As You Were Saying...

The Bell-Ringers. There's a little brown church at Nashua, Iowa, made famous by the hymn, "Little Brown Church in the Vale," which annually attracts about 40,000 visitors and each year is the scene of more than a thousand weddings.

After each ceremony the minister walks down the aisle with the couple and, near the entrance, asks the bride if she will ring the bell to announce that another wedding has taken place.

He hands her the bell rope and she pulls and pulls, but without success. The minister then turns to the groom and says, "Lend a helping hand." He does, and soon the bell tolls out the news.

Then the minister says, "Always keep in mind, throughout your married life, if you pull together, the bell will ring."—*Mrs. Bertha Prestage, Sioux City, Ia.*

Progressive Education. Recently the northern lights showed up in the sky. Next day I asked my class of first graders how many had seen them. Several raised their hands, but one small boy piped up, "What channel?" —*Mrs. R. S. Shepherd, Springfield, Mo.*

Bargain Baby Sitter. Mothers whose budgets can rarely afford a mature and responsible baby sitter might find this method helpful. We used it when our children and resources were smaller.

We placed an ad in the newspaper: "Wanted, female. High-type baby sitter desired in exchange for use of automatic washer and electric sewing machine."

Result: a lovely widow who was happy to spend an evening in our home, sewing and watching the children while her laundry was automatically washing. And we knew our children had expert care.—*Mrs. Henry Shissler, Misenheimer, N.C.*

Lesson from a Tablecloth. I called one day on a rather hard-put family just before their mealtime and, as I observed the oldest girl setting the table, I commented, "It must be someone's birthday. That's a lovely tablecloth."

"Oh, no," said the 9-year-old, "We always use a white one."

Knowing her mother had no washing machine, I said, "It must be hard to keep clean. Don't you and your little brothers and sisters spill things?"

"Sometimes," she answered gravely, "but we try to eat carefully because Mother has to work so hard."

When I left, I wondered whether, in this automatic age of ours where everything is "plastic-coated" and "dirt-resistant," some of our children aren't being cheated of a chance to learn some old-fashioned manners.—*D.P., New Brunswick, N.J.*

The Welcome Guest. A friend of ours, whenever she comes to town, will never stay with us more than three days. One day I asked her why.

"It's a rule my father taught me," she said. "The first day, he'd say, you are a welcome visitor; the second day, a guest; but the third day, a pest."

Now I try to limit my own visits to half the invited length. It's more refreshing on both the hostess and myself.—*M. B., Paris, Tex.*

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