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PUSSY WANTS A CORNER.

This life is like a monstrous pinch
Out in wilderness smiling,
All crowded full of lovely men,
And never a foot of sitting.

There all are struggling for the thick,
And each one is his action,
In this great struggle cities are
Are pushed off in the ocean.

And some will find the lucky place,
Like little Jackey Horner,
Some always struggle for a place,
"For your pussy wants a corner!"

Some have the cleverness to hold on tight,
However tough the sitting,
And feel the pinch through all the night,
With scarce a foot of resting.

Some things are very tight to hold,
As tight as cocoa bolsters,
To hear with greatest fortitude,
"The other people's troubles.

Some get a very liberal stretch,
Though you may deep it funny;
"Tis very easy to be rich
With other people's money.

We often get the lucky place
Through some poor brother's sorrow
The future he endeavors vainly
Brings you success tomorrow.

"Tis with a complicated world,
Where you and I are playing,
We find incident to thick a bit
Now, brethren, let's be praying.

Oh, yes, we've found the lucky place,
Like little Jackey Horner,
Make room for some poor creeping one—
"Your pussy wants a corner!"

—M. A. Paddock in New York Sun.

A CLUB FOR MOTHERS

THE HOUSEKEEPERS' ORGANIZATION OF COCOANUT GROVE.

Florida Women Who Have an Interesting Way of Securing Relaxation from Their Home Duties—Some Rules and Objects of the Society.

Away down on the east coast of Florida, 200 miles south of St. Augustine, is the pretty little settlement of Cocoanut Grove. It is situated on the banks of Biscayne bay, one of the loveliest sheets of water for winter cruising and fishing that it is possible to conceive of for those who are not afraid to go beyond the daily mails and telegraph wires, for at present there are no railroads or steamboats, not even a wagon road, connecting us with the outside world—sailboats only, but plenty of them, and good ones, too, which is very necessary, as the nearest market or source of supply is Key West, 150 miles to the south.

Of course there is a hotel, postoffice, store and Sunday school building, which, with the Biscayne Bay Yacht club house, the various winter residences of the northern yachtsmen and the pretty little houses of the pineapple growers and cocoanut planters of the keys, each built according to its owner's fancy or means, and set in the midst of cocoanut, lime, orange, banana and guava trees, form a most attractive picture, to which may be added the ever changing life of the bay, the coming and going of the yachts, the arrival and departure of the mailboats and freight schooners. Not if the place is attractive, very much more are the people who have helped make it, and this is especially so of the women, whose husbands and sons are the spongers, wreckers, carpenters and boatmen of the reef, when not engaged in truck farming or pineapple raising.

It is to these women and their club—a housekeeper's club—that I wish to introduce my readers. A woman's working club in every sense of the word, with an attending membership of twenty and a correspondence membership of ten, the latter residents of New York, Boston, San Francisco, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Key West.

To most of the women born and brought up on the keys of the reef or in Key West, and of English parentage—for the majority of the settlers came originally from the Bahamas—the experience of belonging to a society, however simple, for women only, was a novelty. Although "our club" is now a frequent and proud expression among them, and member, in talking it over with her husband, assured him that the "rights of her club were as well made and just as binding as those connected in the capitol at Tallahassee."

And so they are to the faithful band of women who gather every Thursday afternoon in the little Sunday school building, and join heart and hand in helping each other to enjoy and improve the two hours a week rescued from their household cares. For nearly every member is a mother, not of one, but in several cases of eight and ten children, with no one to assist in the daily and hourly work attending such a household, so that the first rule made and rigidly enforced, "No babies allowed at the meetings," is a genuine relief, and gives time and freedom for much that would be otherwise impossible.

Sometimes the children are taken to a neighboring house, ten or twelve little tots from one to three years old, and a husband or eldest son volunteers to oversee those that are able to walk, in which case, as it draws near closing time, one little head after another will be seen coming, Indian file, along the narrow path, all of them bareheaded or nearly so, in search of mamma and generally in great glee at having escaped. At course there follows a grand hunt now.

The originator of the club is its president, Miss Flora McFarlane, of New Jersey, a woman who has proved herself in every way capable for the life she intends leading, having homesteaded a hundred and fifty acres of government land, which she has gone heavily to work to clear and improve.

The officers of the club are the president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer and caretaker, who has entire charge of the club's workbench, giving out the work and collecting materials, such as scissors, thimbles, textile books, patterns and cotton box, after each meeting. These meetings occur every Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6.

At the organizing of the club it was voted that the time be spent in making useful articles of clothing from material either given to the club (throughout the president presented a dozen kitchen aprons) or bought with the club's funds, the funds being derived from membership dues (which were promptly paid, so that the treasury fund itself may at once) or gifts. That such articles should be sold at each meeting, and to members, at cost price.

That the money received for the first year be spent in the purchase of textile tools and also in cutting and useful articles for a bazaar, to be held at the annual meeting for the benefit of the church building. That perfect members be elected by means of a voter marked with black and white beans, distant or correspondence members on the good faith of the housekeeper proposing them.

Bright, newsy letters are received from the nonresident members, and all sorts of gifts in the way of household articles from half a dozen cup towels to a bedspread.—Harper's Bazar.

Taking Photographs by Balloon.

It is proposed that balloon photography should be used in siege by the besiegers. One plan is to start a small balloon, loaded with a camera, to windward of the fortress, the plates being exposed by means of clockwork attachment or slow match. These, of course, are adjusted to the time which would elapse before the balloon will reach the point or points where the engineers are to be made. The gas escapes, and the balloon descends on the further side of the fortress, within the besiegers' lines.—New York Telegram.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS.

Plans for the Arrangement of Apartments in a Store Building.

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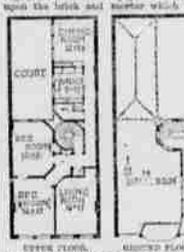
In the countries where the sun shines bright and long, and where the temperature is high, they find it expensive and uncomfortable to live in what we call flats or apartments. The rooms around the courts are thought to be the most desirable in that they are cooler and cooler than those which look on the street. In Italy and Spain there are not a few structures where little effort is made to give an attractive appearance to the street front, but with elaborately decorated interiors. The court is surrounded with verandas and galleries to which open the more desirable apartments.

In France most of the shops and stores fronting on the streets are shallow and the larger number of living rooms are arranged around the central court in the way above noted. This fact may have a bearing upon our northern as well as southern architecture. In the cities where ground is high, and where the upper stories of the tenement houses be made to pay a fair return upon the brick and mortar which is in them, it is profitable to be able to arrange such quarters so that they will be regularly occupied as dwellings, if not as offices. In all large cities there are many quarters where the rooms above the stores cannot be rented profitably for offices, particularly if in buildings on side streets or slightly removed from the business centers.



The French flats or those of Italy offer a solution to this problem. However, it is to be borne in mind that the arrangement of an apartment building cannot be transferred from one of these countries to another, principally on account of the difference in the arrangement of the store buildings, which renders a court on the ground floor impossible. An American store is always a large office floor in it occupies a great deal of floor space. In the twelve countries the stores are usually locals from 15 to 25 feet deep—and the space back of them is used as a court and for the living quarters of the concierge or caretaker. In the French apartment houses the first or ground floor is never used for a high grade of living apartments.

In the plan which I herewith submit we have 25 feet of ground with light from the front only. For the purpose of adding to the difficulty of the problem I have inclosed the rear end as well as the side, though in practice the rear would generally be open and not usually a part of one side. It will be seen that the entrance to the apartment is at one side of the store building. The passage is lighted by a window in front and at the side near the show window of the store. The stairway from the landing is amply lighted from the room above and the skylight which covers a part of the space of the hall.

A part of the stone stairway as indicated projects into the store room. However, in considering the effect of this projection and any objection which it may have with respect to the store, we must bear in mind that it adds to the revenue of the floors above, certainly to a greater extent than it especially takes from the store itself. Another thing to bear in mind is that the arrangement of the apartments is of such a character as to provide a room which has more light into the rear and middle of the river than is common with the ordinary plan of a store building. This is due to the fact which is so common in the disadvantages of the projecting side way.

Each apartment has four rooms, kitchen and water closet, besides some elaborate and liberal fittings in the way of cupboards, sink, dumb waiter, etc., in the kitchen. After entering from the main hall through the door one is in his own quarters, quite independent and isolated as if he were alone on a large lot. The writer lived in a seventh story flat of this character for six months and did not know one of the other occupants. The kitchen range in such an apartment is built under a hood, so that all heat and odors are directly removed from the kitchen. The upper stories in a building of this kind could not be more than five high. This makes the side elevation, as it appears looking towards a light air shaft, just the thing for a light air shaft that are the narrow.

It is to be noticed that the rear rooms in this apartment are lighted from the court.

Louis H. Gibson.

Nebulite.

A little south side tank, tech chief or what not which will recommend itself to every a woman who attends the market is impossible for her to possess many belongings, yet who wishes to make her home look attractive and comfortable, is some as follows: Buy a small clothesbrush, which will cost six cents, cents, Dandelt and about three feet long. These clothes frames come well finished, but in all cases sandy for decorative purposes.

Four chairs which may be made or bought, if one is handy with the saw and plane, or which will cost about one dollar if a regular carpenter, are needed. These must be smooth, with rounded edges. The key could is only half the width of the house door. The shelves are hung on the sides of the clothes frames by means of two loops sewn to each end, those loops are screwed into the shelves at each the frame, and the shelves are then hung in easily and will hold the frame firmly. The same distance can be ascertained by measuring if the words are too long they from sewn loops of the shelves and hold knots, such as are used for curtain poles, etc., are set into the tops of the posts.

When the rack is finished it may be varnished and varnished or painted white and painted white, blue or pink and lined with gold. The shelves are easily unhooked, and the frame folded so as to go into a trunk. Brass pins for curtain may be added if desired.

To make a fan-frame is borrowed from a friend, must have large diamonds stamped on over it and work them in outline with silk and the frame. Then cut out the fans of the size with a contrasting edging. Another way is to fifteen cut the fans then all stamped, making a beautiful fringe. Above the fringe come two or three rows of drawn work.—December and Evening.

The Curious Rescue Team.

There is a time when gold for fine stamps. The time was when this generation was deemed very valuable, and many living men will remember having seen perfectly formed specimens sell for five or ten dollars, to be carried in the pocket as lucky stones. The lucky stone, I believe, is in the structure of calcite. It is calcareous and as hard as a bit of limestone, but the rock is generally a mass of lost linked from the side of the animal and carried into the stomach with the rubies. These concretions are so plentiful now as they ever were.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Fashion Expense.

A prince received from the house steward his monthly statement of accounts, in which occurred the item of 1,500 fire for the keep of a cat in the palace. The prince immediately wrote in the margin, "If there are no rats in the house, it is no good keeping a cat; if there are any rats, the charge for the keep of the cat is superfluous." And he struck out the item.—Ben Chaqbiche.

A Dentist's Way of Expressing It.

A story is told about a popular dentist who was a farmer's boy before he studied his profession and the metaphors of the farm come glibly to his lips. He had just opened an office and one of his first customers was a young lady whose teeth he carefully examined. "I have remarked, "I find, miss, that one of your front teeth needs a little tilling."—Spring field Homestead.

Gets Warmed Cheaply.

A Harry jeweler, who has an alternating current transformer in the basement beneath his store, has placed an iron grating over it, and in this way warms his place at the electric company's expense.—New York Journal.

Patti's Wonderful Castle.

The house in which Patti lives is one of the most interesting of homes. Craig-y-Nos castle, as the sagacious has christened it, is hidden away in the wild hills of the Swansea valley of Wales. It would be one of the most inaccessible spots imaginable were it not for a little railway which runs within four miles of it. In pleasant weather it would be difficult to find a prettier bit of landscape, but in wet and wintry weather, when storms sweep through the valley and transform the tumbling little Tawy river into a foaming torrent, it is a good place to keep away from. Patti's reason for choosing a home there was a good one. The peculiarly quiet atmosphere of the place suited her voice better than any other locality she could find on the English side of Dover straits. Having once determined where she would live, Patti began to build a home consistent with her ample ideas of comfort and luxury.

The most remarkable thing about Craig-y-Nos is that such an establishment is to be found in such a remote part of the country. It is very much as though Jay Gould had built his Irvington palace in the heart of the Adirondacks instead of on the slope of the Hudson river. In point of architectural beauty or cubical dimensions it would be absurd to compare Craig-y-Nos with any of the great ancestral estates of the English aristocracy. The castle takes its name from a large, ill shaped hill called Craig of the Night. To get around this hill and make her home moderately accessible from the railway station Patti spent $20,000 in building a roadway.—Florence Wilson in Ladies' Home Journal.

Teaching a Girl a Lesson.

She happened to catch a Groton and Gloucester car that was crowded with business men on their way to the brokers and a twinkling of women and schoolboys. She looked around in vain for a seat, but too sure had their noses buried in newspapers and possibly did not see her. She stood almost directly in front of a gallant lad who was studying "Chemical Indian Water," and he soon saw and proffered his seat. The young woman, without even a nod of acknowledgment, flopped down with an injured expression, as though she was just inheriting her rights, which she should have come into long ago.

"Excuse me," said the youth, a mischievous twinkle illuminating his eyes, "but I think I left one of my books on the seat."

At this point everybody looked up, seemingly all at once, and eyed the young woman plus, and the young man resumed himself, with a very audible "Thanks."

That young woman's embarrassment was painful. Everybody was smiling, and not a few of the dodgers chuckled. It was a cruel thing to do, and, as the young fellow says, he did it all on the spur of the moment, and would probably not have done it had he thought twice. However, he has evidently taught one young woman the appropriateness of gratitude, even in small things.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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