

ACROSS THE *Editor's* DESK

The Picture on the Cover: It's by Color Photographer Robert Mack, of Los Angeles, and was taken on the terrace at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney C. Wagner, *Better Homes & Gardens* readers of Brentwood Heights, California. The pretty little girl is Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Moore, of Hollywood, and the blue-blooded Bedlington Terrier's name is Sparkle.

PAUL FRESE, garden editor of *Better Homes & Gardens*, says some kind of a bird has been picking leaves out of the gutters on his house and flicking them out. A mighty helpful, if eccentric bird. But there are other birds that do still more good to humanity by consuming enormous numbers of insect pests. Without birds this world would soon be a barren desert. Give them a break.

HUMAN nature doesn't always work according to theories, no matter how well you work out those theories. When you run counter to habits and certain familiar conceptions, you tackle a tough proposition. A few months ago someone around the office had the seemingly bright and reasonable idea that black and white prints would be better than blueprints for our Bildcost service. They are more easily read and you can make corrections on them with pencil or pen. So the plan was tried. The readers didn't want black and white. They wanted blueprints. So we go back to blueprints, and that's that.

SHOULD you build or buy a home now? An article in this issue answers this very important question so conclusively that it leaves practically no doubts. One weakness of human nature is to postpone buying needed things until everybody else is doing it, and the price is high. The smart person gets in ahead of the market. If you will read the article in question, you will understand how the thing works out. It may be worth thousands of dollars to you.

THE Dionne Quintuplets are babies no longer. Babies do things on impulse. When they begin to use reason and can carry on a conversation and form habits, they graduate into a new life. Frazier Hunt has spent many weeks studying the Quintuplets. He is a close personal friend of Doctor Dafoe. What he has written for this issue, therefore, is an exceedingly valuable and practical contribution to the literature of child care.

OCCASIONALLY you see warnings about barberry shrubs, which are extremely harmful to wheat because they harbor the spores of black rust, which destroy many a wheat crop. If you have any reason to think you may have such a shrub, it is well to take unusual precautions, for of course we are all concerned about preserving food crops even tho we may not be farmers ourselves. The Japanese barberry, which is the variety most commonly used in landscape plantings, is not harmful. So far as we know, the harmful type, principally the wild barberry, is not used in such plantings, but a little extra caution won't do any harm. You can get government bulletins from your state experiment stations which tell which barberries you may safely plant.

WHAT is said to be the largest and most difficult horticultural job ever attempted in the United States is the digging up and hauling of six large yew trees from the Lindenwood estate in northern California to the site of the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939. The trees each weigh from 18 to 20 tons and are said to be the largest and oldest in the country, being over 80 years old. Judging from this, the fair managers must be making elaborate preparations.

SOME wise person has said that "a lily in the garden is worth two in the hand." There's a lot of wisdom packed in that saying. Flowers, too often, have been called upon to perform their sweet duties too late. Anyhow there's a lot more satisfaction in the growing flowers in your own garden than in the cutflowers that serve for so short a time.

Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

Building and Remodeling Ideas

The Building Boom'll Get You	17
A Study in Good Planning	22
Cracks You Can't Laugh Off	24
An Old House Sprouts New Wings	26
For an Up-and-Coming Family	27
A Place to Play	41
You Can Build This Playhouse	52
The Question Before the House	90

Better Gardens

The Diary of a Plain Dirt Gardener	8
Better Gardens Among Ourselves	14
Plant Daffodils for Springtime	18
Gardening in the American Manner	28
Why Not Try Freesias?	59
Circumstantial Evidence	104
Fascinating Flower Facts	108
Along the Garden Path	110

Better Foods

New England Cooks for Experts	34
Under Pressure	36
Cooks' Round Table Winners	36
Cooking With Soup	37
Relishes	38
We Take Out Pie Insurance	44

Furnishings for Your Home

Furnishings in the Williamsburg Spirit	30
I Couldn't Believe It	32
The Charm of Little Places	54
Echoes From the Long Ago	56

How to Manage the Home

"What Do You Mean, Born?"	42
Artcraft Department	46
Line-up for Laundering	48

A Number of Things for the Family

Across the Editor's Desk	4
A Place in the Sun (Frontispiece)	7
It's News to Me!	12
Our Guarantee to You	13
Moulding the Quints	20
We Buy a Puppy	50
An American Composer at Home	60
Service Leaflets and Booklets	63
Club Department	67
The Man Next Door	74

Cover Photograph by Robert Mack

MEREDITH PUBLISHING COMPANY

E. T. MEREDITH, Founder, 1876-1928

Fred Bohen, President; E. T. Meredith, Jr., E. F. Corbin, Vice-Presidents; Elmer T. Peterson, Editor; Wallace F. Hainline, Art Director; Frank W. McDonough, Christine Holbrook, Paul F. Frese, Edna Van Horn, Jean Guthrie, John Normile, Fae Huttenlocher, Associate Editors; Anna Olson, Assistant Editor.

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 N. 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 \$2. Other countries, \$1.50 a year; two years, \$1.50; three years, \$1.50. At newsstands, twenty-cent matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Copyrighted 1937 by Meredith Publishing Company, United States and Canada. Trademarks for *Better Homes & Gardens* have been registered in the United States and Canada.

DRIVING SCHOOL PICKS PLYMOUTH "GREENHORNS" PROVE IT'S TOUGHEST

*The Car that
Stands Up Best—*

Plymouth has made a remarkable record of reliability for William H. Kopf, owner of West New York Auto Driving School. He uses Plymouth to teach driving. Read his story.



"I'VE USED every kind of low-priced car for this work," says Mr. Kopf. "Now I'm using a Plymouth... and I'll never again use anything else but Plymouths."
"Why this car has 33,475 miles on it but runs like new... does 20 miles to the gallon... and certainly stands up wonderfully."

TODAY'S PLYMOUTH has Even More Long Life and Reliability

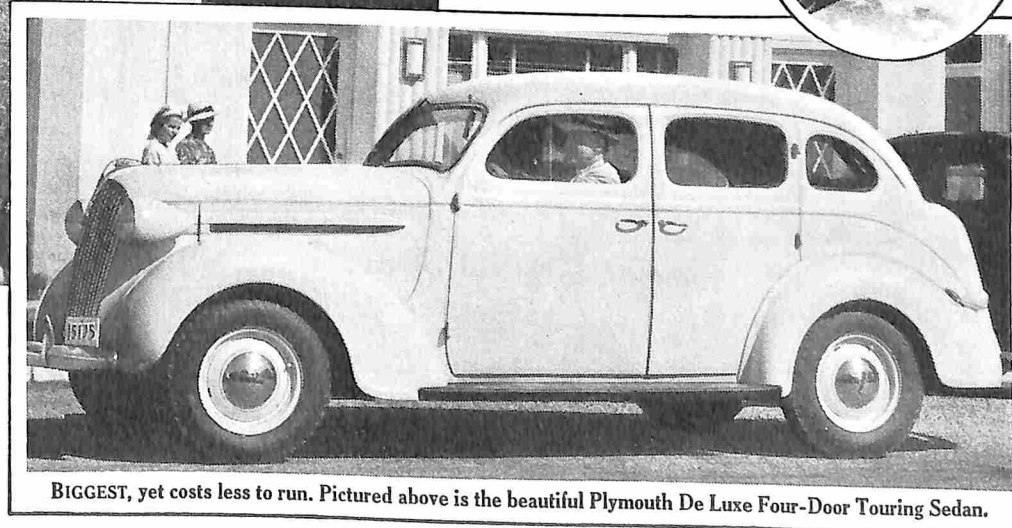
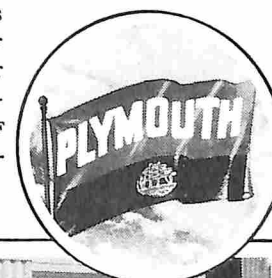
"GREENHORN DRIVERS certainly maul this Plymouth of mine," says Mr. Kopf, "but Plymouth sure can take it!"

AND TODAY'S BIG Plymouth has additional long-life and reliability features.

You get, of course, *double-action* hydraulic brakes and an all-steel body. And there's more comfort in Plymouth's new sound-proofing, airplane-type shock-absorbers, rubber body mountings.

Owners report 18 to 24 miles per gallon... lowest upkeep of any low-priced car.

Compare "All Three" low-priced cars... see for yourself why Plymouth is the biggest value, by far the best buy. It's the car that stands up best.—PLYMOUTH DIVISION OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION, Detroit, Mich.



BIGGEST, yet costs less to run. Pictured above is the beautiful Plymouth De Luxe Four-Door Touring Sedan.

PRICED WITH THE LOWEST

The Commercial Credit Company has made available—through De Soto, Chrysler and Dodge dealers—payment terms which make it exceptionally easy to purchase a new Plymouth!

MAJOR BOWES' Amateur Hour—Columbia network—1 hrs., 9 to 10 p.m., E.D.S.T.

PLYMOUTH BUILDS GREAT CARS

SEPTEMBER 1937

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS

10¢



MereMart.com®

Vintage Magazines for Special People

