



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McVey

Wanted—Mother's Pay-Day

The mother has never had one, though many a year she's toiled, And the myriad cares of the household her cheeks of the rose despoiled; She has delved from early morning to the setting of the sun, And received no compensation for the faithful service done. Oh, never a day there passes but so many things she sees She longs to buy for the dear ones—some playthings a child to please, Or a necktie new for father, if only she had the pelf; But mother, with all the wishing, has never a thought of self. All say she can share their wages, if only she'd think to ask; Yet to seek her coin like a beggar—she cannot stoop to the task! That mother shall never go needy with emphasis all say, But oh, if, with all their planning, they'd plan for her own pay-day. For why should she feel her wages must come like a charity. And she an account must render whatever her spending be? On a secret trip to the village she'd like at times to go; Or to succor some needy neighbor, nor let the home folks know. I wish that the mighty people all over this great broad land Would demand a lawful payment for work of the mothers' hand, For where the matter of wages to her own home folks is left She is of her well-earned money more often than not bereft. —Alice May Douglas in Designer.

To My Only Son

Do you know that your soul is of my soul such part, That you seem to be fibre and core to my heart? None other can pain me, as you, dear, can do; None other can please me, or praise me, as you. Remember, the world will be quick with its blame, If shadow or stain ever darkened your name. "Like mother like son," is a saying so true; The world will judge largely of "mother" by you. Be yours, then, the task—if task it shall be— To force this proud world to do homage to me. Be sure it will say, when its verdict you've won— "She reaps as she sowed—for this man is her son." Helen Watts-McVey.

Getting Ready for Spring

We have, so far, known so little of winter in most parts of the country that we scarcely realize that we are almost on the threshold of the new springtime. We have so many days that tempted us to spring work that we forget that February is our darkest, coldest, stormiest month, in which it will be well to "house-up," and get acquainted with our bookshelves and newspapers. We should square up accounts for the past year, and find wherein and why we have succeeded or failed. In either case, we shall find lessons for application during the coming year. It is not alone the farmer to whom this ac-

counting may bring gain, but the mechanic and laborer, as well as the business man and merchant in the village and city. We must all learn to "count the cost," and to locate the needless leaks and losses. Now is the time to study these things, and "get square" for the new beginning, when the business of the year opens up outside.

Ventilation of Rooms

The room which is used by the family as a living room should be chosen with a view to the needs of the family from a hygienic point of view. It should be a large room, with facilities for ventilation, should be on the sunny side of the house, and should have, if possible, windows on both the south and west side of the house, but an eastern and southern exposure will answer every purpose. The windows should be large, and easily lowered from the top, and the upper sash should be left a little (at least an inch) lowered all the time, as ventilation of the living room is of very great importance. Once at least every day, the room should be flooded with fresh air, and flushed with all the sunshine obtainable. This treatment is better than disinfectants, and it is not advised for summer alone, but for even the coldest days of winter. After a thorough ventilation, the room soon warms up, on the coldest days, and one does not feel so stupid and sleepy as though the room was kept closed, with the stove, furnace, or even the lamp eating the life out of the atmosphere.

If the bedrooms open off the living room, so much more does it need the ventilation, and the bedrooms, themselves, should be thoroughly ventilated every morning. This can be done by closing the door leading into the living room and opening the windows of the bedroom, top and bottom, for several hours, after the family get out of bed, leaving the bedclothing tossed back off the mattress, until the bed is thoroughly aired and cooled off of the heat of the body. In rooms which are properly ventilated, one is not nearly so apt to take cold from changes of weather, or to suffer from headache, or nerve troubles. Remember, the only air we have, indoors or out, during the hours of darkness, is night air, and the outside air is seldom so unclean as the air inside which is saturated with the unclean breaths of the members of the family.

Try the plan of living in the sunshine and clean air, and, believe me, you will not willingly go back to the old practice of living on the dead and poison-freighted atmosphere of closed rooms.

Little Gains

No matter what the prosperity of the country in general, there will always be poverty and hard times in particular, and, if you read the daily papers of any large city, you will find many accounts of starvation, destitution and hopeless suicides from lack of employment. Many of the men and women cited as suffering have been earners of good wages, until they "lost their job," shared in reduced wages, or were turned out for incompetency, or other disabilities. From these stories, it would be well to learn a lesson of "laying up hay." Even a few straws at a time, would be something. One should seek to gain a little every day, and the gain need not, of necessity, be a money gain. In fact, it cannot always be;

though a saving of a few cents can be done oftener than one thinks. But in learning a new thought, in improving one's mind by good reading, or one's morals by good associations, or one's tastes by seeing the best of whatever is to be seen, new lessons are learned, the mental process stimulated, the body strengthened, high ideals are formed, thus lifting one, little by little, to a higher plane. In learning to be honest and worthy of trust; in gaining a better knowledge of our business; a constant piling up of skill in our trades, clearer, higher expressions of thought, and a better comprehension of and ability to apply needed improvements, and in working more fully toward the interests, not only of ourselves, but of our employers, we are surely earning promotion, and thus saving something for the "rainy days" which inevitably comes to every one of us, at some time. But by this daily saving, the rain will not come in such devastation fashion, or, at least, we shall have a little shelter from its fury. Indifference to the quality of our work, keeping bad company, reading pernicious literature, fault-finding, lack of skill, together with wasteful habits and ill-advised extravagance, spending one's money before it is earned, and a frantic striving to "do as other people do," are all broken rounds in the ladder which, sooner or later, will send us headlong into want, destitution and, too often, dishonesty.

A "Rag-Bag" Shower

A writer in Farm and Fireside tells of a unique, yet useful "shower" for a bride. She says: "For the first year or two after I was married, I had the awfulest time finding old rags enough! When I got my outfit, I hardly thought of such things as dish towels, and never thought at all of all the uses one finds for old, soft cloths—some uses such as new cloth will not fill at all." She tells us that the "shower" consisted of hemmed dish towels made from flour sacks; others were made from old, dark aprons, to use about the pots and kettles; iron holders and pot holders, cloths for washing dishes; sink cloths; and many others, all neatly hemmed and made from old, soft, worn garments. Rolls of soft white cloth for use in sickness or accident, made from old sheets, table linen, etc.; dust cloths, squares of old muslin to use instead of napkins, where food is covered; odds and ends, to be used in any way needed, and the cloths need not be all of white cloth, but should all be clean and serviceable. I have an idea that such a "shower" would be greatly appreciated as the necessities arose, although they might seem nonsensical to the inexperienced bride at the time.

"Let There Be Light"

In order to make home attractive, not only to the boy or girl, but to the grown-ups of the family as well, there should be plenty of light and warmth throughout the house. Coal oil is by no means expensive nowadays, and lamps may be had very cheaply, while, if wicks are bought by the dozen, they do not cost much. The best of oil should be had, though I am sorry to say that many country neighborhoods are given but a poor quality of this; the lamps should have large burners, which should be kept clean by frequently boiling the burners in strong soap suds or soda water. When refilling lamps, the oil

should be emptied out of the lamp, strained through a muslin cloth, allowed to settle and then, the lamp having been thoroughly cleaned out, the oil may be poured back, and the new oil strained into the bowl of the lamp through a cloth. The wicks, according to some, should be well soaked in vinegar and allowed to dry before being used; but I have never found that it does any good, if the air tube in the burner is kept clean. Do not use the burner, or the wick, after either gets dirty or stopped up with the dregs so often found in the oil. Even city people have this trouble with their oil, unless great care is exercised. Good, serviceable chimneys are to be had for ten to fifteen cents, and these should be kept clean. A great many recommend washing them; some advise putting them in cold water and bringing the water to a boil, to prevent their breaking; but just as good results are obtained by blowing the breath in them and polishing, inside and out, with crumpled newspapers. If one gets a good quality of glass, the chimney will be easily kept clean. The wick should just fill the burner-tube, not too tightly. If it seems too large for easy adjustment by the thumb screw, pull out a few threads from the wick, until it moves readily. There should be a shade of some kind, not only to guard the eyes, but to throw the light down on the table, concentrating it where it is needed. Paper lampshades that, with care, will last quite a while, may be had for five cents; tin shades cost ten cents, while there are the porcelain shades of various colors, and the many fancy ones made on a frame with papers which come for that purpose. But, whatever you do have plenty of light in the home. Foul-smelling lamps are caused by their being dirty.

Cleaning Feathers

Many feathers beside those of geese and ducks can be made available by the farm family, if properly deodorized and cared for. The old plan was to bake them, but a thrifty sister sends me the following: "Every time you kill a chicken, try this: The fowl should be a grown one, with few or no pin feathers. Pick dry, if you choose, or scald before picking. Save all fine, soft, quillless feathers; or, if you choose, strip the quills and throw the bony part away. Scald the feathers, and let cool enough to wash them well with the hands; wash until clean, if it takes a dozen waters; then, pour on boiling water again, and let stand until cool enough to wring out by hand, wringing and squeezing them as dry as possible; then, if the sun is shining, (and I hope it is,) put them out, thinly spread, to dry on any clean place; if the sun is not shining, put them into a large dripping pan, a panful at a time, and dry in a quite hot oven, (being watchful so they will not scorch or burn, as this ruins them), stirring very often. After they are all washed and dried, put them in a stout bag and beat them well, so as to make them fluffy. If they are cleaned thoroughly, in this manner, using a good soap suds to clean them, and rinsing them thoroughly, all substance tending to decomposition will be eradicated, and the feathers will smell sweet and clean."

The Egg Question

It will soon be time for eggs to be plentiful, and to spare, and we are again asked to give a recipe for putting them up against a time of need. Some time ago, we told you about

BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bad wetting. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 113, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children's teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents bottle.