Excerpts from “Make it Yourself” (1927) – useful in showing how historical DIY practice was often utilitarian and required considerable manual skill. Pay attention to the words “easy” and “simple.” Try making some of these; let me know how it goes. (GH)
Various Details of a Good Wiring Job Which Can Be Done by an Amateur. No Special Skill Being Required to Do This Work.
Preventing Food from Burning

Practically all cooks, at times, place a plate in the bottom of a cooking pot to prevent puddings or other food from burning. Very often the hot fire drives the water from under the plate, which then becomes too hot and the food is at least scorched. To prevent this trouble, take a tin pie plate, put it over a piece of wood and with a nail and hammer punch a number of holes in the plate from the inside. This leaves all the roughness of the punched holes on the underside, which is placed on the bottom of the pan. There will be no danger of scorching or burning when this plate is used, because it is impossible to force all the water out on account of the numerous holes. There are factory-made articles used for this purpose, but a tin plate with punched holes as described is just as good.—James E. Noble, Toronto, Can.

An Ice-Block Fence for a Hockey Field Is Just as Good as a Wooden Fence and Is Much Cheaper

“Anchoring” the Cow’s Tail

Anyone who has milked cows has suffered from the annoyance caused by the animal switching its tail around to chase away the flies. This trouble can be prevented very easily if there is an old bicycle tire lying around the yard. The tire is simply thrown over the cow’s back as shown. This idea has been tried and found very effective.—F. H. Chick & Co., Strong, Me.
Combination Gocart, Baby Bed and Walker

The handiest article I have ever seen in the way of a baby vehicle is the combination gocart, baby bed and walker shown in the illustration. It is inexpensive and easy to make. Two posts on one side of the cart are fastened to its base and fitted with a bare-faced tenon as shown, the hinges on this side being screwed to the bottom of the post and to the bottom side of the base. The other two posts are hinged on top of the base so that they will fold over the other side. The board used for the rear base should be about twice as wide as the sidepieces, so that the rear end will fold over the side sections. As shown in the photo, the hinges are fastened to the outside and top of this board and to the bottom of the posts, so that they will fold either in or out. By putting the hinges on in this way, the rear section can be folded over the two side sections, or outward so that it may be lowered and held in place with straps when used for a bed. The top of the cart extends forward and a table for toys can be attached to this extension. The table is made of veneer or thin board and molding and is fastened with hooks so that it can be removed when the cart is folded. Any odds and ends about the home can be used to make it. The size of the wheels and axles is immaterial, the axles being threaded or drilled to hold the wheels on. The rods should be cut long enough to extend 1 in. or so beyond the sides of the cart, and sewing-thread spools are slipped over the axle between the wheels and cart. Rubber pads, cut from an old inner tube and tied over the hubs, prevent furniture from being scratched. Various kinds of seats may be used; a swinging seat attached by means of straps, or a piece of strong elastic buckled or pinned on with strong safety pins. The cart may be used for teaching the baby to sit alone, the swinging seat being lowered to the floor and used as a balance. At a very early age, long before the infant is strong enough to carry very much weight on its feet, it learns to push the cart. The cart can be strapped to the seat or placed on the floor of an automobile and, if the seat is made of a baby swing or something similar, the child cannot possibly fall or be thrown out of it. The same construction may be used to make a cart that does not fold, using small nails or screws instead of hinges. If the cost of rubber-tired wheels is considered too high, ordinary casters will be found equally satisfactory. — Rose Stand-lyn-Benziger, Knoxville, Tenn.