

MARY'S AT HOME



WE really do enjoy your "At Home" in the "Journal." I feel as though I know "Tinkle Tinkle" and many others quite well. I loved the verse "St. Teresa's Bookmark"—it contains many sermons in one. No need for worry if we really believe that.

—**Jonathan,** Clarence Bridge.

I HAVE had more fun in the vegetable garden this season than in the flower beds. It is miraculous the way tiny seeds so quickly become healthy plants, and I spend more time than I should just watching them grow. My small daughter has suddenly become extremely interested in the vegetable garden. I tremble to think of the day when the green peas are ready, but at least I will know where to find her! My cornflowers are in bloom in three shades of blue, and the new ranunculi have also flowered. They were a present from my husband—the kind of present I love most because its loveliness increases.

—**Native Flower,** Waipukurau.

HERE is yet another wishing to join your "Good Neighbours." What a lot of newcomers you have had lately, and what a spirit of friendliness is shown in their letters.—**Blue Eyes,** Springston.

MAY I join the "At Home"? I enjoy the pars. very much and they give me many happy moments. The coloured covers are most attractive.

—**Teddy,** Te Kauwata.

IT is lovely to see so many new neighbours joining the circle and enjoying your interesting pages. I hope you are having better weather than we have had. A strong nor-wester did great damage to the early flowers, especially the wallflowers, which have not regained their early promise. Poly-anthi, wood hyacinths, ranunculi, and anemones are making a nice display at present, but the annuals will all be late this year.

—**C.V.W.,** Dunedin.

MY four small children keep me very busy and allow me very little time for other pursuits. But I always try to keep a book at my bedside. What a treasure books are; with books and a vivid imagination one can travel the world of space and time, and life is never dull.—**Rosemary,** Levin.

I DO appreciate colour in a garden, especially where there is a wide sweep of lawn to offset it. Violas are ideal plants, as they are so gay and bloom for such a long period. Sometimes I lose patience with the folk who go in for "show" blooms alone, scorning Nature's attempts. I think they miss something if they don't allow some of the plants to grow at their own sweet will.

—**Cloudy,** Ashburton.

MAY I join your ever-increasing circle of members? I do enjoy your pages. While my husband is engrossed in the various articles I admire



the "Journal" covers. They are really lovely and like many of your readers I look forward to seeing the cover of each new issue.—**Phillippa Anne,** Te Awamutu.

I AM interested in your "At Home" pages. We have taken the "Journal"

for some time and have "signed on" for a few years. Son enjoys the farming articles. I find since he returned to New Zealand he is not so fond of stories—articles are more to his liking. I read all the recipes and try the ones I like. I think the built-in furniture is labour saving, but often wonder what we do with the bit of time we've saved. We never seem to do anything definite with it: we've so many irons in the fire.—**Tussock,** Otago.

WHAT would you call a person who gets an inspiration while doing her housework and sits down and puts the inspiration into writing? Well, that's what I have been doing, and it's now eleven o'clock and all the beds are not made yet. Why worry; I've enjoyed myself, anyway! It is cold and dull here despite the nice weather report this morning. We had a frost two nights ago and I felt like weeping on beholding the rows and rows of potatoes and beans so badly frostbitten. Slugs and snails had also been busy, so last night I went out foraging and caught a number of them as they were crossing from outside the fence into the garden for their supper. I have never known a year like it for slugs; I have killed thousands and still they seem as numerous as ever.—**Alix,** Wairoa.

I DO so much enjoy reading of the doings of my fellow Good Neighbours. My literary scrap-book is now nearing completion, and as it is reaching the stage of becoming bulky I shall have to continue in another. . . . The weather hasn't been too kindly disposed towards my flowers lately. The cold snap withered the lilac and the tender buds on the roses, as well as catching the plums, some of which now hang like raisins on the trees.

—**Clara Jane,** Rakaia.

MAY I please join your "At Home," Mary? I do enjoy the friendly paragraphs and look forward to each new issue. I have a young family of four and find my life very full, but not so full that I cannot find a little time to read—my favourite pastime. Better to drown one's worries in a good book than air them to the neighbours.—**Gipsy,** Canterbury.

I ALWAYS feel drawn to things in miniature. Is it the English in me? I'd like to be able to collect the silver filigree "dolls" furniture that Queen Mary specially likes, or more of the miniature jugs. To go with those I have is a Doulton "gallipot," and a tiny copper saucepan (its mate, the frying pan, got lost. It was only three-quarters of an inch long, but beautifully proportioned).

I did some long-overdue weeding in the garden this morning and my fingers seem full of prickles. They will work out, no doubt, but are a