



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McVey

The Empty Crib

Bedlam let loose, some call it,
With the laughter and fun and noise
And the scampering tread,
In the room o'erhead,
Of my neighbors' girls and boys;
But because of a crib in the attic,
And a little red rocking chair,
And the silent smart
Of a hungering heart,
I bless them for being there.

So let the old rafters tremble
And the staid old folks stand aghast,
These girls and boys
With their games and toys,
Are helping to heal the past,
Yes, slide down the banisters,
Children,
And romp, if you like, through the
hall;
Since the patter so sweet
Of two little feet
Is silenced for good and all.

He was such a brave little fellow,
With the winsomest kind of a touch;
To love and to lose,
Ah, the saddest of news
To those who have loved too much!
So because of a crib in the attic,
And a little red rocking chair,
And the silent smart
Of a hungering heart,
Thank God for the children there!

Fair angels who, light as a zephyr,
Sped off with my little lad,
Don't leave him alone,
For at night he will moan,
And call for his "muzzer" or dad;
Don't let him forget his loved ones,
My frail little rosebud white;
But kiss him for me
As he kneels at your knee,
And tell him I send—"Good night!"
—Maxwell Williams.

Our Home Talk

The matter of earning money in the home is often a question of bread and the like necessities. In considering the ways and means of compassing results, one should consider the outcome, as well as the income, and the matter of board and inevitable expenses attendant upon a business which takes one out of the home is one that can not be overlooked. Many girls and women can make a good living, especially in the village or city, right in their own homes, if they are willing to do honest work, making up their minds that no work is degrading in itself; that it is not the work that is done, but the way of doing it which really establishes the status. Then, too, the one who would win must "hustle." Work does not seek the hands, but the hands must reach out and gather in the work. One must put all false pride behind her and let the public know she wants the work and knows she can do it. Don't ask it as a favor, but as a matter of business. If it is given you, do not do it "any old way," and expect to give satisfaction; "the best is none too good." Try to do it not only in the best way you can, but a little better than any one else can do it. Don't expect much profit at first, but work for better things in everything you do. Take stock of yourself, your abilities, your practical experience, your tastes, and do not be easily discouraged, and don't be satisfied to be a "square peg in a round hole." Try to find out what you are best fitted for, and then strive to improve yourself in that line. It is impossible to give individual directions for

such things; only general suggestions can be offered. You must work out your own destiny, and you can not do it by following in the tracks of another, unless the tracks point squarely in the direction you find most suited to your own progress. Remember it is the lower walks that are crowded; there is always "room up higher;" it is the mob at the foot of the ladder that will trample you—climb!

Some Ways of Making a Living

With so many girls and women rushing to the shops, offices and factories, there is always a demand for workers in what is called "home work," and if one fits herself for the higher places, she can always command not only good wages, but respectful treatment, even at home-work. Attention is being drawn to cookery, not only because of the lack of cooks, but because of hygiene, and the fact that it is being placed among the trades and professions is giving it a respectability which heretofore it has not had. Superior attainments in this line readily find a market in the ranks of teachers, and cookery, besides being taught in special schools, is being given a place in the curriculum of the public schools. Women are beginning to realize that in order to combine certain food elements for more palatable and nutritious dishes, they must have a knowledge of the chemical properties of the materials, and these things are taught them in the schools for cookery. A thoroughly trained cook who is a proficient housekeeper as well, can command a high salary in some of the best families, where she does not have to do the hard, distasteful work, but where she superintends and directs and sees that the work is properly done. If one is at all inclined to like cookery, as a great many women are, it is well to look upon it as a trade or profession and prepare herself to take a place "at the top."

Another matter is fine laundry work; the laundering of fine garments which can not be given into careless hands. Fine laces, lingerie, shirtwaists, underwear, fine curtains, colored dollies, and many things which those who can afford to buy have such difficulty in getting "done up" without damage. Then there are a great many women and girls who have pretty and more or less durable dresses, waists, accessories, underwear, which are never more than slightly soiled—much of it only "mussed"—and who would be glad to pay an extra price if they knew of some careful hands into which such things might be placed. Such work pays well.

Furnishing the Home

In a recent number of a magazine devoted to home matters, a writer gives a chapter on how to furnish a house on small means. It is wonderful, the work she turns out with her pen. She first takes her readers to the garret, but her search would have been far more prolific of results had she taken them to the second-hand store. In the garret she finds no end of old, shabby plush chairs, sofas, etc., that "never were really pretty, at their best," and she has the upholstery carefully ripped off, and laid aside as a pattern by which she cuts out of chintz beautiful coverings, and under her directions, the most unskilled hand can make of these old, out-of-date things

most artistic and beautiful furnishings for bedroom and parlor. Then, in some odd corner, she spies a broken-down, disreputable old sofa that always was an eye-sore, even when new, and after dismantling this of its padding and covering, she gets new springs, some remnants of repp, or silk, or plush, or chintz, or—"any other suitable goods," and straightway the wretched thing is transformed into something delightfully artistic and comfortable. Having furnished the parlor, she hunts out "an ugly old wooden bedstead," and a pot of white paint and, with a little streaking with gold paint, makes of it a joy of beauty-loving eyes!—In other unlikely places, she finds more old rubbish, and by the time the column-and-a-half article is ended she has thoroughly and economically furnished the whole house most artistically and inexpensively—"so inexpensively," she tells us, "that you really do not miss the money it has cost you." Compared to such articles, the song of the grasshopper is refreshing, and very few women who have any common sense pay any attention to them. Furniture, at least as good, and far more pleasing to the eye than the "home handicraft," is so cheap at the present time, that there is absolutely nothing saved, even if one could or would use the outcome of the rubbish heap and the rag-bag, and not one woman in ten has the skill needed even to put things of that kind together so they will "hold" without any use.

For the Slender Woman

This season there are dress types which the slender girl will find to her advantage. The broad shoulder effects which taper to the waist is becoming to most of women, and this effect can be produced through the medium of shoulder caps, plaits, epaulets, wide braid trimming, and the double plaits over the shoulders, the outer one covering the upper sleeve gatherings, which are becoming to almost every slender woman. The square bertha effect has the same good points. Frequently in the taffeta gowns, the broad shoulder effect will be developed with bands of different colored silk, in which case the bands extend almost to the bottom of the dress skirt, ending in points, and odd little buttons containing both tones will be used as trimming. The slender women should wear yokes in their shirtwaists, and have them outlined with flat bretelle effect. The jumper suits should have shoulder capes and mandarin sleeves are also good. Avoid the pointed or narrow belts which have the "dip;" have the circular flounced skirt with the flounce very full.

Economizing on Clothing

It is claimed that never has the cost of clothing been so much as it is this season, and we are promised still further raids upon the purse of every purchaser. In this case, it is well to gather up the old garments and study well the possibilities of each to be made over, with a little expense, for one's own future wear, or to cut down for the wear of the younger members of the family. The girl or woman who knows how to use paper patterns, needle, thimble and scissors, and who can sponge or otherwise clean and color the old materials, is fortunate, and the one who

can not would do well to begin her education in that line as soon as possible. Men's garments can be used over for many things for both the girls and the boys, and men and boys have about as many cast-off clothes as the women do. Things which can not be made over into garments can be made into covers for quilts and comforts, at a great saving.

Fall Cleaning

For papering walls that have been whitewashed, wash them with hot vinegar, and when it is dry, go over them with a weak glue. The hot vinegar will kill the lime, and the "size," or glue, will help to fix the paper. If the paste is thinned with vinegar, it will help materially.

For cleaning windows, moisten Spanish whiting with a weak laundry ammonia, dabbing it all over the glass, then let dry and polish with a soft cloth or crumpled tissue paper. A hot solution of soda and water quite strong, will usually remove paint from window glass. Wet the paint with the hot solution until quite soft, then rub off with a soft pine stick. Turpentine will also remove it.

If the white enameled bedstead gets "speckled," as the paint wears off, give it a going over with white glossy veneer, to be had at the paint shop. Use turpentine to thin it, as it will dry quicker.

Look carefully inside your piano for little bits of felt in various places, and if seen, you may know the silver moth is at work. To oust the destroyer, tie gum camphor in little cheese cloth bags and hang inside the frame; set little vessels containing turpentine about the inside, leaving for several days, and the little pests will seek other quarters.

To clean brass furniture, try a little ammonia and pumice soap.

To keep the half curtains down, sew a little shot in the hem in various places, and you will have no trouble.

Turn the warm side of the carpet up, and bring out the bright colored rugs, get the cheerful colored shades ready for the lamps, and see that every lamp chimney is polished until it shines. Don't forget that the old people like cushions in their chairs, and make the head-rests for them of some bright, comfortable color.

Have all the locks mended, and the window fastenings attended to and see that the "scream" of the door-hinge is stopped.

Query Box

Tracy M.—For the cold cream, melt four ounces of perfectly sweet mutton tallow, to be had of your butcher, and strain through a piece of cheese cloth; add four ounces of sweet almond oil, one teaspoonful of spirits of camphor, ten drops of carbolic acid, one ounce of peroxide of hydrogen and any preferred perfume. Beat until thoroughly creamed and pour into small porcelain jars, covering closely.

B. T. G.—Offensive perspiration is frequently caused by a clogged condition of the system, as in constipation, and the efforts of nature to unload the waste matter through the pores of the skin. After correcting this condition, with attention to diet and cleanliness by regular bathing, a good local application is a lotion of ten grains of tannin in four ounces of grain alcohol; apply this to the arm-pits after washing, let it dry on, and dust freely with powdered starch to which a few drops of perfume have been added. Attention to the general health and

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