



The Home Department

Conducted by
Mabel Ward is Meyer

The Stepchild

When I was little, papa used to tell
Long stories to me every night,
And mamma, 'cause she wasn't very
well,

Would lie by me and hold me—
just as tight!

But mother says I'm most half grown
And ought to go to bed alone,
And making fools of children isn't
right.

When I was little, papa used to be
A growly dog, and then I'd be a
cat,

Or else he'd be a bear a-chasin' me,
Until I'd run to mamma, where
she sat,

But papa doesn't want to play
Since mamma went and went away,
'Cause mother says I'm much too
big for that.

When I was little, papa used to hold
Me on his lap and cuddle me, and
let

Me cuddle him, pretendin' he was
cold,

And mamma never seemed to mind
or fret.

But when I go to kiss him now,
He tells me not to make a row,
'Cause mother hopes I'm not a
baby yet.

Once mother went away, I don't
know where,

And papa was alone, just him
and I,

And so I went and climbed up on his
chair,

And then got on his knee, and by
and by

He cuddled me, and rocked me,
too,

Like him and mamma used to do,
And then I felt so good I had to
cry.

—Edmund Vance Cook, in Apple-
ton's Magazine.

Everblooming Roses

Several of our readers ask for a list of the "best hardy everblooming roses." There are so many everblooming roses of the tea, hybrid-tea and china classes that one is at a loss to choose. Many of these are strong, vigorous growers, abundant bloomers, and almost as hardy as an oak tree. And these are among the roses having the most beautiful blooms. But one should choose their plants according to climate, as what might be absolutely hardy in some climates, might not be able to stand the rigors of another, more severe one. The very best thing to do, then, is to select a good, well-known, responsible rose-grower, send for his rose catalog, and, if you can not make your own selection, write the florist, telling him what you think you want, the climate and conditions in which the plants are wanted to grow, and ask him to choose for you. The florist will do this, willingly, giving prices per single plant, or for collections, with advice as to how they should be sent. If you have had little experience in handling mailing plants—which are small, but will grow if given care—it would be best for you to order fewer plants of a larger size, and begin with these. Wherever my home has been, for many years, there also have been everblooming roses. I should not like to try to live without them. In any of these rose catalogues, instructions are given for the care of the plants from the time they are received until they

bloom and grow large and strong enough to defy the ordinary winter weather. Get the catalogues without delay, make out your order, with or without the florist's help, and send for the plants. They are the loveliest, most cheerful things that grow, and their beauty and fragrance will brighten many a dark hour for you, and make you a better, happier woman through association with them.

Among the Girls

One has but to go among a gathering of girls, or observe those met on the streets, whether of city or village, to realize that one of the "crying needs" of the times is that girls should be trained to habits of neatness about care of their clothing, and the way to wear it. It is not required that a girl should "look like she had just come out of a handbox," but to understand what is meant, one has but to look at the girl as she is seen everywhere, at home, at work, or on dress parade, intent on pleasure, to see to what an extent the lax methods pertaining to toilet matters are carried. It is a matter of public comment. This laxity is not, of course, confined to girls; but it is to the girls we are talking now. Go where you will, and you may notice the untidy hair, poorly fastened and requiring constant attention, the badly and crookedly pinned collar or neckwear, the hanging or missing button or frayed button-hole, the little rips or loose threads, the space between belt and skirt-band showing the ubiquitous safety pin, buttons or hooks that do not catch; the gaping placket hole, minus its fastenings; the sagging lengths of skirt, frayed skirt-bindings, frizzled edges of underwear, knotted or flowing shoelaces, shabby shoes, rundown heels. Then, too, many girls wash only the face and hands, neglecting the edges of the hair, the back of the neck, the back and folds of the ears, and the wrists—all showing the "high-water" mark of careless cleaning; the uneven, discolored finger nails, with ragged or tightly fastened down cuticle at the base—all of which a few touches with the wash cloth or nail brush, when washing, would have remedied.

Too careful attention can not be given to the teeth, the mouth, nose, ears and finger nails. Then there are the run-down heels, the shoes, polished to a shine in front, but shabbily rusty on the back and heels and on the tops of the ankles. The short skirts now worn leave all these plainly in sight, as well as, on some occasions, the wrinkling down of the carelessly supported stocking. The mendings with pins, safety-safety-pins, and in some instances, wire hair pins where the dust-ruffle, bindings or hems have become loose. Do you not see them at every turn?

For a Good Complexion

No amount of cosmetics will do for the complexion what attention to the general health will do. Look carefully to the diet; do not starve yourself, and do not over-eat, and eat only what you are reasonably sure will agree with your digestive organs. Drink plenty of water, warm, cool or cold, as gives the best satisfaction. Exercise much, but breathe more, and fit the exercise to your vocation. Deep breathing of the purest air you can get, and

physical exercises which will serve to set in motion the neglected muscles, should be practiced. In washing or bathing, use only good olive or vegetable-oil soaps, and as little as may be of any. Common wheat bran, found at the feed stores, is a good substitute for soap, and gives a smooth, soft feeling to the skin. After washing with soap, "kill" the alkali with a little good vinegar, wetting the hands and face or even the body, with it. Vinegar is an excellent "germicide," as well as healing. After applying this, use a little simple emollient to replace the oil that the washing has removed. Do not use a sour or unclean wash cloth or sponge. Let your cleanser be clean to begin with. A chiffon veil is a protection against rough winds, and it is well to avoid washing the face and hands immediately before going out into the air. If you lead a sedentary life, or are confined indoors most of the time, stir up the circulation by plenty of exercise, and flush the system as much as possible by drinking plenty of water between meals and before going to bed. Think pleasant, cheerful thoughts, and try to see the good in everybody about you. Do not grumble; do not whine; do not bear malice, and do not envy. Try to be glad of any good fortune that falls to others, and make the very most of any that falls to you. Determine to do better every day, and let your soul shine through your body. Be patient with the living, and do not mourn the dead. Live in the sunshine of kindly good will, and scatter it all about you so that other lives may not miss it. Cultivate optimism. Live a clean life, physical, mental and spiritual.

For House Cleaning

Oiling a floor will darken the wood; if it is an old floor, it should be scrubbed clean and let get perfectly dry before applying the oil, as oil will not soak into wet wood. After the oil is applied to the boards, quite warm, and spread evenly with a broad paint brush, it should stand for at least a half a day, and should then be gone over with a woolen cloth, rubbing vigorously to force the oil into the wood and give it a polish, as well as to remove any surplus left on the boards. The reason why oiled floors sometimes proved unsatisfactory is that too much oil is applied, or it is applied cold, or the floor was not dry, or the after rubbing was omitted or done half-heartedly. Any of these methods will result in failure. The advantages of an oiled floor, especially for the kitchen and dining room, is that it does not show grease spots, and may be cleaned either with coal oil, crude petroleum or soapy water. The floor must be new or perfectly clean and dry, and there must be plenty of rubbing to bring out the polish.

Answering Several Queries

A very excellent and inexpensive black ink can be made from a package of slate color wool dye, to be had for ten cents. Moisten the dye with a little cold water, then pour over it a pint of boiling water, stir until dissolved; let boil up once, then strain and bottle for use. Purple ink may be made of the same dye by using two quarts of water to the package. Other colors may be made of the dyes. Some of the

package dye companies make special packages for ink. But any of them will answer.

The cause of goods looking bronzed or rusty when dyed black is that too much dye was used, or the goods not thoroughly boiled so as to absorb the dye. Try washing well in soapy water; if this does not answer, put the goods into clear boiling water and boil out a portion of the dye, then re-dye with a weak dye-bath, following directions on the package.

Good Flour

The quality of flour depends very much upon the amount of gluten it contains. The greater the amount of gluten, and the stronger it is, the better the quality of the flour. The gluten of good flour will swell to several times its size, while that of poor flour will "rise" poorly; the gluten being elastic, will hold the dough together, confining the gases in the loaf, causing it to rise. Gluten is a gray, tough mass of various albuminoids that remain after wheat flour has been washed in water; it gives toughness and elasticity to dough, and is a nutritious element of wheat.

It has been said that the bolting cloth of the miller will become the shroud of the American people. Whole-wheat flour has become a recognized household necessity, and where it is well made, it is found both appetizing and healthful. The old-time graham flour known to our mothers is rarely to be had, except where the country family can patronize the neighborhood mill, as a great deal of the so-called graham flour of the grocery stores is composed of a poor grade of flour with a plentiful mixing of cheap bran, and it has little more taste than so much sawdust when made into bread loaves.

For the Baby's Bed

It is recommended that, instead of a mattress for the baby's crib, a pair of heavy blankets, folded to fit, should be used. The blanket can be thoroughly aired, and washed frequently. Ordinary gray, or horse blankets, or the kind called "army blankets," are the kind recommended, and these should be found at any large dry-goods stores; the cost is two or three dollars per pair, and a pair will last a generation.

Never mail a check drawn to "bearer;" always make them drawn "to order." If any loss occurs, the bank should be notified at once and payment stopped. Personal checks are not favored when the party is unknown.

Odds and Ends

In all recipes calling for boiled macaroni, be careful not to get too much salt in when seasoning, as macaroni should be cooked in salt water, and thus so much salt will not be required with other ingredients.

Covering the kitchen table with oil cloth not only gives it a better appearance, but saves much scouring and cleaning while using it. It is a saving, too, to use oil cloth under the linen on the dining table.

Macaroni is an economical substitute for either meat or vegetables, and when properly prepared is simple and nourishing. It should be thoroughly cooked, to be palatable and digestible. About two quarts of water should be used for cooking one-fourth pound of macaroni. Boil until tender, then drain through a

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.