung battle line Ten thousand silent guns recline.— The heroic guns that fought for France And bloody Bertha's ordnance; His scatterer has vanished overhead; The rivers are no longer red; Hush reigns supreme where legions met;

The Paris bells are ringing yet; The London lights are all aglow; Does Kitchener know?

The arrogant, blood-thirsty beast From menacing the world has ceased. A word of scorn, his country's name, His flag, the emblem of shame, His scattered ranks for pity whine In horrid far behind the Rhine! "The Day" has come, "The Day" has gone.

The mighty Armageddon's won; Freedom has vanquished Freedom's foe.

Does Kitchener know?

In triumph's hour, shall we forget, Or underestimate our debt To him, beneath the briny wave Asleep in his uncharted grave? The man who knew just what to do When first the Hunnish horde burst through;

The iron man who used his head, And understood, all planned, and We're harvesting what he did sow, Does Kitchener know?

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exercise that collective patriotic influence which solved similar temporary difficulties in the vegetable and fruit seasons last summer and fall.

The number of fishermen engaged in catching Canadian sardines is about 1,200, and there are in addition 600 cannery employees, largely women and girls.

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CANADA APPROVED

USE CANADIAN SARDINES.

And Thereby Provide Employment For Canadian Fishermen.

About 2,000 bread-winners in the sardine fishery industry on our Atlantic Coast are faced with unemployment. The fishing season normally opens on May 1st, but owing to the fact that the factories have a large surplus from last year it is not the intention of the management to open until that is disposed of.

In view of the fact that last year there were imported into Canada \$286,000 worth of foreign fish of the sardine type from France, Spain, Portugal, Norway and California—none of which are of better nutritive quality than the Canadian sardine—the Canadian Trade Commission requests a voluntary campaign on the part of Canadian grocers, restaurateurs and housewives to give preference for the next few weeks to Canadian-packed sardines.

The enormous stocks of similarly canned fish in Europe and the United States quite prevent even the hope of export of the Canadian Maritime produce, but the Trade Commission is confident that when the facts are brought before the public they will


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Every woman knows that when a man's shirt has without cuffs and holes below the collar band, making the shirt unwearable, there is still a quantity of good material left.

An apron can be made of the material, and in these days of high-priced cotton goods it will pay well to use the goods in this way. Cut off the neck band and yoke, cut out sleeves, lay body of shirt out flat and cut out apron, making it as large as the goods will permit. The openings on the side are sewed up.

A facing for the top of the apron is cut from what is left of one of the strings. One sleeve will make the bib, and the other sleeve will make a bib, if one is wanted. And

MAY "KNOTS" AND "NOTS."

The old superstition of "Marry in May, rue for aye!" dies hard, even in these prosaic times, and the bride who values her happiness postpones her nuptials until the leafy month of June.

The prejudice against the month of May dates from the earliest days of civilization. The Romans observed the Festival of the Dead then, and during that period the temples were closed, religious ceremonies were neglected, and those who contracted matrimony then were considered to be setting the gods at defiance, and court- ing all manner of evil fortune.

A writer who flourished in B.C. 43 wrote: "The common people profess it is unlucky to marry in the month of May." The superstition is shared by all European countries, with the exception of Greece, where it is the popular bridal month.

Mary Queen of Scots married her third husband, the Earl of Bothwell, in May, and that was the beginning and the end for her as queen and as ruler; so it may be that the remembrance of her unhappy life, and the tragedy which overtook one of the most fascinating figures in history, may have something to do with the reluctance of Scottish brides to enter into matrimony during this month.

In this, as in other respects, there are scoffers who deliberately choose May for their nuptials, and it is a coincidence that within recent years several of them have had cause to repent their temerity.

One notable instance was that of the King of Spain and Princess Ena of Battenberg, whose wedding was celebrated on the 31st of May. Everybody remembers vividly the sensation caused when it became known that a bomb had been thrown under their carriage on their way back to the palace. The bride's gorgeous wedding-robe was stained with blood.

Romance and superstition envelop every detail of the bridal ceremony, and prospective brides may be interested to learn some of the things which they must—or must not, avoid if they would ensure their future happiness. Should the bride be awakened by a small bird—a finch preferably (a city maiden may have to content herself with the chirp of a sparrow)—she may rejoice, as this is considered a good omen. If swallows should sweep past her window at dawn, they invariably portend good luck. And other harbingers of health, wealth and happiness are a dove, a lamb, or a frog, encountered on her way to the church, but a pig, a hare, or a cat are unpropitious.

If whilst she is dressing for church a spider is discovered in the folds of her dress, it is a sign that she will never want money.

Once she is fully attired, a bride must not return to take a final peep, or, if she does, she must add a rose or a pin to her toilette. If she is wise, she will turn her back on her mirror while buttoning her gloves.

If she breaks anything on the eventful morning, it is a sign that she will not live happily with her husband's relations.

If she forgets to bring the cat, it may spite her by freezing down the rain, and if it sneezes angrily as she is leaving for her honeymoon, then she may expect family jars.

Under no circumstances must the bride permit herself to read, or listen to the reading, of the marriage service, or part thereof even, on the eve of her wedding, let alone the day itself; nor must she look upon her bridegroom until she meets him at the altar.

HUNS FIRED 278 ROYALTIES.

One German State Had a Royal Person For Every 5 Square Miles.

A German professor figures out that the abdications and dethronements in Germany include 278 persons. Bavaria leads with one King, one Queen, fifteen Princesses, sixteen Princesses, five Dukes, and one Duchess.

Prussia has sent 33 royalties into exile, including the Emperor, Empress, twenty Princes and eleven Princesses.

Brunswick is at the bottom of the list, with only the dual couple and their three children. The two tiny principalities of Reuss, whose area is hardly one-third hundredth part of that of Prussia, have exiled 38 royalties.

The principality of Lippe, only about twenty square miles larger than the Reuss states, had a royal family numbering 24 persons. Most extraordinary is the case of Schumberg-Lippe with its area of 159 square miles, where there was nearly one royal personage for every five square miles. These included the reigning Prince, seventeen Princes and seven Princesses.

France Buys Eight B.C. Ships.

Eight of the 27 wooden steamers, built on the Columbia coast to the order of the Imperial Munitions Board, since arriving in the United Kingdom have been sold to the French Government.

A wet umbrella or raincoat should never be left resting against the telephone cord because it causes a short circuit and can quickly put the telephone out of order. The same applies to wet maps, floor cloths, etc.

Practical

Prevent Dairy Cows from becoming infertile.

Many serious losses business are caused by calves which might be sired by one farm a fine cow, postmortem found which the animal had to pick up nails, tacks, and metal scraps of various kinds which were broken-down barbed-wire cause needless injury.

When there is a water trough in the barn it is best to boards at least once each time the floor behind it may decay and then set breaks through, and eventually to solid ground is of feet, a broken leg may be the cow is only injured by such an accident a serious reduction of milk.

An icy approach to the water trough may cause and suffer injury. An icy break its leg by a horse hurrying into the barn time. It is best to keep from the approach to a trough salt or dead water where the ice is not to be seen.

Horns are often a source of trouble in the dairy cow on a utility dairy cow as the animals injure each other's horns. In primitive times the horns of the cows of the plains were fought their natural end the farmer is busy fighting them and the horns well removed. The best way with the old reliable stick, applied when they are in the dairy business.

Fire is another cause of trouble in the dairy business. It is placed near the lanterns, the hired lanterns over with a pilot bay. Scene three, the in flames. Scene four, and his family are safe charcoal and mentioning the insurance money will a pigsty at the present, and material. When fat have properly installed in their dairy barns it save a lot of fine cows.

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