



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McVey

## Courage!

When round you raves the storm  
And winds run cold, then do not  
quail;  
But spread your breast, drink in the  
gale,  
And it will make you warm.

Never in toil give o'er.  
Still tug at what you can not lift.  
Squander your muscle—there's true  
thrift;  
You'll get it back, and more.

Your enemies subdue.  
March up, strike first, your fears dis-  
sembling;  
You'll learn—unless they see you  
trembling—  
They're more afraid than you.

Stout fingers will not slip.  
The nettles stab the timid hand;  
In firm fists they are soft as sand;  
Whate'er you grasp at—grip!

Fear not the goriest giant.  
A straight-shot shaft his heart will  
find.  
The elements themselves are kind  
To those who prove defiant.

Of drugs and pill no wealth  
Will bribe the microbe or the hearse,  
But Red Blood beats the Red Cross  
nurse;  
Stout lungs and limbs are health.

Offense is best defense;  
If you're besieged, come out and  
fight.  
If felled by day, come back at night.  
Let grit make you immense.

And never be dismissed  
From getting your deserved desire.  
Meet chill with heat, but fire with  
fire.  
Resist, persist, insist!

Dare all. Do what you can.  
Let Fate itself find you no slave.  
Make Death salute you at your grave,  
And say, "Here comes a man!"  
—Selected.

## The Problem of Child-Idleness

The solution of the problem of child-labor being practically assured, the question which now demands our most intelligent attention is, what is to be done with the idle child? Now that the schools are closed, the streets and alleys, highways and by-ways of all large villages and cities are swarming with children under fourteen years of age, who, perforce of circumstances, must be left to their own devices as to how their time shall be spent. We all know the old saying, that "Satan fills the idle head and hands," and in no sense is the truth of this saying more clearly demonstrated than in the case of the child which, during its most impressionable years, finds itself with nothing to do, and no disciplining tasks to be taken up. As homes are now conducted, with so much of the work of them done in the shops and factories and by machinery, little is found for the children therein, and there seems no way to keep the restless little things out of the streets. Generally, the mother is wracked with the nervous cares of the house-keeping, and with caring for the little toddlers still under her feet, literally, and can not give her time to the supervision and amusement of their elders, while, so far as requiring the child to share in the work of the household goes, there will still be many hours after all has been

that can be done in that direction. There must be other outlets for the animal spirits, outdoor exercises and interests in which the mother can scarcely be expected to join, yet which are absolutely necessary for the proper development of the physical and mental intelligences of the growing boy or girl. Children will grow in some direction—if not in the right, then in the wrong; and human nature seems to rather fancy the forbidden paths. Their awakening intelligences and developing faculties must be fed and strengthened by proper foods, and in the idleness of the streets and alleys they are far more apt to find poison than nourishment. Habits of sloth, indolence, a dislike for steady work, and bad habits generally are formed, which will be apt to work against their success all through their lives. This is from the mother's standpoint; there is another view to be taken by the fathers.

Writing in the North American Review of the future of the idle child, Thomas Speed Mosby, Missouri pardon attorney, says:

"Records indicate that the age of the greatest criminality is somewhere between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, and that from 60 to 75 per cent of felons are entirely unskilled in any trade or profession. In the reformatories, where the prisoner, by reason of his youth, has less time in which to acquire a trade, the percentage of the unskilled is necessarily much greater than in the penitentiaries. \* \* \* The ages of the boys in these institutions, at the periods of reception and discharge, range between the ages of ten to twenty-one years, thus covering the entire period between childhood and manhood. \* \* \* If the habits formed in youth may be regarded as in any sense an index or forecast of the character of the adult, then, in the light of the criminal statistics, the problem of child idleness may justly lay claim to some measure of the dignity and importance so freely accorded to the much-mooted problem of child labor, and before making it impossible for the youth to acquire practical (as well as theoretical) knowledge of gainful pursuits, we should reckon the latent dangers which lurk within the probabilities of a generation brought up without effective knowledge of useful work. It by no means follows that, in teaching the child to work, that his powers should be taxed beyond their capacity. The labor of the child should not proceed beyond the limits of healthful exertion, and the primary consideration should, at all times, be an educational and not a financial one. He should be taught that the object of labor is not only to earn money, but that he is under obligation to serve, inasmuch as he is served; to give, as he receives; to bring to the world as he takes from it, and he should be taught the means of meeting that obligation. Thus, he will go forth to his duties, feeling, not that the world owes him a living, but that he owes to the world a life."

## Potting Easter Lilies

It seems out of place, these hot, sweltering days, to talk of flowers for Easter; but August and September are the months in which to pot bulbs for Easter blooming, and for planting lily bulbs in the border. The lilies surest to meet our expectations of flowers for Easter are the lillium *Harrisi* and the old favorite

of our grandmother's garden, lillium *Candidum*, the latter variously known as *Annunciation*, *Madonna* and *St. Joseph's lily*, because the old artists always painted the *Madonna* as holding a stalk of these lilies in her hand. *Lillium Candidum* is one of the best for potting, and is perfectly hardy in the border, where it blooms in early summer. The bulbs should be either potted or planted as soon as they can be had—not later than the middle of September, to secure the best results, as they start into growth very early in the autumn, forming above ground a rosette of green leaves which lies on the surface over the bulb, bright and green all winter. The *Harrisi* is not planted in the border in the higher latitudes, though in the southern states the bulb is hardy.

Get the bulbs as soon as possible, and plant or pot at once, as every day they are left out of the soil weakens the rudimentary flower stalk. Do not expose the bulb to the air before planting, as the drying tends to blight it, and though it may grow, it will give little or no bloom the first year. For potting, both the *Candidum* and the *Harrisi* may be treated alike. Choose large, solid bulbs for the best effects. The large bulbs have longer flower-stalks and many more flowers than the small bulbs, but the small bulbs reach the blooming stage more quickly. Deep, rather than large pots should be used, and they may be planted in boxes, or unglazed jars having plenty of drainage holes in the bottom, and for large bulbs there should be a gallon of soil; not less than two quarts of soil should be used for small bulbs. A good compost for these bulbs is composed of equal parts of garden loam, leaf-mold and sand.

When first potted, if the vessel is deep, the top of the bulb may be only just covered, with the pot only about two-thirds full of soil, with moss or other mulch laid over the crown to keep the surface moist. For ordinary florists' pots, a bulb seven-to-nine inches in circumference requires a pot seven inches across the top; very large bulbs call for a eight to ten inch pot. In deep pots, as the stalk grows, the soil should be filled in around the shoot several times, and rootlets will be thrown out from the underground stem, giving extra strength and nourishment to the flower stalk.

When properly potted, a trench should be dug in the open ground deep enough to nearly hide the pot; a generous layer of coal ashes should be placed in the trench to keep worms and other insects from getting into the pots through the drainage holes when they are set into the trench. The soil should then be pulled around the pots, banking to the top, and over them a layer of straw and a covering of slanting boards should be arranged to keep out too much rain. The pots must never be allowed to dry out, and the soil around them should be kept moist at all times. In this place they should be left until well rooted, and showing thick, vigorous shoots. They root slowly, and do much better in the ground, but can be placed in a cellar or closet, kept moist and cool, setting a box over them for protection. If half a dozen bulbs are potted, they will bloom along to suit themselves, and if potted at different times, may be had in bloom for two months.

If you can not care for them pot-

ted, be sure to plant a half dozen bulbs of *Lillium Candidum* in the border. Their pure, waxy-white, fragrant blossoms are beautiful. They are not expensive, and once planted, are there to stay.

## The Toilet

It is said that \$6,000,000 are annually spent by the people of the United States (not all of them women) for cosmetics and beautifiers. Many of these aids to the toilet are the rankest of frauds, many are worthless without being positively harmful, while many others are positively injurious, if not poisonous to the human system, used either externally or internally. Many preparations which are really beneficial fail of their purpose because of the carelessness or indolence of the users, for few men or women will give to their personal appearance the constant, persistent, persevering care which must be given to insure success. The remedies, removers and renovators are given but spasmodic trial, or, failing to do what is expected of them after a few days' trial they are thrown aside, whereas they should have been used for months, or even for years, in some cases, in order to produce satisfactory results.

It is an old saying that "beauty is but skin deep," and the saying is true, in regard to the beauty brought about through surface bleaching, and the like. But true beauty must come from within. If you want something that will wear and "stand tubbing," you must begin deeper down than the cuticle. There is nothing which beautifies so absolutely as perfect cleanliness and good health, and to have good health, all the organs of the body must act normally. The body is like the family; if one member gets "grumpy," or out of sorts, it affects the whole of them, and before peace can be restored, the one member must be set to rights. In this age of hurry, worry, selfishness and greed, it is a little hard to get or maintain good health, but there are certain rules which all may follow, and these rules must be studied from each individual's standpoint, for what will apply to one will not do for another. The study of hygiene and sanitation is of far greater importance than many of the fads taught so assiduously in the schools, but a few more generations must be sacrificed before our youths shall be liberated from the chains of ignorance with which our so-called wise-acres so heavily weight them down.

## For the Laundry.

Chiffon is a very different material to satisfactorily clean, but the dry process is less disastrous to it than wetting. If the goods is not too badly soiled, it may be cleaned by brushing carefully with a mixture of two parts powdered starch to one part of powdered borax. Spread the chiffon on some clean surface and rub over several times with the mixture, using a soft cloth or brush, and rubbing gently; shake free from the powder every time and repeat with fresh. After going over it several times, fill the chiffon with clean powder, roll lightly and leave for a day or two, protected from dust, and when this is shaken out, it should be fresh and clean.

For fine, flowered organdies, ordinary soap and starch will not do. Make a starch with four quarts of water and one cupful of corn starch and cook until it thickens. Put three quarts of this starch into two gallons of soft cool or cold water, and wash the muslin in it as if it

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.