



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Noyes

The Unseen

About us floats the odorous gales
That kiss the eternal hills of day—
Oh, that the chilling fogs would lift,
And show our waiting feet the way!

We grope about us, seeing not
The waiting ones outside our sight
And feeling not the clasping hands
That fain would lead us up the height.

We may not know the chords we touch
That, glancing 'long the electric line,
Flash back upon our sodden lives
Some hint of peace and love divine.

As clefted mountains sometimes hide
Behind the vapor's veiling drift,
'Till, pierced by Sol's directing ray,
Their girdling shadows slowly lift—

So, oft we grope, 'neath fogs of doubt,
Our hearts in brooding silence bowed,
While God's eternal verities
Are hidden from us by a cloud,
When lo! a wedding glory throws
A sudden splendor o'er our way,
And, slowly lifting, clear reveals
The whitely shining hills of day!

—Selected.

Our Home Talk

It is owing altogether to how you look at things, whether the gray days of November are dull, lifeless and lonely, or full of the silent beauty that clings to "finished" tasks—the peace and restfulness that comes with release from the burdens of the day. When one is conscious of having done their best, there is a sense of satisfaction which nothing else gives. The visible work of growth has now ceased, but under the brown earth the life goes on, unceasing and sure. It is beautiful!

From the fields and forests, the gardens, the highways and the byways, the solitary are gathering into families, and on the thousands of home-hearths of our readers, the beautiful "first-fires" are being lighted. Owing to the "improvements" of the age, the lighting of fires on the hearth may be only a figure of speech; yet in many, many homes the old customs are kept up, the red flames leap and roar up the chimney throats, or from open-faced or mica-paned stoves, the glow of comfort shines out over happy home groups, drawn indoors and together by the chill of coming winter in the crisp outer air. Around the lamp-lighted tables the nightly gatherings of the household take place, and the door that shuts away the threat of frost swings open to admit the worker, hurrying homeward from the tasks of the day. There is no longer loitering along the bare highways—the home-hunger is strong, and it is doubly irresistible during the early winter days, when the change in temperature is most apparent.

Now, friends, what are you going to do with these evenings? It is claimed that the hours between dusk and bedtime are the most perilous of the day, not only to the young, but to all who long for and see social enlightenment, and this is true of all, whether in the city, village or country. We are known, not only by the company we keep, but by the way we keep it. Many a good, pure, self-respecting boy or girl gets into

a bad crowd through sheer loneliness and while the majority go down to the level of their associates, there are still many others whose garments do not even smell of the smoke. What are we going to do with our evenings?

How to Be Agreeable

Many a girl wishes to make friends, and to be popular with her associates, but does not understand why she is avoided, overlooked and neglected, while other girls, no brighter, prettier, neater or smarter, are always being sought for, and their presence in demand. I do not like to tell the girl it is her fault, for more often than not it is her failing, and the failing is caused by her ignorance or thoughtlessness of the most important rules of good breeding. In the first place, she should learn how to express herself, and expression does not always, or necessarily, take the form of words. Actions, the language of gestures, of the eyes, and of the facial muscles are often more eloquent than words, and these must be well under her control before she can become popular.

She should learn to show interest in the interests of others; and this interest can be shown in sympathetic looks, attitudes of attention, patient listening, and in many ways other than raw questionings and evident curiosity, which, in most cases, would repel, rather than attract. A cordial interest, even in trivial happenings, and an entering into their little joys and sorrows is very gratefully received by most of people. A cheerful, optimistic way of looking at things, and of meeting little mishaps and annoyances, a forgetting of self in behalf of others, and evincing a cordial desire to make everybody have a good time, will do much. Speak freely of pleasant things, and if you can say a nice thing to any one, do it; or if you have heard a kind remark made concerning them, it will not harm to repeat it. Do not notice, or speak of deficiencies, either in manners, education or appearance. It is not necessary to be too frank, and you must learn what not to say, as well as what you may say. Deference to elders, graciousness to younger, and cordial kindness to your associates, with forgetfulness of self and a determination not to be over-sensitive or quick to take offense, will do a great deal to make any one popular.

"Making Fun" of Young People

One of the most senseless things the parents or older members of the family can be guilty of is the ridiculing, or otherwise discouraging the attempts of the younger ones to improve their personal appearance by tricks of the toilet. The efforts may be crude, and the result not always or often what is aimed at; but the act shows a disposition to make the most of themselves, and should be encouraged. If we cared to do so, many of our own shortcomings could be traced back to a time in our own lives when we were "laughed out" of trying to "primp," and forever discouraged by some silly taunt or merciless guying. Many a woman looks back to her lost youth—a youth she might have at least kept a semblance of, but which she either did not know how to retain, or was taunted out of trying to do so.

It is not alone the young people

who would be vastly better off in many ways, if more attention were paid to the proper toilet services, and many men and women who pride themselves on "not caring for looks," would be much more satisfying to their friends, if they did care a little; at least enough to force them to avoid offensiveness. One may love a person—or, at least tolerate him or her—in spite of slovenly, untidy habits; but no one is ever loved because of them. It is well to have a thorough acquaintance with the comb, brush, tooth brush and soap, and the water basin and wash rag; but there are other details of the toilet that either make or mar attractiveness. Pure soaps should be used; the washrag should be kept clean and well aired; the combs and brushes should be washed and unloaded of the lint and dust that render them unhygienic, and every one, big and little, should own and use an individual tooth brush and soap. Care should be taken to impress the importance of these things and their use on the children from their earliest years, and the habits once firmly established, it will be very hard to break them. By all means, take a pride in looking as pleasant as possible to yourself and your friends. Keep clean and wholesome.

The New Rug or Carpet

Remember that the carpet is to be a "ground" for the rest of the room and furnishings. For a small room especially, do not choose a large pattern, or glaring colors. Small designs in soft shades are most satisfactory. Deep blues, brilliant reds, or glaring yellows invariably fade, show dust and lint badly. Dark greens, or light forest greens, tans, or wood colors wear well and last for years without changing colors, besides being very pleasant to rest the eyes on. A carpet or rug with small design in floral or scroll, in two-toned effect, such as a combination of dark and light green, tan and deep brown, or rose and wine, is very satisfactory.

Fashion Notes

Artificial flowers are used on evening gowns as garniture.

The effort is being made to bring back the old, round muff, and it is seen in many handsome furs.

The boned waist, following the curves of the figure, are becoming popular.

The over-blouse costume continues in favor. It is an important feature where an entire costume, yet not a full waist, of the skirt material is wanted.

Trimming is now lavishly used, and trimming on trimming is the order of the day.

Many capes for evening wear are made without a particle of trimming. They are circular shape, with hood, and both cape and hood are lined with white satin.

The old, close-fitting, Princess shape house-dress is again shown, the simplest being the ordinary house-wrapper. The sleeves may be short, elbow length, or finished at the wrist in a deep cuff; or coat sleeves may be used, terminating at the wrist with a perfectly plain wrist-edge; or a narrow, trimmed, turn-back cuff may be added.

The adjustable sounce is quite an economy, as, with one foundation, one may have many changes to suit

the outer garment, by simply putting the flounces on and off by means of buttons and button holes.

Style of make seems to be of more importance than fineness of goods, and many garments of cheap material are made to look very handsome with braid and silk buttons.

Straight skirts are much worn by children, and the dresses may be made for or with a guimpe. The princess makes are popular for young girls, arranged at the shoulder and at the waist line by shirring; wide tucks ornament both waist and skirt. They are usually supported by a body-lining on which the yoke is laid.

At the Country Stations

In passing a railroad station at a small country place, one often notices that a large number of young girls are there for seemingly no purpose except to see the trains come in and depart. Sometimes these girls merely stand around and gaze with peculiar interest at the strangers they see in the cars, while some move apace and flirt with the trainmen, or some of the male passengers. One instinctively wonders what the mothers mean, who permit their daughters to go to a public place of this kind where they can have no possible business. Frequently it looks as though they went to attract attention, for they are dressed in their best clothes and their actions are loud and boisterous.

These girls are by no means wicked; nor do they mean harm; they are simply frivolous; the station seems to be the only spot in their sleepy little towns where there is any life or excitement; and the young people weary of monotony. But it is a thing to be discouraged, for it would cause them heartaches and intense mortification, could they hear the remarks made about them being there. These young girls should go to the station only when they are going away on the train, or accompany a friend, and should leave as soon as possible, making themselves as inconspicuous as may be. There is no denying that many very good girls go there solely for the purpose of seeing new faces, something to relieve the eternal stagnation of farm-village life. But, dear girls, you would not be one bit more conspicuous or talked about if you all went down to the village street and sat with the loafers about the town square or postoffice steps. Take care of your good name and character, girls, for that is the most precious thing you have, and no one can damage it so readily as yourself.—Woman's National Daily.

For the Home Seamstress

The round yoke at the hips for young, growing girls is an economical measure of which the worried mother will be glad to avail herself when forced to lengthen down the outgrown gown for the girlie. As the top of a plaited skirt is usually thick and bunglesome, the plaited or gathered skirt may be attached to the round yoke, turning the plaits from the front. The breadths are straight and measure about the bottom about three or four yards in the middle sizes.

Trimnings are used to give additional attractiveness to the new materials, to brighten up the old, to conceal seams and piecings, and to add to the lengths of outgrown garments.

Straight, plain little dresses are largely worn by the children under six years old, and these can be made very attractive by box or side plaits

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays the pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.