PICK YOUR COLOR SCHEME FROM NATURE

BY CLEMENTINE PADDLEFORD.

You have stood in your kitchen door after a summer shower and watched a rainbow fade into the midst of a purple hill. Your eyes counted the colors—red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet—how soft they were splashed with the gold of sunlight and the silver of fine rain. There you saw nature's paint box and your own as well. By mixing those six colors with each other and with light and shadow all other hues are made. All the colors of nature which we imitate in our curtains and rugs and pictures come from this one single source—the rainbow.

Just to prove it to myself I bought a box of paints—six colors there were, those of the rainbow. But I could have done as well with three—the red, the yellow and the blue. Those are the primary colors, green, orange and purple are made by mixing together any two of the primaries. Yellow and blue make green. Yellow and red make orange. Mix red with blue and you have purple.

Between each of the six rainbow colors there is another hue made of equal parts of the color on either side. So the six colors of the rainbow are increased to twelve.

NATURE'S USE OF COLOR.

Take the primary and secondary color families and see how nature uses them. There is red, that hot, heavy color with the power to warm a room and the power to make it shrink. It has a hidden quality too of stimulating action in those who live in it. Too much red is dangerous. Red color is like red pepper—important, but to be used sparingly. Spots of it are splendid—the daring flash of a redbird, flaming sumac along the ridge of a hill. In a room spots of red bring out other color schemes. Use it in books, bowls, brocades, a lampshade or an occasional piece of furniture.

Yellow is the color of daffodils and laughter. It is the happiest color of the lot. You have seen pastures spotted with clumps of yellow daisies that seemed laughing in the sun. Used in touches yellow is an ideal tonic for dull rooms and morbid dispositions.

Blue is a cool, calm color, restful and light-absorbing. Green is another cool, light color with a touch of cheer. No other colors but these two could be used without monotony in the wide stretches of sky and water. But even here there is a combination of tones. Can you imagine water or sky one never-changing hue? So in our rooms even restful colors cannot be used in solid mass—they must be shaded with light and dark or relieved by a complementary color.

Orange, made of yellow and red, has warmth, light and gayness all in one. It is the sunrise and the sunset. Nature uses it for brilliant splashes against darker color masses.

Purple can be both hot and cold, inspiring or dignified. The wood violet has the primness of a spinster, the aster a dignity befitting kings. It never nods, but bows. Purple if used in too large amounts is over-stately for the little room.

When I choose a color scheme, I first consider the purpose of my room. As a general thing the farm living-room takes more kindly to dignified colors, restful to the eye. Dining-rooms I like to be cheery spots giving a feeling of hospitality. Halls need inviting colors, dignified like the living-room but cordial, with a mellow warmth of welcome. Bedrooms I find most restful done in the lighter color keys.

SELECT THE RIGHT SHADE.

Color can make a room warm or cold, dark or light. Light walls make light rooms. Dark walls make dark rooms. For that cold north room or the one overshaded by trees use colors that have warmth to give the effect of sunshine. It can be done with a background of warm ivory or tan and with colors like rose or yellow in the hangings. For the room on the south use cooler colors—backgrounds of pale gray, cool ivory or grayish tan.

The very little room will broaden with the right shade of color on its walls. Strong dark colors make rooms shrink, while dull light colors give size.

If we take a tip from nature we will never do a room in one color, with walls and floor and hangings all the same. It is monotonous. The key color is best when used with restraint. Of course, every color must be in tone or complement with every color. As nature neutralizes her colors with sunshine and mist so we can use the light and dark hues of the paint box.

In the large stretches of earth, sea and sky, nature uses restful colors—brown, green, blue and gray. This is her background for the smaller masses of more brilliant hues. The earth is carpeted with the darkest tones, just as we should carpet our homes. The sky is the palest shade of all. So should our ceilings be, with a slightly deeper tone for the walls. The birds and the flowers are the brilliant spots that liven the darker tones. In our rooms the richest, most colorful notes furnish inspirations for the furniture upholstery and drapes. The brilliant dashes belong in the small articles such as a vase, a bowl or a picture.

It is easy in the country to find a color scheme. They are on every side—not only color ideas but also the color itself. You can go into your garden or the roadside and carry away armloads of the yellow, the red and the blue of outdoors to decorate your rooms. The city woman pays dearly for nature's color, in the form of autumn leaves and berries, wild flowers and tall swamp grass. You have it for the picking.

Every season offers her color schemes for your choosing. Spring with her tints of blue and pink and green are for the restful bedroom. From the posy bed a dozen color combinations can be copied. You have looked across the fields in summer, wheat a-tiptoe in the wind—golden yellow leaning against a block of rippling mauve—alfalfa in full bloom. You can buy those colors in cretonne and chintz. Every flower, every bird, every butterfly is a living color scheme.

HOUSE-CLEANING HINTS FOR YOU THAT OTHER FARM WOMEN HAVE TESTED.

My best house-cleaning short cut is a meal tray—the one I use for serving. It is 20 x 16 inches, big enough to hold a pan of water, soap, clothes, cleaning fluid, tacks and a hammer, and catch all the drops of water and crumbs from scouring cakes. It is a convenient size for carrying from place to place and is a catch-all for trash I gather in the course of my cleaning.—Mrs. J. S.

Matching fresh laundered curtains is usually a time waster. But I have found a remedy. As I take down each pair of curtains I mark them with thread and needle—one pair with an X the next with an O, and so on to the last window. If there is no up or down to the curtains the markings go at the down end. When they are rehung I turn them upside down, giving the sun a chance to wear them the same all over.—Mrs. M. F.

Left-over ends of scouring cakes dissolved in water make excellent cleaning liquids. I save up the odd pieces and dissolve them at house-cleaning time. The mixture is quicker and easier to use than the cake itself.—Mrs. B. M. O.

During house-cleaning season I save time by preparing a peck of potatoes, enough to last a week, at one peeling. After rinsing well I put them in a covered jar of cold fresh water to use as needed. The soaking makes them cook and look like new ones. I also boil a kettleful of the smaller potatoes with their jackets on to have for creaming and salad.—Mrs. H. E. K.

At last I have found an inexpensive furniture polish. Melt one-half pound of sealing wax and slowly pour into this one gallon of kerosene, stirring constantly until the mixture is cool or begins to whiten. This is enough polish for furniture, woodwork and floors to last six months in the medium-sized home. To apply, use a dry rag, polishing after it has been on two or three minutes. Keep the mixture covered when not in use, as kerosene readily evaporates. The kerosene removes the grime and dust while the wax leaves a beautiful lustre and preserves the varnish.—Mrs. B. M. O.

GOOD FROSTING FOR CAKES.

An easily-made frosting for coffee cakes, rusk, buns or other cakes raised with east, consists of granulated sugar mixed with enough cinnamon to produce a light-brown color. A grating or two of nutmeg may be added, but is not essential. Just before putting the cake in the oven, spread the top lightly with heavy cream and over this sprinkle the sugar and spice. When baked, the cake will be covered with a delicious brown, sugary glaze.

For Graham Frosting mix one teaspoonful of graham flour with two tablespoonfuls of sugar, and then mix with enough cream to make a paste which will spread, but not run. Spread this over the freshly-baked cake and return to the oven for two or three minutes. The frosting should bubble all over the surface but not burn. If made with brown sugar a delicious caramel frosting will result, while the graham flour lends a nut-like flavor. Cakes which have the top moistened with cream alone have the fine, brown glaze which is so desirable for Dutch cake.

A cake frosting which is always a success is made by boiling together one cupful of sugar, four tablespoonfuls of water, one level teaspoonful of cornstarch and one-quarter teaspoonful of cream-of-tartar. Boil to the soft-ball stage (when tested in cold water), then beat slowly into the stiffly-beaten white of one egg. Flavor to taste. To vary this frosting add, while the mixture is boiling, four teaspoonfuls of sugar that has been caramelized by browning. This will produce a caramel frosting. For variety add chopped nuts, raisins or shredded cocoanut to the white frosting, or make the frosting with brown instead of white sugar. To make a chocolate frosting add three teaspoonfuls of cocoa to the boiling mixture.

CLOSETS I MADE.

Unfortunately there are but two real closets in our house, so necessity drove me to invent my own brand.

I have a high wooden bed in the guest room. At the head of the bed I drove a nail into each post and stretched a wire from nail to nail. A dozen coat hangers can be comfortably hung on the wire, so the guest had plenty of room for hanging clothes.

In daughter's bedroom I wished more closet room, so I purchased two smooth boards, the same length and width. I got four shelf brackets from the hardware store. The boards were placed parallel on these the required height of the closet. Now we have a protected shelf for hats and other things.

A wide strip of board was nailed under the lower shelf on which to place hooks. At each end of this strip a clothes-hanger bracket was placed. Half a dozen coat hangers may be placed on each of these brackets. So, with the row of hooks in between, plenty of closet space is afforded this bedroom. The whole was covered with a pretty cretonne, like the other cretonne coverings of the bedroom. Instead of tacking the cretonne directly to the upper board, fasten a wire round this board and fasten small rings to the upper hem of the cretonne. Thus the curtain can easily be pushed back and forth on the wire.

A shelf for shoes at the top of the baseboard completed this homemade closet.—A. M.

TOOK THREE ORPHANS.

"There's Mrs. Smith—she has adopted three children and she is not very well off either. Isn't it ridiculous her taking other people's children to raise?" This was the remark made by a lady the other day, and she seemed to be quite in earnest. Perhaps the fact that she had no children herself influenced her judgment to some extent. Had she known anything about the inner home life of Mrs. Smith she would have envied instead of pitied her, for, in washing, sewing and cooking for these little orphans, Mrs. Smith found the greatest possible satisfaction. Others have had the same experience and if the lonely, empty and cheerless homes of the country could only realize it they might find a world of happiness by undertaking the care of two or three homeless children.

RAISIN COOKIES.

Cream one-half cup shortening and add gradually one cup sugar, beating the mixture until it is light. Add two beaten eggs and sift together two cups flour, one-eighth teaspoon salt and two teaspoons baking powder. Alternately add this mixture and one tablespoon milk to the sugar and shortening. Work in one teaspoon vanilla and one cup chopped raisins. If the dough is not thick enough to roll, add more flour. Turn on a floured board and roll thin. Cut, and bake in a hot oven about twelve minutes.

The Tuberous Begonia.

The shady spot is often a worry to the gardener as it will not produce a fine velvety lawn nor are there many flowers that will succeed in it. The tuberous begonia may be used to save the situation with great effect. This plant cannot be successfully grown in the full sun because the leaves burn and the plant assumes a very unpresentable appearance. A bed of the tuberous begonia beneath the spreading branches of old elms at the corner of the lawn is an impressive sight. City residents living on the south side of the street find the tuberous begonia a wonderful help in making their grounds attractive. There is also the space that may be called a laneway between houses that are but a few feet apart, that needs embellishment for the summer season. Here also the tuberous begonia is strikingly at home so long as it gets an hour of sunshine during the day.

Of the tuberous begonia there are many varieties, both single and double, and in many shades of clear charming colors. Grown in rich soil, the blooms more particularly the single varieties are not infrequently from five to six inches across, while the double varieties seen at a little distance away resemble the most luxuriant roses. Tuberous begonias can be raised from seed but it is rather a delicate operation requiring expert skill and special facilities. The ordinary amateur would be better advised to procure the tubers either dormant or sprouted in the spring. Having once acquired a stock, he is supplied for years to come with his plants, provided he will take them up carefully in the fall and store them in a cool cellar in dry sand during the winter months.

Some gardeners plant the tubers directly into the garden as soon as planting weather arrives, but it is better to start the tubers in the house, commencing about the middle of March. The tubers may be planted in boxes or in flower pots. One plant to a five-inch pot in a very suitable way to start the plants, because the soil has then not to be disturbed when the plants are set out in the garden. Good pot drainage and soil of a light character should be used. Furthermore, the tubers should not be more than just covered in the pots. A shelf placed above a radiator in the house is a suitable place to start the tubers. In this situation they will require watering frequently. Given attention in this way until well up, the plants may be given a cooler location with good light but without direct sunshine until the planting time arrives about the end of May. Plants set fifteen inches apart in a well prepared bed will make a wonderful show from the time they commence to bloom until frost closes the season.—Can. Hort. Council.

Paste an envelope to the inner back page of your cook book. It makes a fine receptable for the recipes you clip from papers and magazines and wish to keep for reference.

Day-time Frock of Printed Silk

Quite in keeping with the fashion for simplicity is the printed silk crepe frock which is so gay and smart that it needs little or no adornment. Frock No. 1056 is a one-piece model that is easy to make, yet gives charming results. It has a centre-front box-plait, with closing at under side of plait, and patch-pockets; V-shaped neck opening with becoming pointed collar; close-fitted sleeves with turn-back pointed cuffs, or short sleeves if preferred. Plain crepe in one of the colors of the printed design is used effectively for contrasting trimming. A row of pearl buttons in matching color adorns the centre of the box-plait. Made in sizes 34 to 44 inches bust, size 38 requires 3¾ yards of 36-inch material, with ½ yard of 36-inch contrasting material cut on the cross of the goods, or 1¼ yards if cut lengthwise.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 20c in silver, by the Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Pattern sent by return mail.

Woody Climbers.

There are many homes which could be made much more attractive by the judicious use of a few good vines. A very plain dwelling can be relieved of much of its stiffness by the planting of a vine, which in a few years will break the monotony of a straight wall or harsh corner. Verandahs, summer houses, fences, rocks and old stumps of trees covered with vines will so change the appearance of a place that it will hardly be recognized by one who has known it before. There are many varieties of vines from which the Canadian resident may choose. Climbers make rapid growth when once established. The best results will be obtained, however, by preparing the ground beforehand.

The Dominion Horticulturist has recommended the following varieties: The Virginian Creeper, Japanese Ivy, Dutchman's Pipe, Climbing Bittersweet, Clematis of several varieties, and English Honeysuckle.

The Virginian Creeper (Ampelonsis Quinquefolia) when once established is a rapid grower. It is very hardy and will soon cover the wall of a house. This plant is beautiful, particularly in the autumn when the leaves take on a glowing red shade.

The Japanese Ivy (Amelopsis Veitchii) is not so hardy as the Virginian Creeper. In Ottawa it often kills back more or less each year, but usually recovers reclothing the wall each succeeding season. It is a beautiful vine and clings very closely to the wall, presenting a fine effect in many homes in the cities and towns in the central and southern parts of Ontario. It is recommended to protect the roots of this vine for the first year or two with dry leaves or straw packed closely about the plant for a foot or more at the base.

The Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia Sipho) is rather slow to become established, but makes a wonderful effect in the course of two or three years. Its leaves are large, heart-shaped and deep green. Although very attractive, it is heavier looking than some others, and is more in keeping with the massive building than with one of a lighter style. It does not cling as do other vines but twines about whatever object comes within reach.

The Japanese Bitter-sweet (Celastrus articulatus) bears a crop of attractive berries. Its habit of growth is somewhat like the Dutchman's Pipe, inasmuch as it does not cling to smooth walls.

The various varieties of the Clematis are beautiful because of the abundance of flowers that come in different colors. This vine requires a trellis or other support of similar character.

The Honeysuckle (Lonicera) is a very hardy climber, producing scarlet, trumpet-shaped blooms throughout the season. Although hardy, it is well to take it from the trellis and lay it on the ground during the winter months.—Can. Hort. Council.

The heralders of progress are quite as likely to be found in the advertising as in the reading columns of the Canadian press.

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 10

Life in the Early Church—Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 5:1-11. Golden Text—The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul.—Acts 4: 32.

ANALYSIS.

I. A SHINING EXAMPLE OF EARLY CHRISTIAN BROTHERLINESS, 4:32-37.

II. A DARK INCIDENT, AND A WARNING, 5:1-5.

INTRODUCTION.—We have already heard in Chap. 2:44, 45, of the spontaneous generosity with which the early Christians dealt with poverty and economic distress within the community. The world saw a remarkable example of Christian brotherhood when the richer members of the Church, by their own free-will, made over their lands and possessions for the common good. To this subject, St. Luke returns in the present lesson. He cannot sufficiently extol the loving practical wisdom and chivalrous public spirit which made the Church resolve that none of its members should suffer want for causes lying beyond their own control. Generous men came forward and placed what they had at the disposal of the brotherhood. Without being required to make the sacrifice, they showed a disposition to count nothing that they had as their own. All was of God and for his service.

One of the most distinguished examples of this benevolence was the Church-leader, Barnabas, whose self-sacrifice was long remembered. His disinterested goodness was seen in all the brighter a light because of the dark counterfoil supplied by the counterfeit case of Ananias and Sapphira. The latter was actuated, not by unselfish motives, but by a calculating policy, and their sudden deaths were interpreted as a mark of God's displeasure at the conspiracy in which they had connived.

I. A SHINING EXAMPLE OF EARLY CHRISTIAN BROTHERLINESS, 4:32-37.

V. 32. The love inspiring all the actions of the early Christians found expression in many ways in the constant maintenance of a true unity of spirit, and in a steady refusal to countenance anything like class distinctions. But the most notable mark was the willingness of all property-owning members to regard their possessions as a trust to be administered for the common good. Such men parted with all that they had in order to relieve cases of destitution or distress. And their actions were all the finer because no law or regulation of the community imposed this course upon them. Pure love to Christ and to their fellow believers was the one motive.

V. 33. Consequently, with this fine example of practical Christianity to support them, the disciples had no difficulty in preaching the Christian doctrine of a living and risen Christ. Men saw that they practiced what they preached, and they could believe in the resurrection of Christ when it inspired such unlimited acts of charity and humanity.

Vs. 34, 35. Poverty and distress, which would otherwise have been grievous, were in this manner practically eliminated. A clear proof was delivered that, where there is a will to do these things, there also is a way. The poverty was due to many causes: (1) Jesus had drawn many of his believing followers from among the poor, the disinherited, and the outcast (Matt. 11:28-30). (2) Many of Jesus' followers had left their trades and occupations to follow him to Jerusalem. (3) Many, who otherwise would have been self-supporting, may have been boycotted by the Jews because of their faith in Jesus. On the other hand, the liberality of their more prosperous brethren was inspired (1) by the example and precepts of Jesus (2) by the sense that earthly possessions were not an end in themselves, but only a means of doing good (3) by pure Christian kindness, and possibly (4) by the sense that the present world was passing away, and that the Lord would soon return.

Vs. 36, 37. One conspicuous instance of Christian liberality is mentioned, the case of Joseph Barnabas, a Levite born in Cyprus. The apostles gave Joseph the surname Barnabas, which means "son of exhortation." They did so in recognition of Barnabas' blessed gift of encouraging everybody and of bringing out the best in everybody. In illustration of this happy gift we have (1) his present generosity in selling his estate (2) his cordial recognition later on of the convert Saul at a time when the Church at Jerusalem was almost too afraid to admit him (9:26-27) (3) his broad-minded sympathy with the work of evangelism among the Greeks at Antioch (11: 22-26).

II. A DARK INCIDENT, AND A WARNING, 5:1-5.

Vs. 1, 2. It is not to be expected that the outburst of Christian liberality in the early Church should not have inspired counterfeit examples, and an instance is recalled which had burnt itself deeply into Christian memory. Ananias and his wife Sapphira plotted to obtain a name for doing what Barnabas and others had done, but without "paying the price" which this profession of unselfishness involved. They deceived the Church by saying that they had surrendered their property, when in reality they had reserved part of the value.

Vs. 3, 4. This deception brought upon them the stern denunciation of Peter who exposed the act as done with intent to deceive the Holy Spirit, in other words, as a lie against the Church, which in actions such as this ought to be guided always by the pure inspirations of the Holy Spirit. It was a sin against that pure sincerity which the Holy Spirit inspired, and a dark blot on the fair fame of the Christian community. Peter made it abundantly clear that Christians were not compelled to surrender possessions, but were at liberty to give or not to give as they thought best. But, as he pointed out, they were expected to be sincere. Self-regarding motives in a Christian profession were unpardonable.

V. 5. The sudden demise of Ananias under the shadow of this exposure was seen as a divine judgment on an unworthy member of the Church. It made a deep impression on a religious society which lived by simple sincerity, and felt the need of discipline upon all who showed any disposition to trifle with the springs of Christian motive.

The Delphinium.

The modern delphinium, popularly known as the hardy larkspur, is one of the finest and most desirable of tall garden flowers. In a favorable location and with reasonable care the modern varieties reach a height of from five to six feet, presenting a charming effect particularly in the hardy border. The colors of the delphinium run from white through the blues and into the purple shades with many variations of amethyst tints. The individual flower spikes of many of the varieties are a foot and a half in length and have many side shoots that extend the flowering season for several weeks. When well grown it blooms freely in July, and if cut down immediately after blooming and given a little fertilizer and well watered, a second crop of bloom will appear in the autumn.

In cultivation it should be given a deep and moderately enriched soil, an open sunny situation and sufficient space in which to properly develop itself. The plants, like many other perennials, should not be allowed to remain longer than three years in one place, but after that time it should be taken up, separated and replanted. This may be done either in spring just as the plants are starting into growth, or during the fall months.

The delphinium suffers from the attacks of slugs. Protection against damage of this kind is secured by placing a few handfuls of coal ashes over the plant just as winter is coming on. In very exposed positions it is well also to lay a few evergreen branches or other refuse over the plants on the arrival of winter.

There are many species of the delphinium, including the delphinium grandiflora, a low growing sort with good foliage throughout the season and typical blue flowers; delphinium exaltatum, a native of the Central States, grows about four feet high; delphinium fissum is still a taller variety bearing blue flowers with a white beard on the lower petals; delphinium formosum, growing not more than four feet high, is very satisfactory for permanent planting and naturalizing because of its hardiness. The differences in these, however, are more botanical than horticultural, the choice being merely a matter of personal preference. It is an interesting plant for the gardener to explore with full assurance of obtaining something worth while irrespective of the variety selected. This herbaceous flower has, in recent years, been greatly improved by cross breeding and selection. Some of the newer varieties of wonderful beauty include Morheimi, white; Harry Smeetham, pale blue; Statuary Rude, blue with amethyst shading; Rev. E. Lascelles, blue of a darker shade and semi-double.—Can. Hort. Council.

Confidence in Canadian Eggs.

The thirty odd millions of Canadian hens producing upwards of two hundred million dozens of eggs in a year will have to increase and work harder in the future than they have in the past to meet the increasing demand for good eggs. The consumption of eggs in Canada has rapidly increased in recent years, due to the adoption of the grading system. Twenty-five years ago Canada's consumption of eggs per capita was about fifteen dozens in the year. Four years ago it had risen to twenty-one dozens and last year to twenty-six dozen eggs per head. This increase will surely continue as housewives become familiar with the standard grades, and the assurance that grading gives to those who do the purchasing for the family table. Nor will the increased demand for Canadian eggs, as their merits become known through systematic grading, be confined to Canada, because as was shown before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons, Great Britain is learning of the excellence of Canadian eggs and taking more and more of them for their best trade. The United States, it was stated, is adopting the Canadian standard of classification which it is believed will have the same effect in that great republic as it has in Canada of increasing the annual consumption of some sixteen or seventeen dozens per capita to a higher consumption year by year. This, in the opinion of Mr. W. A. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division of the Live Stock Branch, will lead to a great demand for Canadian eggs in the United States.

The man who plows an acre walks eight miles.

The farmer should be interested in greater profits per acre instead of greater yields per acre. In either case the fertility of the soil should be maintained.