



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## Knee-Deep in June.

Tell you what I like the best—  
Long about knee-deep in June,  
'Bout the time strawberries melts  
On the vine—some afternoon,  
Like to jes' git out an' rest,  
An' not work at nothin' else.

Orchard's where I'd ruther be—  
Needn't fence it in fer me.  
Jes' the whole sky overhead,  
'An the whole airth underneath—  
Sorto' so's a man kin breathe  
Like he ort, and kindo' has  
Elbow room to keerlessly  
Sprawl out len'thways on the grass,  
Jes' a sorto' layin' there—  
S'lazy 'at you peek and peer  
Through the wavin' leaves above,  
Like a feller 'ats in love  
An' don't know it, ner don't keer.

Ever'thing you hear and see  
Got some sort of interest—  
Maybe find a bluebird's nest  
Tucked up there conveniently  
Fer the boys 'ats apt to be  
Up some other apple-tree.  
Pee-wees' singin', to express  
My opinion's, second-class,  
Yit you'll hear 'em more or less;  
Sapsucks' gittin' down to biz,  
Weeden' out the lonesomeness;  
Mr. Blue Jay, full o' sass,  
In them base-ball clo'es o' his,  
Sportin' round the orchard jes'  
Like he owned the promises.

Plague if they ain't sompin' in  
Work 'at somehow goes ag'in  
My convictions, 'long about  
Here in June especially!  
Under some old apple tree,  
Jes' a restin' through an' through  
I could git along without  
Nothin' else at all to do.  
Only jes' a-wishin' you  
Was a gittin' thar, like me,  
An' June was eternity.

March ain't never nothin' new—  
Aprile's altogether too  
Brash fer me; and May—I jes'  
'Bominate its promises!  
Little hints o' sunshine and  
Green around the timber land—  
A few blossoms, and a few  
Chip-birds, and a sprout er two—  
Drap asleep, an' it turns in  
'Fore day-light, and snows ag'in!  
But when June comes—clear my throat  
With wild honey! Rench my hair  
In the dew and—hold my coat!  
Whoop out loud! and throw my  
hat!  
June wants me, and I'm to spare!  
Spread them shadders anywhere,  
I'll git down and woller there,  
An' oblige to you, at that.  
—James Whitcomb Riley.

## Training the Children.

If you have one or more daughters,  
and they delight in table decoration,  
"forbid them not." Let them take  
the responsibility of ornamentation,  
and if necessary, guide their untrained  
tastes; but allow them latitude; leave  
something for them to think out for  
themselves. Gradually, as their minds  
develope, let them expect to help you  
by taking little tasks for their own,  
and for which they are to be held res-  
ponsible. Begin with them early—  
the sooner the better.

Find out how much you are able to  
do without worry and fatigue, and do  
not attempt any more; be lavish of  
common sense; use it everywhere, and  
about everything. It is a wonderful  
time and labor saver. Do not hesitate  
to ask your children to help you; let  
them do all they will. Boy or girl, it

is to their gain to relieve you when-  
ever they can. A boy loses nothing by  
having a knowledge of housework, and  
some day it may stand him in good  
stead.

The duty of educating her sons to a  
kind consideration for a woman's  
strength and endurance rests with the  
mother. To make this education avail,  
she should begin in his very child-  
hood, pleading his loving protection  
to his mother and sisters. The boy  
that is considerate of his mother and  
sisters will not be apt to abuse his  
wife. Much of man's selfishness is the  
result of the training to which he  
was subjected in his earliest years.  
Much of his unreasonable requirement  
of service is due to the fact that the  
mother and little sister trotted after  
him, straightening up his disorder. A  
true gentleman has consideration for  
others, and every son should try to be  
a gentleman, equally as every girl  
should try to be a lady. Unhappily,  
the mother is often to blame that her  
children do not respect her weakness,  
in that she never taught them that  
she had any. I have in memory now  
an old, white-haired lady, the mother  
of stalwart sons and handsome  
daughters. From the earliest days of  
the family, the mother was the  
"baby." In everything, her comfort  
was considered before that of any  
one else. She was a good mother,  
and her home was always the abode  
of comfort; nothing was neglected by  
either husband, sons or daughters. She  
was shielded from every harsh wind.  
She always had her own way, and was  
waited on, from morning to morning.  
Why? Well, because she insisted,  
laughingly, from the first that she  
must be the baby—not in so many  
words, but by asking and accepting  
every service she could get; by train-  
ing her children, even in their baby-  
hood, to think of her needs, and con-  
sidering her strength. Thus she has  
reached the age of sixty-four years,  
healthy, heartsome and happy, a very  
queen indeed to her worshiping sub-  
jects.

Meeting her not long ago, after a  
separation of many years, she laugh-  
ingly explained that she owed her  
prolonged enjoyment of life to the  
fact that she made a vow, when a  
girl, that she would not allow herself  
to break down by useless work for  
others. "Many times," she said, "I  
have been on the point of breaking  
the vow, for I was afraid I was self-  
ish; but I see now I was right. I  
never had to nag my family, and ev-  
ery one of them willingly waited upon  
me, because they never knew any bet-  
ter than to do it." And you should  
have heard her laugh!

## Lawn Decorations.

Not long ago, I had my attention  
called to a smooth, green lawn,  
spotted here and there with little  
round beds in which were grown pans-  
ies, bellis and verbenas. They looked  
like little pies, set out to bake in the  
sunshine. And they all looked alike.  
If the gardener had planted in the  
different centers, here a geranium,  
there an abutilon, in this one a thrifty  
heliotrope, in that one a double bal-  
sam, or touch-me-not, or any fine  
bedding plant that would attain height  
and spread gracefully from the base,  
how much they would be improved!

## For Garnishing.

As a garnish, parsley has been used  
so long that it is the recognized ma-  
terial for that purpose. It is beauti-  
ful and graceful, but there are other

things as easy of growth which are  
beautiful, too. When well grown on  
rich soil where moisture is plenty, the  
leaves of the curled mustard are of  
great size and beautifully crimped and  
ruffled along the edges. One large  
leaf, torn in two lengthwise, will often  
be sufficient for an ordinary sized  
platter of cold meat, as only one layer  
of leaves can be used because of its  
being so full and so wide. Many peo-  
ple like it as a sort of relish for meat,  
and if tender young leaves are se-  
lected, they are very tasty. It grows  
readily from seed, sowing itself, so  
that when once planted it continues to  
come up year after year. It does not  
kill easily with frost, and may often  
be found in good condition as late as  
November.

Turnip radishes, prepared in this  
way, are beautiful garnishes, either  
with or without lettuce: Cut the roots  
off close to the radish and leave one  
inch of stem on. Wash in cold wa-  
ter, and then, holding the radish by  
the stem, cut the skin from the root  
end downward in six or eight sections.  
Do not remove it from the radish, but  
with a sharp knife peel it carefully  
back almost to the stem. As fast as  
the work is done, throw them into ice  
water and let them remain until ready  
to serve. The effect of the water on  
them is to cause the peeling to curl  
back from the heart, and a beauti-  
ful contrast is afforded by the delicate  
rose and the white.

The long radishes are prepared in a  
little different way; cut off all the  
roots and the top far enough down so  
that no green shows. Then, with a  
sharp knife, cut the radish in two  
lengthwise for about half its length;  
then cut again to make it in quarters  
and then divide the quarters. Throw  
into ice water, which has the effect of  
separating the sections from each  
other, and the radish looks like a pin-  
and white splint broom. Tuck these  
in among lettuce leaves, and no love-  
lier garnish can be found.

## Wild Flowers.

Many city dwellers now spending  
their vacation in the country become  
enthusiastic over the beautiful wild  
flowers so abundantly growing over  
the hill sides and in hollows, and fre-  
quently take great pains to secure  
roots of the most delicate and desir-  
able to transplant to their city gar-  
dens, hoping to coax the rural beauties  
to bloom in the atmosphere of the  
city. The result is generally disap-  
pointment, as very few wild flowers  
take kindly to civilization; it is im-  
possible to give to the city garden the  
conditions that exist in the native soil  
and surroundings, without which none  
but the hardiest and least particular  
kinds will grow. Many of these, how-  
ever, are well worth transplanting,  
and once they are established, sur-  
prise one with the abundance of  
growth and blossom. Many wildlings  
are listed in florists' catalogues and  
sold as novelties, for a high price.

## In Season.

Be sure to commence preparations  
for your canning, pickling, preserving  
and jelly making in time. The fruit  
will all be very scarce, and one should  
avail herself of the best that offers,  
when it offers. The backward season  
will also have an effect on the vege-  
table supply, and it will not be well  
to put off the work for lower prices,  
or fuller markets. Especially should  
the farm wife be ready, as a few days  
waiting to get things from the vil-  
lage store, or the probability of not

being able to get them at all, at the  
time, may occasion a shortage she can  
ill-afford in her winter storage.

## Caring For Palms.

Palms in the summer can be set in  
the open air, in a shady place, pro-  
tected as much as possible from heavy  
winds; or they may stand on a shady  
veranda. In the house, they can stand  
where they will receive a fair amount  
of light, but they do not require the  
direct sunshine. When watering, give  
enough to wet the ball of earth all  
through, by setting the tub in a ves-  
sel of water and letting remain for  
an hour or more. Do not water again  
until there is an indication of dryness.  
Wash or sponge off the foliage fre-  
quently to keep it free from scale in-  
sect; if any are present they can be  
destroyed with a brush dipped in alco-  
hol—a feather will do as well, and  
then they should be wiped off. Palms  
are not at all troublesome to  
care for; the *Latonia Borbonica* is  
best for the house. Many kinds may  
be raised from seeds. One of the eas-  
iest to care for, and the fastest grow-  
ing, as well as satisfactory in shape  
and foliage is the Washington, or *Fil-  
lafera* palm.

Just now, there is a world of blos-  
soms of every shape, kind and color.  
Of course, the roses lead, as June is  
the month of roses, but there are  
many other beautiful things. There  
seems to me nothing so delicately  
beautiful as tea-roses and ferns, when  
I hold them in my hand, but when I  
look over my border and see so many  
claimants for my love, I cannot de-  
cide. A wall of *Halleana* honeysuckle  
is just now discounting the essence  
of the queen of the garden, with most  
delightful fragrance, while for rich-  
ness of color and delicacy of silken  
texture, my bed of perennial poppies  
are most satisfying. When I bend  
down over my long row of perennial  
pinks—so many varieties of kinds and  
colors, I wonder how I ever did with-  
out them. Do not forget the packet  
of mixed perennials. Now is a good  
time to plant them for the next year's  
blooming. And you do love flowers,  
don't you?

## Fashion Notes.

The newest sleeve is the inverted  
gigot—the sleeve made with tight-fit-  
ting upper and full bouffant lower  
part between the elbow and the wrist.  
The cuffs are deeper than those of last  
year, and button very closely around  
the wrist with small buttons.

Large sailor collars and berthas of  
Battenberg lace may be worn with  
shirt waists; separate collars of many  
descriptions will be worn with blouses  
this summer.

White wash skirts of linen, linen  
duck, linen crash and pique will be  
worn this season. For best black  
gowns, in woolen goods, voile; in  
silk, pongee and crepe de chine; in  
thin goods, flowered or dotted Swisses  
will be used.

For evening dress for a boy of fif-  
teen, a dinner jacket with rolling col-  
lars faced with silk almost the same  
as those worn by men, or the black  
cloth Eton jackets with waistcoats and  
dress trousers are suitable. With the  
Eton jacket, the turn-over Eton col-  
lar is worn.

The newest belts have pointed ends  
and harness for fancy buckles, or both  
ends are pointed and fastened with a  
fancy brooch, the material cut length-  
wise and doubled and stitched twice on  
the edges. Black velvet belts may be  
worn with any wash goods, no mat-  
ter what the style of neckwear.

The girl making her own clothes  
must keep her tailored and street  
suits in good repair, well brushed and  
well pressed, hang her jackets on a  
stretcher covered with old muslin,  
fold her gloves and veil, dispense  
with all cheap gew-gaws and avoid all  
unusual colors, if she wishes to ap-  
pear well dressed.

For the girl skilled with her nee-