

The Home Department

Conducted by
Miss M. L. P. P.

September

Down in the fragrant clover,
Where the honeyed blossoms grow,
The yellow bee, their lover,
Sips sweets from their hearts of snow.

The brook is so softly singing
That I can not catch its words,
But its voice is like the echo
Of the few late autumn birds.

What is the use of thinking?
It is better to dream and rest,
Forgetting the things that vex us
Though dreams are but dreams,
at best.
In this still, delicious quiet,
It is easy to quite forget
That life has its toils and troubles,
Its heartaches and vain regret.

Happy, to carry with us
Naught of the busy strife—
Naught of the din and discord
That jangle the chords of life.
Just to lie here in the clover—
Dreaming the hours away;
Forgetting the cares of the morrow,
In the hush of the world today.
—Unknown.

Work for September

Remember that you can not have early spring blossoms without work in the fall! Many shrubs and hardy herbaceous plants must be set out this fall, that they may make root growth and get established before the ground freezes for the winter, in order that they may do well next year. Hardy bulbs that bloom at most before the frost leaves the ground in the spring must be planted before December 1, and many of them should be planted as soon as the bulbs can be had of the florist, as they deteriorate and lose strength if kept out of the ground until late. Seeds of many perennials and biennials should be sown this fall, and the seeds of many hardy annuals will do better if sown late this fall. These seeds will come up before the ground can be worked in the spring, and will bloom much earlier than the spring-sown seeds. If you do not get the florist's catalogues, it will cost you but a postal to send for them, and you can learn much from their pages. It is as well, while reading the glowing descriptions of plants and bulbs, to remember that you may not be able to give as satisfactory conditions as the florist does, hence, the plants may not do as well in your hands; but if you choose wisely, getting only what plants you are pretty sure you can care for, and then give them the care they need, you should not be disappointed in the outcome. If you use illuminating gas, or if your hard coal stove "leaks" gas, or if your kitchen fuel is gas which affects the air of the living room, you may fail with your plants. But if you can have a little nook in which to grow a few things, by all means, do have them. One thrifty plant is a great comfort to the family. The hardy bulbs are the surest to bloom, and the least trouble, and even a frosty atmosphere or a slight freeze will not hurt them, provided they are not kept too warm from the start. They like a cool room. Hyacinths are the surest bloomers, while tulips are subject to attack of aphids, and are not recommended for indoors planting. Sacred lilies are the quickest bloomers; but hyacinths, narcissus, chinodoxa, triteleia, and many of the smaller bulbs bloom

beautifully. Get the catalogues now; study them, learn all you can about the bulbs, and order with judgment later.

Getting Rid of the Surplus

In many homes there are things that are really too good to destroy, but too poor to bring a price, and we just pack them about, thinking there will be a demand for them some day, while every minute of our lives, we wish most heartily that we were rid of them. In other homes, there is sore need of just such things and the families would gladly pay a just valuation for them. In our homes, there are articles of various kinds that are not at all what our needs call for, but they must be used, because we can not afford to throw them away and buy new; so we shift along with them. In other homes, there are just the things we need, but our property would serve the interest of their owners far more satisfactorily if an exchange could be made. Then, there are articles that are totally useless, such as a shoe that pinches intolerably, or shoes that never did fit our feet; dresses outgrown, stockings that are too short, and garments or books, or pieces of furniture that we are "sick of seeing about." The only relief seems to be the bonfire, the kindling pile, or the garbage heap.

If we could only know how to bring about an exchange! One reader tells me there are no poor people in their little village, and the surplus must be cremated. Even in large cities, many people have a hard time to dispose of the surplus, as they dislike to offer them to the various relief societies, and in many instances, the relief societies do not care for the things they have to offer. It seems that there might be some place where, by means of a bulletin board, on which, for a few cents, one might advertise her surplus, and another, her wants, or could know where she might "give or get." No names need be appended to the advertisement, but the name could be left with the keeper of the board, to the mutual benefit of both. Recently a lady, having added a room to her house, went to the storage company and bought furnishings for it. Just across the fence from her, her neighbor had a better outfit that she wanted to sell for much less money. Neither knew the other's want, so both lost money by their ignorance of neighborhood affairs.

Little Helps from Little Hands

There are so many pretty little things that can be made by the needle, and the work is so simple, that the little lassie should be taught to help herself in the matter of accessories. At first the stitches may not be ornamental, and the lines not very straight; there may be "puckers" in the seams, too, and the hems may not be all the way of a width; but skill will come in due time, and the little one's efforts should be encouraged by judicious praise. It is far better that an hour or two be given to the handling of the needle and thread than that all the child's time be spent on the street or sidewalk. The sewing classes of the school room do not teach the full lesson, and it is as well to make the child responsible for at least the simple part of the mending. Boys, as well as girls, should know how to

use the needle. A skill in its use may save them many a case of mortification by being able, at a moment to repair the mishap of the hour. Every boy's room should have a few needles, assorted sizes of thread, buttons, buckles, tapes, scissors and a suitable thimble, and the boy should be made responsible for their use and safe keeping.

No mother should encourage waste and untidiness in doing all the little repairs, herself; it is not just to the child. It is well enough for children to have recreation; but the mothers should have a little, too, and the child's sense of responsibility should be developed for the sake of its future usefulness.

The mother who keeps the little ones close to her, encouraging them to share in her work of making the home happy and comfortable is not the mother who grieves over the indifference of her children in her old age. Many a child does not know its own mother. And for this, the mother is nearly always to blame, more than the child. Keep the little hands and hearts interested in the home-making, and share with them in all things, the work, as well as the play.

Care of the Lawn

One of the worst foes to a nice lawn is the common plantain. The only way to exterminate it is to root out each plant as you find it, letting none bear seeds. Very small plants will grow seed, and they should be rooted up and the seeds burned. If this is done for two years, we may be reasonably sure of getting rid of it. Many firms selling lawn seed are not as careful as they should be, and very often the seed contains weed seed in equal measure with the grasses. Mustard, wild peppergrass, mullein, crab grass, fox tail, plantain, and a number of other things she did not recognize, came up with the grass from seeds sown by one lady last spring, although the seeds were bought of a reliable firm. The weed seeds may have been in the soil, and when conditions were favorable, germinated. But one can not be too careful, and every weed should be rooted out as soon as it is found. A few handfuls of grass seeds should be scattered over the lawn, just before a rain, this month, and a dressing of bone meal, or finely rotted barnyard manure should be given the ground.

Gleanings from the Style Books

The new colors for winter clothing are soft and low in tone—quiet, unobtrusive colors. The trimmings are nearly always the same color as the materials of the suit or gown, from the plain tailored suits to the dressy evening gowns. After the soft blues, mixed with much grays, come the brown shades, soft and mellow in tone, much mixed with gray or yellow; contrasts are not to be in color, but in shades of color. The warm gray-browns are chiefly used for suiting; in none are the colors pronounced. Tailored clothes and tailored styles are very much worn.

The newest things in fashion are the polonaise, the over-skirt, the Directoire coats, one-piece dresses, big revers, scantily draped bodices, plain, long skirts, and long, close, tight-fitting sleeves. These new

styles are not easy for the home dressmaker to cut and construct.

The new skirts do not flare, but are cut with long, straight, clinging lines that follow the lines of the figure.

Cording and piping is much used to finish seams, put in sleeves, attach collars, finish folds, etc. Small and medium-sized buttons, covered to match the color of the garment, are used as trimming or ornament.

Separate cuffs and collar sets are easily made by the home seamstress, and add much to the looks of the garment; with some of them go front plaits and frills, while the collars are of many patterns and shapes. Many odds and ends of lace and embroidery and sheer materials may be used up in these accessories. Ribbons that have done duty on frocks and hats may be sponged and pressed and used for neck ruffs or ruches. The butterfly bows worn at the throat or at the ends of long ties are very becoming. These can be made of bits of lace, a few fine tucks, a little hand embroidery, or scraps and ends of fine insertion and edging, and are by no means difficult to fashion. Collars of tucked white lawn, with top and bottom of the band having a bit of lawn embroidery, are much worn.

The Fireless Cooker

This convenience is becoming better known, and many are using either the factory, or the home made article with success. It saves fuel, the time and strength of the housewife, and the food materials, as it does away with the call for constant attendance in the kitchen, and the possibility of having things scorched or burned by neglect or forgetfulness of the cook. There are some things the cooking chest will not do. It will not bake, and bread or meats must be finished off in a hot oven after being thoroughly cooked otherwise. Many things, after being cooked done in the fireless must be finished by a half hour's drying or baking in the oven, and one must learn many things by experience; but it has proven to be all that has been claimed for it. For cereals, whole wheat kernels, rice, and anything which requires long, slow cooking with continuous heat, it can not be excelled. It is as valuable in the winter as in the summer.

Some Cleaning Recipes

To wash a woolen skirt, pour a quart of boiling water over five cent's worth of soap bark, and set on the back of the range to steep (not boil) for two hours. The water should not boil away. Strain through a double cheese cloth bag into another vessel, then empty the water into a tub half full of warm water, and wash the garment through this, just as you would through soap suds; rinse well through warm, clear water to which has been added a tablespoonful of household ammonia, and hang by the waist band to get nearly dry, and while still damp press with a cloth between the cloth and the flat iron.

To remove stains of peach, etc., from linen, or cotton, put the garment into a boiler with cold water (into which has been shredded enough pure white soap to make a good suds) to cover it. Let come to a boil, and boil not longer than twenty-five minutes; remove from the boiler, but do not rinse, and lay dripping wet with the suds, on a clean grass-plate; keep the suds left in the boiler, and with a watering pot, keep the garment wet with the suds, while on the grass. Let bleach

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 the pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.