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THE FARMER'S WIFE

The Magazine for Farm Women

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What Have Children a Right to Expect of Parents?

MUCH of the time we who are parents think that we just naturally know how to bring up our children. And then suddenly something happens that makes us wonder if we ought not make a study of parenthood and learn what we should do rather than what our boys and girls should do.

In an early issue THE FARMER'S WIFE will publish the first of a series of articles that will deal with that big question, "What children have a right to expect of parents." They come from a writer who is himself a father and who is an educator of wide reputation. They are most interesting to read, they are full of common sense helpfulness, and they have in them good meat for study, either by yourself or in company with the members of your farm women's club.

ARE you saving the articles on Home Furnishing which are appearing from month to month in THE FARMER'S WIFE?

It may be that circumstances do not permit you to make changes in your home just now, but sooner or later you will make changes or improvements and then these articles will be useful. They cover every phase of home furnishing and they are thoroughly practical—pointing out how to do the best with what you have right where you are. They will be better for your purposes than any expensive book that you can buy.

TO THOSE of you who find THE FARMER'S WIFE helpful, now in this way and then in that, we suggest that you tell your friends about it. They will thank you for telling them about a magazine that fits so closely into the life and work of farm women.

Our Page with You

For Safe Motherhood and Babyhood

MOTHERHOOD and babyhood in rural America will not be as well guarded against unnecessary death as they should be if farm men and women do not bestir themselves to secure a continuation of the work of the Sheppard-Towner Act. This act, through Federal aid, has for seven years made possible a splendid campaign of education in matters pertaining to maternity and infancy, and the death rate among mothers and babes has been much reduced thereby.

But the last Congress failed to continue this aid, provided for in the Newton bill, and the measure awaits the action of the special session of Congress now underway. If the Newton bill is not passed by June 30, Federal aid will cease. This would mean the breaking up of the fine state organizations which have been so effective in safeguarding mothers and their babes. Rural homes will suffer most, because most cities and towns have means whereby they can carry on the work without Federal aid.

If farm women's clubs and individual farm women will write to their congressmen at once, urging them to pass the Newton bill, this important health work may be saved from disaster. If we can advise or aid you in doing something about the matter, we will be glad to do so.

Practical Citizenship

OUR Field Editors bring back this interesting story from their visits to many Farm and Home Week meetings at the agricultural colleges:

Farm women everywhere are trying hard to learn all that they can about citizenship and public affairs. Lectures and discussions on taxation, economics and such subjects were attended about as largely by women as by men.

But it is not enough to learn about citizenship; something must be done about it also, and that is where many farm women say that their difficulty lies. They do not know where to begin to exercise their citizenship.

Well, here is a suggestion for one good beginning: Interest yourself in your nearby school, and more especially in the selection of a teacher for the next school year. During the school months that teacher will spend more time with your children in their waking hours than you will. Why shouldn't you be active in securing a thoroughly competent man or woman to preside over your school? This is a citizenship job that is close at hand and which needs to be done.

Educators say that there is at present an over-supply of teachers. That suggests the possibility of your being more careful and particular in your choice.

Feed Their Minds as Well as Bodies

WE HAPPEN to know a father and mother who pride themselves on being good providers for their children because they house them, feed them and clothe them well. But they never buy a book for their boys and girls, except school books. If you searched their house from top to bottom you wouldn't find even a little collection of good things to read.

Question: Are they good providers in every sense of the word?

Their boys and girls have minds as well as stomachs and the wonder is that this father and mother haven't seen the importance of feeding the minds as well as they do the stomachs.

Good books need not be expensive. The very best of them, both for children and grownups, come in excellent editions for a dollar or less per volume. We will be glad to send a list of books suitable for graduation gifts for boys and girls to any who will send a 2-cent stamp for it. Any nearby library will do the same thing.

"Books are keys to wisdom's treasure;
Books are keys to lands of pleasure;
Books are paths that upward lead;
Books are friends. Come, let us read."

The Farm Child's Inheritance

"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water-bugs, frogs, mud turtles, wild strawberries, acorns, trees to climb, brooks to wade in, water lilies, hay fields and pine cones, rocks to roll, sand snakes, huckleberries and hornets, and any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of his education."—Luther Burbank.

EVERY farm boy and girl has these priceless gifts and many more, including living things to nurture and to love, a wealth of sunshine, wide spaces to explore, wholesome tasks to do. Through them comes the growth of those fine qualities of body, mind and soul which have produced the high type of manhood and womanhood which has flowed from farm life into national life to enrich it beyond measure.

But these gifts must be used aright if they are to be of most value. If John and Mary are turned loose out of doors during the vacation days ahead, without guidance in work and play, they may get more harm than blessing out of their surroundings. Wise mothers and fathers do not leave too much to kind Mother Nature in the rearing of their boys and girls.

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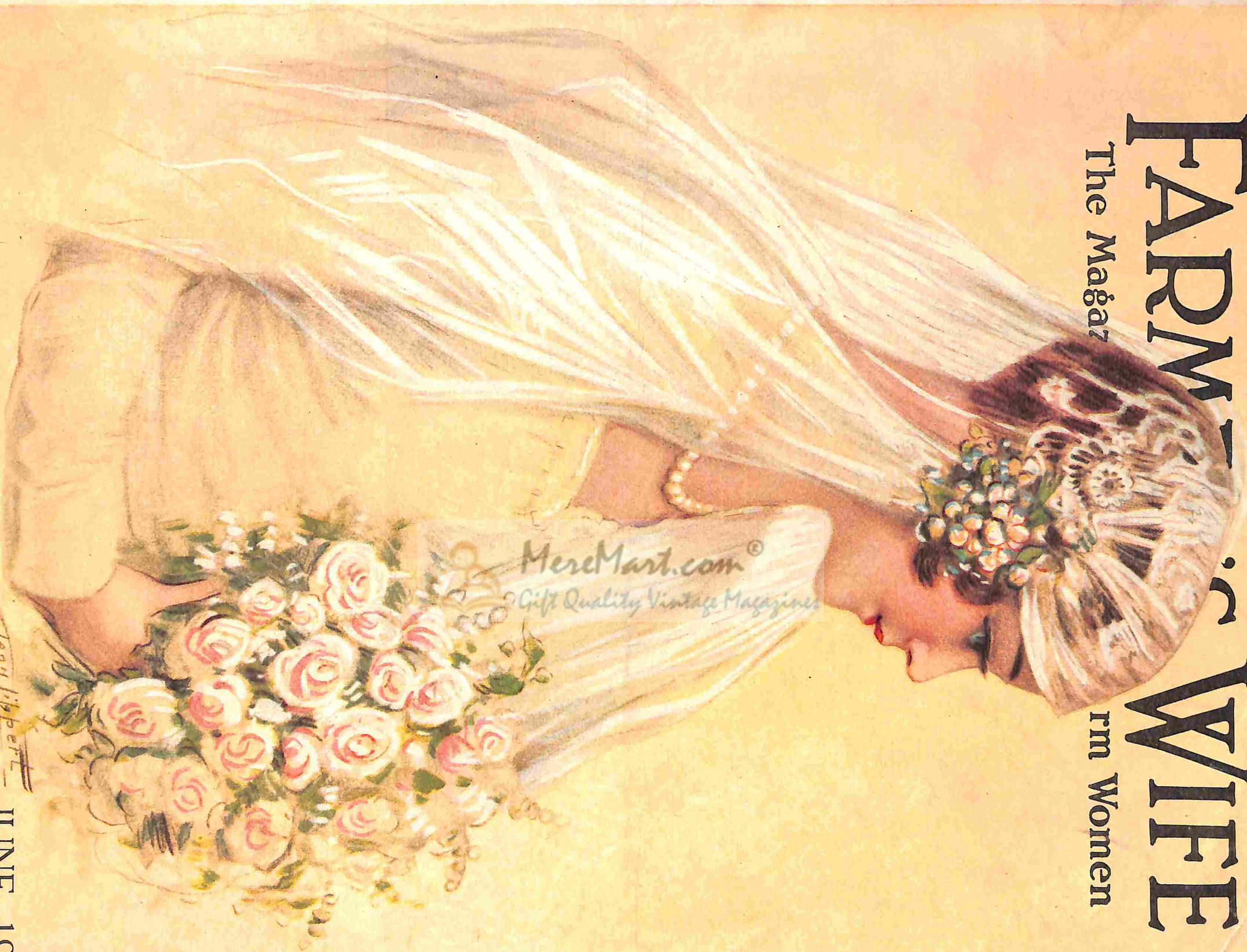
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for Farm Women



Leon Hippert

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