Make Ready to Enjoy Golden Summer Hours...

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Make Ready to Enjoy Golden Summer Hours . . .

By Betty Martin

WRITING spring poems, housecleaning, spading up the garden, going a-courting, buying a new necktie or hat—they're all manifestations of the same basic urge to start something fresh at this time of year.

The little breeze that feels and smells as though it came from a bed of violets peeping through snow and makes winter coats seem so heavy and dull, says that Spring is just around the corner and inspires us according to our lights.

The same impulse that creates the immediate necessity of acquiring a gay new hat, very frequently causes a woman to feel suddenly aware that her home is drab and colorless and that many things must be done to it at once.

Her critical eye takes in the cracked, streaked and faded paint, the heavy dark draperies in the windows, and the big porch, so bare and awkward across the front of the house. The drab mat, which for months has been the lawn, is broken only by soggy masses of dead leaves in the paths unused in winter, the erstwhile bare twigs of bush and tree and snarly flower stalks and vines left in the garden.

In her mind's eye, she sees the transforming effect of a coat of paint, and the color question presents itself. While the architectural features of the house will have a very definite influence on the choice of color, and certain general rules and current tendencies should be taken into consideration, this is still very much of a personal matter. A small, informal house can be done in much gayer colors than can a large, dignified and impressive structure.

If one has a decided leaning toward a certain color, there is no reason for not using it, in the right combination and proper amount. Thanks to the number of excellent charts to be had nowadays, the novice in home decorating can readily determine just what other colors would combine well with the favorite one. Even though one may have an excellent "color sense," such charts and scales save a great deal of time and effort. They may be obtained upon request from well-known magazines on homes and gardens.

Do the over-worked rooms of your house seem to slump when the gayety of winter parties comes to an end? One woman I know suddenly saw the wide front porch of her home in early spring, cleared of sleds, skis and skates and the storm door removed, revealed as useless, ungainly and hopelessly out-of-date.

Hasty consultation with family and carpenter followed, and up went screen enclosures (those were exchanged for glass the following fall), with a graceful, small entrance at one side. The partition was removed between living room and porch and wide French doors were substituted.

Winter dignity was translated into spring gayety, light was introduced into the somber living room and the center of interest was immediately shifted from fireplace to sun porch, made gay with perky chintz covers on two or three shabby old chairs.

"There's always room for one more," when it comes to pillows. They offer good opportunity to bring in accents of color because, being removable and changeable, they may parade in rather vivid shades today, and the following year, be changed to other tones. For utility of effect, it would be well to have them all of the same material, if figured. A variety of harmonizing colors may be used if plain.

A coat of quick drying enamel paint and more of the smart new chintzes in plaids or stripes will make last year's porch furniture look like new. Or two or three pieces of the amusing new metal or wicker furniture may be acquired inexpensively, with a little care and thought in shopping.

With the addition of a grass or rag rug, a magazine stand or table, and a colorful, interesting vase for flowers, the porch is ready for a succession of cool, lazy hours and many charming lunches and suppers to be served throughout the summer.

Much might also be said of the back porch, which is frequently lacking or unneeded. If you do not want a porch, a small brick terrace will perform its function and add to, rather than detract from the attractiveness of the house. A charming spot is created for the woman who refuses to be confined to the drudgery of long mornings spent entirely indoors. It may look out over the garden and be a pleasant place to serve breakfast at a small table, or to sit while preparing vegetables or to take one's leisure in the evening, away from the busy street in front.

HOMEMAKERS are learning to take their work out into the sunshine, which is always waiting to chase away the clouds of discontent and drudgery. "Prosaic tasks" is a term sometimes used by home management experts when speaking of dishwashing, cooking and dusting. When the practicability of combining the work of every day with pleasure is fully realized, there will be no more "prosaic tasks."

The woman who has a back porch may treat it in much the same way as the rejuvenated front one. Enclose it and make it part of the kitchen. Give herself light and space and, again, with the aid of gay enamel paint and prints, she can make her work room a delightful, if humble, avenue of expression of cheer, humor and good will. It will help her to achieve the syntheses in her life, between "'hyacinths and biscuits," which Carl Sandburg says is achieved by poetry.

But the fun has only started. The seed catalogues are arriving, and orders should be placed early to receive immediate attention and insure having the material on hand as soon as the weather permits active gardening.

If your gardening instincts sleep under (Continued on page 14)
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Lemme Have a Dog
(Continued from page 7)
need careful, scientific training and correction if they are to afford any pleasure to their masters. It's merely a claim.
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and as in all things, good judgment is the criterion for action.

Our This Year's Plans
(Continued from page 8)
the American Home Economics Association. At present, the American Home Economics Association is asking the state legislative chairman to inform our representative in Congress that we are advocating the passage of the Jones bill for the promotion of the health and welfare of mothers and infants. This bill passed the Senate on January 10, 1931.

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a snow bank with the bulbs you planted last fall, now is the time to shake them awake. Soon frozen patches of lawn will thaw into welcome green, and gummy-sack crows will be stripped from rose bushes. Soon red and yellow sparks of tulips will burst into flame under a May sun.

There is now a decided tendency toward enclosing the garden in trellises and screens of bushes and hedges. With privacy thus insured, the porch furniture, covered with some of the attractive new water and sun-proof materials, may be moved en masse to the garden and a delightful outdoor living room established.

A hedge of Japanese Barberry and a rock garden or a small pool will add much to the interest, beauty and utility of the home gardening project this year. Next to the flowers themselves, water is the element which contributes most to the enjoyment of the garden. Fortunately for the small home owner, a garden pool need not be an elaborate or expensive thing. A pool of small size can be constructed for as little as $25.00, and most of the labor can be done by the owner of the garden.

A life without love in it is like a heap of ashes upon a deserted hearth—with the fire dead, the laughter stilled, and the light extinguished.