

Across the Editor's Desk

WHAT do you know about this? A *lumbricus* isn't a worm that eats wood, as stated on this page in the May issue. It's an angleworm. And fancy an angleworm eating oak! One of you has called attention to this error, and we cheerfully retract this libel on the useful and inoffensive denizen of the soil. It seems that our authority was mistaken. He might have meant *Scolytus quadrispinosus* or *Anarsia lineatella*, or *Cyllene robiniae*, or even something else, for there are several critters that like to eat wood.

AN ARTIST picked up a piece of white cloth his wife had charred with a flat-iron, added a few more marks with the iron, varnished the cloth, framed it, entered it in an exhibit, and took a prize as an abstractionist. The "painting" had rhythm and vibration and the other things it takes to be a good abstractionist work of art.

This is a good tip to homemakers. It goes to show that everything has its uses—even a piece of charred cloth. Believe it or not.

E. C. SEGAR, who depicts Popeye, to the delight of millions, is a gardener of attainments. He even bought a tractor wherewith to plow his radishes, and that, I submit, is just about the height of gardening, or something. After a number of experiences of this kind, however, he decided to raise fish. Oh, well, read about it yourself, on page 13.

TAXATION is going to be the most important public question before the people of this country for several years and it is very desirable that every citizen should know just what produces taxation. If anybody tells you that the taxes are paid only by the rich, don't believe it. If you investigate a little, you will find that taxes, no matter upon whom they are levied by the statute, and no matter whether they are state or federal, are passed on in the form of added percentages, to everything you eat, wear, or use. It's the consumer—especially the poorer one—who gets it in the neck. If this country were to pay as it goes, right at this moment, it would be one of the most heavily taxed nations in the world—even passing England in this respect.

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER

HERE'S to winter bloom! What are the steps? Lift the geranium with soil intact around the roots. Place it firmly in a pot so small that the roots are crowded. Use clay loam not rich in plant food, and water only lightly. Do these things this month, in September, so that the plant can become settled in its new home this fall.

This question is of special importance to the home-owner, for homes are a special target for the tax collector, being out in the open and difficult to conceal.

IN ONE sense September is a month of taking inventory. You are thru with your vacation and you pause to see what you have gotten out of it in the form of better health, a clearer mind, or new perspective achieved from your travels. You take stock of the younger

members of the family, who are to re-enter school or college, with a side glance at the bank account. You look over your garden to see what the hot summer has done to it, and think of the autumn work that may be necessary. It's a season of hustle and renewed activity. And, this year, on top of everything, here's the election coming on!

WE OF the home office of *Better Homes & Gardens* had the pleasure of entertaining the American Rose Society shortly before this issue went to press, and it was a rare privilege. The loyal enthusiasts who are constantly at work perfecting roses and evolving new varieties are among our first citizens and should be honored as such. Incidentally, "The Rose of the Dust Bowl," which appeared on this page a month ago, was written to commemorate this gathering.

ALL eyes are turning toward Chicago, where the International Horticultural Exposition, a new and tremendously progressive venture, will be held September 12 to 20 in the International Amphitheatre. The Exposition will represent the progress being made in horticulture in its widest sense. There will be hundreds of flower and garden displays worth traveling many miles to see.

ONE thing that should interest all you parents and teachers at the beginning of the school year is the new \$500 prize contest for Junior Garden Clubs. The prizes are for the best work done along the lines of Nature, conservation, and garden study. It would take too much space to give the details here, but we will cheerfully send the particulars if you will write us for them.

Editor

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Cover Photograph by R. R. Donnelley

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Home Offices: 1714 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa.
Manuscripts submitted to the magazine must be accompanied by postage for their return, else we cannot be responsible for them.

Advertising Branch Offices: New York City, 420 Philadelphia, 133 So. Twelfth St.; Chicago, 333 No. Michigan Ave.; Detroit, 5-145 General Motors Bldg.; Minneapolis, 635 Palace Bldg.; San Francisco, 100 Bush St.; Los Angeles, 1212 Lincoln Bldg.; Atlanta, Georgia, 417 Grant Bldg.

Subscription: United States and Canada rates, one year, \$1; two years, \$1.50; three years, \$2. Other countries, \$1.50 a year. At newsstands, twentieth of the month, 10 cents a copy. Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Copyrighted by Meredith Publishing Company, 1936. United States and Canada. Trademarks for *Better Homes & Gardens* have been registered in the United States and Canada.

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