

Across the Editor's Desk

MANY of you who read this will see your dreams of a better home realized in 1936. General business improvement, better home-loan facilities, more efficient building methods—all these will help you to bring into actual form and substance the glamorous hopes and visions of many years, and your family will be made more comfortable and happy. Thru the depression we of *Better Homes & Gardens* never lost faith, and vigorously worked out a program including the Bildcost plan, remodeling, and presentation of innumerable new ideas for home-building and betterment, at the same time reminding you that the depression brought low prices and a great opportunity for owning a home. Next month we build higher on that solid foundation and you will be pleased at what you will read then and thereafter. The New Year will see many delightful new surprises.

The figures for the first nine months of 1935 show an increase of more than 225 percent in the number of Bildcost plans sent to prospective home-owners by *Better Homes & Gardens* over the entire twelve months of 1934. If this isn't a healthy sign of renewed home-building, where will you find one?

THE National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, is doing a most valuable work in helping to fill the need for trained workers in Nature study. Why wouldn't it be a good scheme for your garden club or other organization to offer free tuition in the Audubon Nature Training Camp to the teacher of your local schools who will do most to promote garden and Nature interests in her classes? Technical instruction won't fill the bill. It takes actual field work and thoro personal knowledge of the subject.

PRESIDENT Agnes Samuelson of the National Education Association has asked *Better Homes & Gardens* to provide the association with a list of source materials on garden, Nature, and conservation. This list will be used in building up courses of studies in the schools of the nation. We feel gratified at this recognition, as we have for a long time insisted that public schools should teach such subjects—not in a perfunctory way, by means of texts alone, but by actual work in field and garden, with teachers genuinely qualified and interested. Your own children should profit by the adoption of such courses. Talk it up in your P. T. A. or with your school board and let us know if we can help.

WISCONSIN has taken an advanced step in the direction indicated above, by enacting a law providing that the gov-

erning boards of the university, state teachers' colleges, and county normal schools shall provide adequate instruction in conservation of natural resources. We assume that this provision will be broad enough to include gardening and preservation of wild flowers. Wisconsin has assumed a position of leadership in many forward-looking movements, and is to be commended for passing this law. Within the next five years a dozen other states will fall in line. Will yours be one?

EVIDENCE of the wide reading given *Better Homes & Gardens* is seen in the reaction to a recent article on "Your Child's Eyesight," which stirred up vibrant and illuminating communications from all over the country because of its comment on the profession of optometry. Dr. Walter I. Brown, president of the American Optometric Association, has written us this statement in reply to that which appeared in the article in question: "An optometrist is recognized by law in every state as a specialized practitioner to examine, diagnose, prescribe, and care for eyesight and the visual needs. His professional standing is equal to that of the physician and dentist. Before he commences practice, the optometrist takes a state board examination and is the only practitioner who thereby proves his fitness in this highly specialized field. Optometry is taught in leading universities and the professional courses are from three to four years. The curricula are arranged so as to devote practically all of the time to the study of the eye, the visual apparatus, their functions and their relationship to health and physical welfare. It is a mistaken notion that glasses are prescribed in every case. The optometric field is far broader, including the development of vision, straightening of cross eyes, and orthoptic training to improve the functioning of the seeing system so as to reduce the fatiguing expenditure of nervous energy, all this without medicine or surgery."

ONE of our readers is highly indignant because she was in a home where an old cradle was being used as a receptacle for wood, magazines, and any other thing that the owners felt like dumping into it. I am inclined to think her indignation is justified. There is no memory more sacred in a home than that of the little children that came into being and grew out of infancy to childhood and adolescence. A cradle or crib is something to be either kept as an heirloom or turned over to some one else who can use it for its proper purpose. Or what do you think?

Editor

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