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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Saturday, November 20, 1937

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "NEWS NOTES FROM WASHINGTON." Information from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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This week's letter from Washington, D.C., tells about two new Department of Agriculture publications for the homemaker's library (which you'll probably want to order right away) and also tells about the annual chrysanthemum show--one of the big yearly events on the Department of Agriculture calendar.

Writes our correspondent: "For fear my pen may run away with me when I start describing the chrysanthemum show, I'll tell you first about a folder and a bulletin, just off the Government printing press.

"The folder, printed on apple-green paper is called 'Apple Recipes,' and suggests a lot of good ways to feed the family and use up this year's big apple crop. You will find on its pages recipes for apples with meat, such as apple stuffing for sparcribs. You will also find ways to use apples with vegetables. (You can scallop apples with sweetpotatoes or cabbage and fry them with carrots or onions.) Apples can fit into a number of different salad mixtures, too, many of them suggested in this folder. And then, of course, there are a good many apple desserts, familiar desserts like apple pie and more unusual ones like apple upside down cake. While the supply of 'Apple Recipes' holds out, anyone is welcome to a copy who writes to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

"Then, just in time for anyone who is thinking of making or buying clothes for the youngsters at Christmas comes a new bulletin on children's clothes. This is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1778, for those who prefer to order by number, and its name is 'Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes.'

"You'll find in that bulletin helpful principles to guide you in making or buying slips or sleeping garments for babies, rompers for the child of creeping age, suits and dresses, sunsuits and winter playsuits for older youngsters.

"Now for the chrysanthemum news. In the fall of 1902--a little over 50 years after the first chrysanthemum came to this country, the Department of Agriculture stages its first chrysanthemum show, and a month later the Chrysanthemum Society of America held its first exhibition. Since that year the Department has put on 36 annual shows and invited the public to come in to see these flowers, so many of them developed by the Department's plant breeding experiments. Over 400 varieties on display this year originated in the very greenhouses where the show takes place. And all the flowers on display were grown by the Department's plant scientists.

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"And people come far and near to see them. So many came this year, that on Sunday afternoon I saw a long line waiting outside the greenhouses and cars that had brought visitors from several States drawn up along the street nearby.

"The show itself includes not only the great single showy blossoms of the Japanese chrysanthemums for greenhouse cultivation, but also the smaller pompom and single varieties for outside planting and the Japanese cascade or mountain varieties, which have trailing branches of small white, pink, lavender, yellow, red or bronze flowers.

"At the show, the great center bed of the greenhouse was filled with about 1200 plants of the large-flowered Japanese varieties. The colors ranged from white to many shades of yellow, gold bronze, lavender, pink and deep red---a mass of what appears to be every possible color except blue and purple. As for the shape of these showy single blossoms on their long stems, some had incurved petals which made them look like great colored globes while others were flat with cushion-like centers and regularly arranged petals.

"At either end of this center-bed where these great blooms were massed stood large exhibition plants, each having hundreds of blooms.

"And then on raised benches along the sides of the greenhouse were the smaller hardy outdoor chrysanthemums, the ones that always interest visitors looking for new flowers for their home gardens. Some of these were of the pompom type and others were of the small button varieties.

"Trailing down from hanging baskets above were the colorful blossoms of the Japanese cascade or mountain chrysanthemums.

"Some of the most interesting flowers of the show do not appear with the named varieties. These are the new seedlings developed by the Department which, if they pass inspection, eventually receive names, and are available to growers."

That concludes this week's letter from the Department of Agriculture. Perhaps you would like me to repeat the names of the new free publications which our correspondent wrote about. One is called simply "Apple Recipes." The other is Farmer's Bulletin No. 1778 "Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes." Either one is available from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

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