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When we look at the buildings where we live we see how flats and units are steadily replacing houses on blocks of ground, though doubtless the love of gardening will check or slow down the process. Gardens too are changing. More women going to work means that there are fewer housewives interested in growing annuals; shrubs, trees and lawns predominate in most gardens. The idea of the pebble garden has spread; one sees them around units and blocks of flats and as part of the conventional garden. In Cheltenham there is a complete pebble garden and one where concrete replaces the usual lawn; it is redeemed by several beds of flowers.

Chimneys have almost gone; a few oldsters still "love a fire"; in most homes heating by oil, gas or electricity is established. The gadgets that have come with the electrical age are always being improved; at any rate the advertisers say so. The "deep freeze" as part of a refrigerator is accepted, though in Melbourne's climate and where everyone is near a shopping centre one wonders if it is necessary. We still enjoy an amazing variety of food, including the many European items brought by the migrants; the numbers of kinds of bread, cheese, wine, ice-cream, sausage and soft drinks are always increasing. And now we can hav e our bread hot or cold! What is dropping out is not so easy to find. Coffee and tea are still popular; only the doctor raises a protest when a patient suffers from insomnia. The tea bag gains in favour; the coffee bag has appeared. The young ones say, "They're less work." The oldsters wrinkle their noses. "Give me a tea pot any day." But in case the bags win we had better begin to save our tea pots and coffee percolators for our hoped - for museum.

EXHIBITION AT LATROBE LIBRARY

An exhibition of Australian children's literature is being held at the Latrobe Library. It contains the 200 books collected by Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Grant who began assembling them more than 30 years ago. They range from a book, "A Mother's Offering to her Children," published in 1841 to "A Short Memoir of Willy Wimmera", the story of an Aborigine taken to England for a Christian education to fit him to teach his "poor benighted people," and two of the first Australian children's books to contain colour plates, Cyrus Mason's "Australian Christmas Story Book" and Samuel Calvert's "Young Australian Alphabet", both published in 1871. Enlarged illustrations from periodicals of the nineteenth century give added interest.

The exhibition is open till December 16th. Hours are Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. ; Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.; Sunday 2.00pm - 10.00 pm.

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