

# Across the Editor's Desk



EVERY parent has had experience with the child who won't eat. Of course every child will eat, if you take the sentence literally, but not every child will eat the things that are good for him, or her, as the case may be.

In the effort to present articles that get right down into intimate, interesting and pertinent family problems, we offer this month, among other things, an article by Gladys Denny Shultz on the foregoing subject. We think such articles are of interest to 100 percent of our readers. What do you think?

PURSUANT to the *Better Homes and Gardens* policy of encouraging the building of homes where children may feel at home, we present this month a thoughtful article by Leland McBroom on a house where special thought has been given to the needs of children. "The house is the child's world," says Mr. McBroom. Had you thought of that? The grown-ups have their workaday contacts in the wide world, but the horizon of the pre-school child is usually limited to the confines of the home and garden.

How to make the child's world as useful and pleasant as possible is the problem of the thoughtful home-maker. It is desired that the child should become a good citizen of the world, and it is therefore necessary that he fit into the scheme of the little world in which he finds himself during the first three or four years of life.

ONE of the real charter members of the *Better Homes and Gardens* family is Francis Asbury Robinson, who has had charge of our landscaping department since the beginning of the magazine. Mr. Robinson received his training at Dartmouth and Harvard, where he obtained his master's degree. He was in France during 1918 and 1919 with the 313th Engineers, and rose from private to captain during that time. For fourteen years he has been a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Mr. Robinson was landscape architect-in-chief of the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1925. Other interesting commissions which he has undertaken are the grounds at Dartmouth College and Wabash College; the Waterworks parks in Des Moines, Iowa; in Orlando, Florida, and Birmingham, Alabama; and numerous state fairs and expositions.

COLOR is being used so freely in the home these days that a large array of new problems present themselves. The indiscriminate use of color is worse than no color at all. Color, to be effective, must be studied and employed with proper balance, with restraint and with regard to harmony. There are certain laws of relationships that must be observed in order to keep colors living peacefully together. That is why Ross Crane's article in this issue is of special value at this time.

ONE of the most remarkable items of commendation yet received by *Better Homes and Gardens* is that concerning a woman in Oregon. We quote directly from the letter of one of our subscribers: "One member of the family was in a very serious condition with diabetes. I sent a copy of your magazine to the family, for I was sure an article in that number would encourage them. They read snatches of the article to her. . . . Her viewpoint was changed concerning the disease, so she perked right up and consented to be taken to the hospital to start the insulin treatment. . . . Now she is quite herself again, and is the joy of her family. . . . They write me frequently to tell me that I saved her life with that article."

THE term "Better Homes and Gardens," or parts of it, are used frequently these days in connection with expositions and other projects with the subject indicated. The name of this magazine is therefore well justified by events.

This name was adopted because it is a thoroly and characteristically American statement of the ambition of home-owners. "To make our best better" is the slogan of a group that is doing great work among American young people, and this is the idea that *Better Homes and Gardens* seeks to encourage. Constant improvement, constant striving toward higher and higher levels of achievement, is characteristic of American civilization. That civilization is incurably optimistic. It is youthfully enthusiastic in its ambition to attain better living. The spirit of realizable anticipation is more enthralling than the other-world illusions of fiction. It was youthful optimism that made this country what it is now and will make it still greater. *Better Homes and Gardens* is therefore in tune with American progress as it applies to the fundamental element of civilization—the home.

IN the February issue, mention was made of the "Better Back Yards for Children" contest. If you wish to have the complete announcement, write to the Back Yard Playground Contest Department, *Better Homes and Gardens*, Des Moines, Iowa. A leaflet containing the complete announcement will be mailed to you at once.

DESIRING to be of service to garden clubs, we have arranged to furnish clubs with courses in landscape architecture, these courses to be taken up in the meetings so as to be of benefit to all the members. Announcements have been made in previous issues, but if you have not seen them, a letter to *Better Homes and Gardens* will quickly bring the desired information. Landscape architecture is not a formidable theme, altho it requires considerable study. It is a fascinating subject and one which is appropriate for garden clubs.

Editor