

Across the Editor's Desk

THANKSGIVING

"I thank thee, Lord," my words declare
 At stated times in formal prayer;
 Yet I remember one small child
 Who, when her thoughts were running wild
 At some prize gift, would simply glow
 With thankfulness she let me know
 By just a long, impulsive "Oh!"

Too few the times my lips express
 My thanks for frequent happiness,
 For love and health, a friend, a tree,
 And home and dreams and reverie;
 But, Lord, I know that you have heard
 The thanks that deep within me stirred
 In gratitude that knows no word.

-W. B. FRANCE

THE Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Chicago, has undertaken a project unique in religious fields.

He emphasizes the need for more trees in the United States. Calling attention to the great duststorms of last spring and the Federal project to build a 100-mile strip of trees thru the semi-arid region of the Great Plains, he urges that communities and groups everywhere join what he calls the Tree Mission. I take it that this is no formal organization, but simply a common cause of those interested in preserving our soil, rainfall, and the beauties of our natural landscape.

"Trees are part of God's creative plan," he says. "When we destroy trees without planting new ones, we are in danger of upsetting the balance of Nature. When we plant trees we help both God and man."

He cites the example of China, where calamity was brought upon the country by destruction of its great forests.

He urges that churches, lodges, and other organizations plant trees in memory of worthy persons. In this connection I am sure you will all be interested in knowing that a tree was planted in honor of E. T. Meredith, founder of *Better Homes & Gardens*, with a suitable plaque, in the Reinisch Rose Gardens of Topeka, Kansas, winner of the first prize in the first More Beautiful America Contest, in 1932.

May the Tree Mission succeed abundantly!

TRAVELING across the country by automobile gives you a chance to observe many things that you would not see otherwise, especially since, in the present-day scheme of things, the high-

ways are becoming objects of special concern on the part of those far-sighted persons who are striving to beautify the landscape generally.

During the summer I took a 2,500-mile trip of this character. Many thousands of you have been taking similar trips. Here is my outstanding impression:

America is an unfinished symphony. It is beautiful, but the work still remaining to be done is so great as to stagger the imagination.

NOW that our second More Beautiful America Contest has come to a close, it is appropriate to take an inventory and mark the general progress that has been made in the beautification of the American landscape.

What has been done along the highways is only a "drop in the bucket," compared with the entire landscape of the nation. Older countries in Europe, with far smaller resources, have made their landscapes beautiful so that you may travel many miles without seeing ugliness. Surely a great, rich country like the United States can do at least as well!

THE simple little poem on Thanksgiving, on this page, voices the sentiment that thankfulness need not be founded upon material blessings alone, but upon the "higher satisfactions" which are a part of the creed of this magazine. From the November issue of seven years ago, I would like to recall the old man, sitting before his frugal meal with bowed head, giving thanks, and again quote the wise and high-minded saying of Samuel Johnson: "Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people."

Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

Remodeling and Building Ideas
 Here's How the Housing Act Will Help You . . . 7
 Shutters to the Rescue! . . . 20
 Full of Old-Fashioned Charm . . . 24
 Better Homes Contest Winners . . . 26

A Number of Things for the Family
 Across the Editor's Desk . . . 4
 It's News to Me! . . . 10
 All With My Own Two Hands . . . 13
 Alice in Wonderland Toys . . . 32
 Community-minded? . . . 34
 Among Ourselves . . . 36
 Service Leaflets and Booklets . . . 41
 The Secret of Silver Polishes . . . 47
 Coming in December . . . 54

Furnishings for Your Home
 For His Little Sons . . . 18
 Modernize Your Living-Room . . . 60

Home Cooking, and Oh, SO Good!
 There's Appetite Appeal in a Buffet Meal . . . 30
 Cooks' Round Table of Endorsed Recipes . . . 38
 Confessions of a Good Cook . . . 46

That Gardens May Flourish
 The Diary of a Plain Dirt Gardener . . . 8
 My Garden Came Indoors . . . 16
 Rhododendrons—Their Kith and Kin . . . 22
 Along the Garden Path . . . 70

How to Manage the Home
 Susan Gets the Stage . . . 28
 Rainbows in Dishwater . . . 42

Especially for Boys and Girls
 The Junior Garden Clubs Page . . . 50

Verse
 Thanksgiving . . . 4
 Everyday Miracles . . . 44
 Home . . . 51

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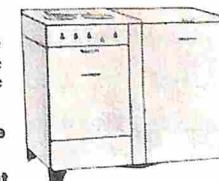
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