



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Easter Dawn

Awake, awake, Oh sleeping buds, in meadowland and mere,
In dale and swale and garden plot,
for Easter day is here.
In purple gloom the night has swept
beyond the misty hill—
The April dawn in silvery gown is
waiting at the sill.

From moor and marsh, from holm
and croft, and brookside far away
She calls her flower-children all to
grace the Easter day—
Majestic lilies, fair of breast as
pigeon's milky wing,
And white and azure violets that
breathe the soul of spring;

Verbenas, touched with rosy flame,
the pansy's purple gem,
And, in its regal purity, the Star of
Bethlehem,
The lowly bloodroot's bud of snow,
the jonquil's disk of gold,
The flowers of the wind that spring
so lightly from the mold.

Sweet April, snooded with the sun
and zoned with tender light,
Is calling forth her blossom-babes
from hollowland and height.
So come, with nectaries of scent and
aureoles of bloom—
'Tis Easter morn, and Christ, the
Lord is risen from the tomb.

—Harriet Whitney Durbin.

Easter Eggs

In the long ago, little children colored their Easter eggs in various ways with home-made dyes. Here are some of the old-time methods: For mottoes, first submerge the egg in hot water, then write on it with the sharpened end of a white wax or adamantine candle. The wax or oil will serve to prevent the dye from adhering. For dyeing eggs red, brazil-wood or cochineal was used, to be set with a solution of alum. They should be boiled by preference in a tin kettle. Have your dye stuffs well dissolved and strained before immersing the eggs, and then keep stirring all the time, to dye evenly. If you want speckled eggs, dot about with white wax or oil. A neater way of engraving eggs is to dye them, and with a pen-knife scrape upon them any device or letters you wish. Logwood chips will give a dark purple, which may be set with copperas; a good yellow may be had by boiling in water in which the brown skins of onions are thrown. Or, take two parts of black-oak bark and one part of hickory bark and boil for a little while, then boil the eggs in this, using a lump of alum to set the color. Or, first dye your eggs in a pan of hot water colored with a little tumeric tied in a bag; these will be yellow; then stir into the water enough of indigo blue to produce any shade of green desired, and boil more eggs in this. Many children tied or sewed up the eggs in bits of bright colored calico, or wool, "warranted to fade," and thus flowers, leaves, or figures were readily transferred. The mothers in those days knew of many things to be used which would vary the colors. The aniline dyes used today are much less trouble, and give excellent results, and their cost is but a trifle; but in the far-away days of our fathers and mothers, these dyes were not known, and the egg-coloring depended on the ingenuity

of the home-folks. And the children were just as happy!

For the Kitchen Floor

We cannot all have linoleum on our kitchen floors, and some of us would prefer the bare, washable boards, for several reasons. But the work of keeping an unfinished kitchen floor clean is more than any woman is able to accomplish without great fatigue to herself. A good oiling is the very best protection the floor can have; but if paint is preferred, here is a good, cheap paint that has found favor with many housewives: For a soft pine floor, fill all cracks, rough places and nail holes with a mixture of sawdust and glue, and let this get thoroughly dry—several days will be required. Then get four pounds of French ochre and mix it well with one gallon of boiling water, to which one ounce of melted glue has been added. Paint the floor with this, using a whitewash brush, and the mixture must be hot (not merely warm) when applied. If applied at noon, it should be dry by night. When dry, apply a coat of boiled linseed oil, using the whitewash brush, and this should be quite hot, too. The oil should be dry by morning. This will improve with time, and is easily kept clean. For a room twelve-by-sixteen feet square, about three quarts of linseed oil will be needed.

One of the very best preparations for a kitchen or washroom floor is linseed oil and paraffin. Set the vessel containing the oil in an old iron kettle and put into the kettle sufficient boiling water to keep the vessel containing the oil very hot, and set over the fire, either indoors or out, as you are careful. Melt the paraffin and stir it into the hot oil—two ounces of paraffin to the pint of oil. Have the floor perfectly clean, and all cracks and holes filled and the filling dried. Then apply very hot with a whitewash brush, or paint brush if you have it. Apply to a small space at a time, rubbing it in well before beginning another space. The oil must be well rubbed in, or it will "lint" and catch dust and dirt.

For the Toilet

We all want to look our best—men, as well as women, and it is right that we should; it is natural to love a person because they are good, even though not pretty, but we love them none the less for a little care of their looks. To be beautiful, one must be clean. Cleanliness is, indeed, next to godliness, in a greater sense than we usually admit it to be. We often say of a baby that the "dirt is all on the outside," but it can not always be said of the adult. To be really clean, all the sewers of the system must be in good working order, and all offensive matter must be eliminated. If not, it is like the kitchen where everything is clean but the sink, or the slop-pail. Buckets of lotion, pounds of creams and skin foods, dozens of flesh brushes, complexion rollers, soaps and bleaches will never make the skin clean and healthy unless the regular cleaning is kept going inside the body. It is like white-washing the outside of the pig-sty. When pimples and "liver spots" make their appearance, the diet should be looked to, and the sewers cleared out; rich foods, meats, pastries, sweets should give place

to fruits, fresh greens and the simplest nourishing dishes. Blood tonics would never be needed if the blood making organs were supplied with suitable material, and one very necessary material is plenty of pure water—drinking of the temperature most comfortable, and a close second is plenty of clean, fresh air. I do not know but I should have placed over all these, a cheerful, optimistic state of mind, with a strong determination to see nothing but the sunshine, or, if not the real sunshine, the nearest to it that can be found. And the sun is always shining, if only we brush aside the clouds. Try cleanliness of the inner self, and a looking on the bright side.

For the Laundry

When washing flannels to put away, remember to choose a sunny day, so they will dry quickly and thoroughly. Put the flannels in quite warm water; do not rub them on the board, but press and rub them in the hands, squeezing and patting until the dirt is dislodged. Change them to fresh suds as soon as they are clean. Rinse in a pail of clear hot water, squeeze dry, or run through a wringer, but do not twist. Shake them out well, and hang in the sunshine. If treated thus, they they will retain their softness and smoothness, and will not shrink.

For delicate lace and muslin curtains, allow a tablespoonful of powdered borax to two gallons of warm water, and soap enough to make a strong suds. Soak the curtains all night in this. In the morning add more water, having it warm, and press every part between the hands, squeezing and "sozzling" them up and down in the suds, but do not rub; put them in fresh suds in a few minutes, and if this water looks dark after washing, put them through another. Drain and put in the boiler with enough cold water to cover them; to boil up once will be sufficient. Then take them out into a tub of clean, cold water made slightly blue with good indigo. From this water squeeze out, or run through a wringer, and stretch on frames, after starching, leaving them in the sunshine to dry.

When you wish to make the washing easy, try this: Put as many pails of water into the tub as you need; into each pailful of water put one tablespoonful of aqua ammonia and add one-half the usual amount of soap; in that water soak the clothes over night (the white clothes). Prepare the water for the boiler in the same way in the morning, and wring the clothes out of the first water, putting them in the boiler, boil as usual, then rinse in two waters and hang out.

Cutting Children's Hair

Mrs. A. B. Smith, Michigan, tells us: "The writer has followed the profession of hair dressing for almost thirty years. During that time the fashion of cutting short the hair of little girls has come in and gone out again several times. Early in my work, I became interested in the question whether or not cutting the hair in childhood helped to preserve its beauty in womanhood. I have investigated this matter thoroughly both by observation and from data obtained from others. I have become convinced that most women with heavy hair had heavy hair in

childhood, but had their hair cut in childhood, while most women having thin hair, had thin hair in childhood, or, having thick hair in childhood, never had it cut. I believe that cutting is the most effectual way of preserving to womanhood the beautiful locks of childhood. In my opinion, every child should have her hair cut short between the ages of ten and twelve, and the fact that her hair is exceptionally long and heavy should not make a child an exception to the rule. It will materially thicken thin hair and preserve the thickness and beauty of hair already thick and beautiful."

For Curling the Hair

For making straight hair curl, few things are better than the old-fashioned bandoline made from quince seeds; it is entirely harmless, but will leave, when dried, a dusty look which can be readily brushed out. For a small quantity, pour one tablespoonful of boiling water over one dozen quince seeds and let stand until cold, making the mixture fresh every time it is wanted; strain, and wet the hair with this, shaping it into little rings, or twisting up on kid curlers, or bits of paper, or clean rags; when dry, brush lightly to remove the quince dust. Another mixture is made of a small quantity of clean, clear pieces of gum arabic left to dissolve overnight in a little cold water—an ounce and a half in a quarter of a pint of water, will make quite a good deal. Strain the dissolved gum through a piece of thin muslin, add a few drops of perfume, and use to shape the curls as above. This will give a glossy appearance to the hair. An old, old curler was made of sugar and water. None of these will have but a temporary effect, and in damp weather, the hair soon straightens out. The hair should be clean, but not freshly shampooed, as the shampoo takes the oil out of the hair.

Hanging Paper

For the ceiling that has been whitewashed, before hanging the new paper, make a paste of wheat flour and mix it up with boiling vinegar instead of water, adding five cents worth of liquid glue to the paste needed for each room. The vinegar neutralizes the alkali in the lime, and the paper will stick. Prepare the glue as you would for other use.

In case you have any doubts about paper sticking to walls, it is well to paste both wall and paper. Fill every nail hole, or crack in the plastering, and patch all large holes.

Query Box

Will Mrs. H. S. R., of Pennsylvania, please accept thanks for requested poem?

"A Constant Reader" wishes directions for making "California beer seed" from sorghum molasses. Will some one tell her?

Mrs. E. E. M.—Sterilized milk usually agrees perfectly with a baby who is partly breast-fed. When the mother's milk is scanty, it should be given, alternating the meals. Every baby is, however a law unto itself, and must be carefully observed.

Young Mother—There is usually very little difference made in the clothing for boys and girls under two years of age. For full directions and descriptions of styles, it would be well to consult our large catalogue of fashions, which will be mailed to you for ten cents sent to this office.

Young Housewife—It is claimed that cheese contains, pound for pound far more nutriment than the best of meats. Phosphate of lime, of importance as a bone-maker and nerve-builder, forms an important