

# Across the Editor's Desk

**BETTER HOMES & GARDENS** is edited for you. We have definite methods of determining your desires and give you what you want. Many valuable suggestions come from you as the result of items in this column, so this month I'm going on a rampage of question-asking.

Would you like to have one or two of the outstanding articles in each issue mentioned on the front cover? Would this help you to identify any given issue of the magazine?

Would you like to see your home (interior or exterior view), your family, or your garden pictured on the "Among Ourselves" page? Of course, your answer will be in the form of photographs.

What do you think of our new method of presenting Junior Garden Club material as a part of our beginner's page ("Six to Sixty")? Look on page 21 of this issue.

Suppose you turn next to Harlan Miller's page, "The Man Next Door," on page 34, and give your opinion of this feature. Do any of his paragraphs about home and neighborhood life recall similar incidents within your own experience?

What are your views about tobacco and liquor advertising? The repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment has made this a live question and I'd like very much to get your views.

THE University of Illinois has inaugurated a new approach to city-planning, in the form of a miniature city-planning commission to include students in sociology, political science, and allied subjects. The authorities are to be congratulated in this forward-looking step, for modern conditions demand a great number of young men and women trained in this field. By planning cities wisely we will safeguard the homes of the future.

SOME of us were looking over a large portfolio of photographs in the studio of William Rittase in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. (You remember Rittase is the man whose fascinating log-cabin home was shown in our June issue.) He was turning the pictures over quickly when I said, "Stop! There's one I want!" It was the picture of a little boy lying on the bank of a stream in the lazy sunlight of a summer day. You'll find it on page 6. Somehow this picture seems to tell eloquently of the carefree days of childhood—the meaningful pause of vacationtime, when the air is saturated with sunrises to be absorbed before the season of renewed toil begins. Doesn't it make you want to roam in the woods

or mountains or beside the still waters? Ah-h-h, better take that vacation now, if you haven't had one already!

THE whole world rejoiced with the Dionne quintuplets on their first birthday. They pulled thru a trying ordeal during their first year, and appear to be perfectly healthy, normal little girls. From now on they will increasingly face a problem which began at their birth, and which no five daughters in history ever faced before. That problem is concerned with how they can be brought up in a homelike atmosphere—how to keep from being chiefly a show troupe. After all, fame has its drawbacks.

SOMEONE, by taking a census of a small area and applying the number proportionately to a larger one, has calculated that the average home garden contains nearly one million small creatures, ranging from birds, toads, and earthworms down to the smallest insects and beetles. The significant thing about this teeming population is that with few exceptions these creatures are beneficial rather than harmful to mankind. For countless ages human beings have been in the habit of looking upon most of these small folk as natural enemies. It's about time human beings became more enlightened on this important subject. If the truth were known, it's likely that man would find it impossible to exist except for the presence of creatures that are now despised, or, at best, merely tolerated.

FROM recent letters: Carl A. Peinhardt, of Cullman, Alabama, writes that hundreds of out-of-town visitors have come to see his home, built from our plans and specifications, and several have expressed their desire to build a similar one. . . . H. A. Schirman, of Portsmouth, Ohio, having one home from our plans, is now building another of the same plan beside it. . . . John A. Weaver, Jr., of Greeley, Colorado, took a run-down bungalow and used one of our plans as a pattern for remodeling—a rather unusual procedure.

WHERE do the birds go at this time of year? In May I heard or saw thirty kinds of birds around the house, even including a partridge and a whip-poor-will. In late summer they seem to keep out of sight. Here are three theories to account for it: 1. They are busy working. 2. They are taking a vacation from singing and showing off. 3. They are busy spanking the babies and teaching them how to find worms.

Editor

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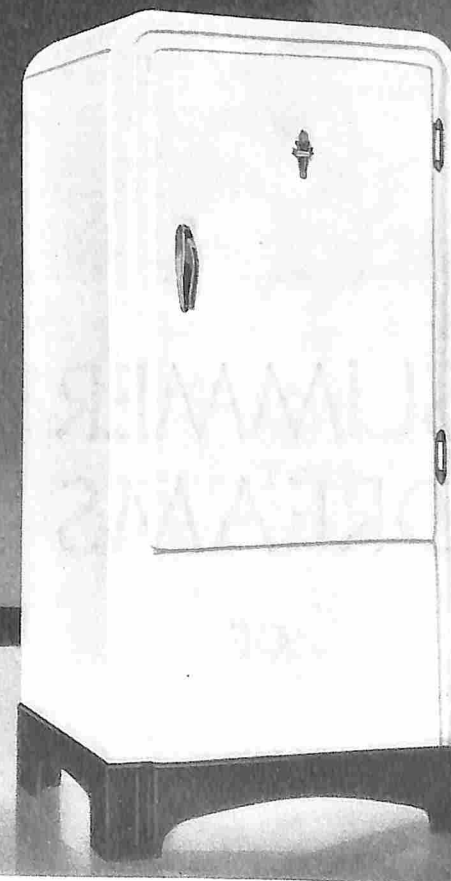
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