



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Miley

Pa's House-Cleaning

When the April sun's a-shining' hot,
And things is nice and fresh,
When the willer's droppin' tossels
And the blackbird's in the bresh,
An' Pa comes in fer noonin',
And the floors is wet as souse,
Then it's "Laws-a-massy on us!
Yer Ma's a-cleanin' house!"

Then me and Jim is sure to find
Rag carpets in the sun
When we'd planned to go a-fishin'
Fer the suckers in the run;
But, while Pa takes his noonin'
An' the horses eat their snacks,
Us boys can beat them carpets
While we're restin' up our backs!

An' then next day Pa's certain sure
To have to go to town;
But he always leaves us orders,
"Help to put them carpets down."
An' at night, when he gets home again,
You'd think, to hear him groan,
About the hardships of it,
That he'd done the job alone!

Poor Ma! She has it awful hard;
She'll work until she drops,
And pounds her thumb-nails half-way
off,
And wets her feet with slops;
She'll get so hoarse that she can't
speak;

An' sore in every bone,
But Pa, he says if it was him,
He'd let the house alone.

And when at night the kids is sick,
An' has to have a drink,
An' Ma, she can't get up because
Her back's in sich a kink,
If Pa should bang the furniture
Whilst gropin' fer the cup,
You kin feel him gittin' mad enough
To fairly eat her up!

So me an' Jim was sayin',
If the time should ever come
When pa an' ma should change their
work,

An' pa should stay at home,
I wouldn't like to be a boy,
But jest a little mouse
To hear what things pa would say,
If he was cleanin' house!

—W. F. Gibbons, in *Woman's Home Companion*.

Caring for the Premises

"May-day and moving time" will soon be with us and many people are spending all their spare time and energy in house-hunting. Those having a family of children find it hard to get suitable quarters, as house-owners, as a rule, do not like to let their property to such tenants. In many cases the objections are for very good reasons and the families have only themselves to blame for their troubles. In a great majority of cases the tenants seem to feel a sort of resentment toward the owner and consider that in paying rent they have the right to use the property in any manner they please, often wantonly destroying or injuring it so that the owner is put to much unnecessary expense in order to keep his property presentable. The objection is not so much to the children themselves as to the manner in which they are brought up. Because the property is rented the children are allowed to drive nails in the walls, cut letters in the woodwork, pound the wooden or plastered surfaces with hammers, handle the paper with dirty fingers or pull pieces of it off the wall, mark things with chalk or pencils, break the hinges, shatter the window glass, or scratch letters or figures on the window panes, and, in a thousand ways known only to destructive, ill-bred children or adults

(for it is not always the children alone who destroy), the wanton injury goes on, from day to day, until the family, disgusted with the results of their own defacings, move out because the owner refuses to repair the destruction, or, the owner gets tired of their vandalism and gives them notice to get out.

Such families would not take care of their own premises, if they had any, and their wasteful, wanton habits seldom allow them to own anything very long. It is not doing justice to the children themselves to allow them to do such things. If they will not respect the property of others, property owners do perfectly right to refuse to shelter them. They should be taught to keep things nice for their own sakes. Wasteful, destructive habits should in no case be encouraged.

"Cooking at the Bottom of It"

A writer in *McCall's Magazine* says: "Indigestion is at the root of almost as many of humanity's troubles as is selfishness. Without a good digestion, health is impossible, and lack of health is misery. Poor cooking produces about as much indigestion as bad temper; in fact, it is a case of action and re-action. Indigestion, low spirits, bad temper; bad temper, low spirits, indigestion, and so on, interminably. Bad cooking, bad temper, low spirits, all belong together. Since poorly cooked food produces indigestion, poor cooking should be abolished." In order to abolish poor cookery two things are necessary—a knowledge of the elements of raw foods, and of the proper preparation and combination of them by which to build up the human system. The cause of poor cookery is not always ignorance, but it is very often indifference as to the outcome. Not every woman can be a good cook, any more than that every man can be a good mechanic, and very few men are smart enough to make anything of themselves in the mechanical line without at least a little training. Yet women and girls are given a cook-stove and a supply of groceries and vegetables, and, no matter how ignorant or indifferent they are, it is firmly expected—required—of them that they set before the family a nourishing meal! Until cookery is given the place among the fine arts to which it is justly entitled, and an amount of training under good teachers required for every woman who is a possible housewife, we shall have to endure bad cookery and its consequences. Some women might try all their lives, and have everything furnished them to work with, yet still fall in the culinary line, just as they might have the best of teachers and the most perfect instruments, and yet fail as a musician. Give the girl the best training you can afford, but if she fails, do not blame her too severely for shortcomings for which she is in no wise responsible.

"No Chance"

Henry Ward Beecher said, "The elect are whosoever will; the non-elect, whosoever wont." In like manner, says *Success Magazine*, it may be said that the educated, in this country, are whosoever will, and the non-educated, whosoever wont. A healthy young man or woman who can find excuse for ignorance in this age would not attain to knowledge or success under any circumstances. The real opportunity for self-improvement must come—not from the city or country, or anywhere outside of self; but

from the inside. The initial impulse, or motive power to do or to be, must come from within, or nowhere. Obtaining an education, or winning success in any field, is a question of internal energy, of enthusiasm, or of unfoldment of power, and it is the development of push and determination, rather than the result of any external influence. The people who attribute their lack of education to absence of opportunity, or of friends to help them on, are simply exposing their weakness of character. In this era of education, of books and libraries, newspapers and periodicals, schools and universities, evening schools, lectures, and the endless opportunities for self-culture which our country affords, there is no excuse for ignorance; it is will and push that is lacking. Make up your mind to be educated, and the battle is already half won. Do not wait for chances, but make them; seek opportunities, and make them. Depend wholly upon yourself, so far as possible, and when help is imperative, there will be plenty at hand; but do for yourself all that can be done, before you seek the aid of another.

Fashion Notes

The jumper waists are simply made, with or without sleeves, and cut quite low in the back and front of the waist. They are made of any and all materials, and are tucked, plaited, or plain. The little cap sleeve is quite popular. It is best to have the jumper waist made of the same material as the skirt, while the guimpe, or underwaist, should be of contrasting color.

Stripes are all the vogue, and many dresses are made of a combination of both straight and bias stripes.

Clusters of tucks trim many of the new gowns, and many of the mulls and tissues will have no other trimming.

Everything that can be embroidered will be, and while the cost of fine embroidered articles place them out of the reach of the average buyer, the woman or girl expert with the needle can do the work herself, as the designs are practical, and easily followed. Colors may be employed if liked.

In millinery, the mushroom shape and the new polk effect are the leaders. Many sailor hats will be worn with a narrow brim and broad crown. Leghorns, of various colors, are also favored; brims are both narrow and wide, and all sorts of crowns are correct style.

Embroidered materials are used for the making of entire costumes. Embroidered flouncing can be largely used for the skirt, tucking the upper portion of the flounce to fit over the hips, stitching it flat to do away with the bulkiness of gathers, while the lower flounce is shirred and joined to the bottom of the upper portion.

The most noticeable shades in dress goods are lavender, gray, blue, brown, and white goods. White is very fashionable, and many of the white coats have black velvet collars and cuffs; skirts are short, with jackets elaborately trimmed. White jackets with skirts for general wear, and white box coats with a touch of velvet trimming are in good taste. White garments soil easily, but laundering will not ruin them.

Outing Fashions

The *Delineator* tells us that the "cumbersome traveling gowns will be seen no more." That thin dresses of

light colors will be all the vogue—dresses of muslins and laces and embroideries, "to be worn after one gets there," while summer wraps of pretty pinks, blues, pale mauves, whites and champagne shades, made of cotton stuffs, linens, silks, pongees, and mohair, with plenty of laces and embroideries, will be most fashionable. For those who cannot afford the expensive materials, the gowns and wraps may be made of linens, chambrays, ginghams, pongees, and other wash stuffs. There are many pretty, inexpensive muslins and white materials that will work up satisfactorily. All this will spell "good times" for the laundries, but not always happiness for the home laundress.

Fashions for the little folks continue to show flowing skirts, with or without trimming above the hem; they hang from yokes frilled at the neckline, or finished below it with ribbon-drawn beading, or in any desired trimming. The full sleeves may be half, three-quarter or full length.

Those skilled with the needle can have any amount of the dainty accessories in the way of frilled or plaited or lace trimmed ruffles, as most of the expensive hand-made lingerie bows and cravats can be copied at home with slight expense. The girl that has learned to sew will be "it" this season.

Cooking Fruits

As the fruit season approaches, it is well to remember a few things in regard to using it properly. Do not use soda in fruits to lessen the need of sugar for sweetening. A fruit to which soda has been added may be less tart but it is usually far more tasteless.

Fruit that is very sour may be rendered less so by placing it in an agate kettle, and cover with clear cold water; set the kettle over the fire and bring the contents quickly to a boil, immediately pour off the water, then set the kettle where the fruit will cook slowly, covering close, adding only water enough to keep the fruit from burning. Do not add the sugar until just before the fruit is to be removed from the fire.

The water that was poured off the fruit will make a nice ground for a pudding sauce, sweetening to taste and thickening with corn starch.

Do not stew fruit as you would vegetables; it should be kept as entire as possible, and cooking it with steam is a good way to have it retain its form. Many kinds of fruit should not be cooked at all, but eaten in their ripened state as fresh gathered as possible.

Toilet Vinegar

For too profuse perspiration, toilet vinegar in the wash water is a safe remedy. To make it, take one pint of the best white vinegar (best cider vinegar will do), and add to it two drams each of the following ingredients: rosemary, lavender, rue and camphor. Let the herbs soak in the vinegar for twenty-four hours, then strain and bottle. The dried herbs can be had of the druggist. A tablespoonful to a pint of wash water is about right.

Herbs for the Cook

If one raises her own kitchen herbs, she will have them much more pungent than any she can buy. Now is the time to sow them, and even the city dweller can have a handful of fresh green herbs at the cost of a little labor. An herb garden may be had in a window box, if nowhere else; but a few feet of ground will grow all one wants of several kinds. Herbs which are to be dried should be gathered when the plant is just ready to bloom,

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