



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Neff

## Keats

Though nightingale, whose poesy has filled  
The world with joy, and bitter pain  
That such  
Entrancing songs so early should be stilled,  
What theme engages now thy master touch?  
Who gave thee, gentle lover of the birds,  
Woods, meadows, hills, stars, and the singing sea,  
Thoughts sweet as honey in their comb of words?  
Earth's fresh foretaste of Heaven's harmony.  
"A joy forever," is the melody  
In which thy words are steeped like flowers  
In morning dew, O blessed clerisy,  
That crowns thee laureate in Heavenly bowers!  
—J. V. H. Koons.

## A Book for Baby Hands

For the little one who loves pictures, but can not be trusted with the books and magazines, try a picture book. Any soft cloth will do for the leaves; old flour sacks are good. Cut the cloth into pieces just twice the size you want the book to be, and let the book be of a size for baby to handle. Cut as many of these pieces as you wish, each piece making two pages, but eight to ten pages will be enough; it is better to make several small ones than one large one. Starch these pieces very stiff and iron smooth; then lay them evenly together and stitch through the middle of the length crosswise. A darning needle and twine may be used, or the stitching may be done on the machine, with a very loose tension and long stitch. If four pieces were cut, this will give eight leaves. The pictures should be such as appeal to the child's fancy, and at the same time awaken thought in the right direction. The advertising pages of the monthly magazines, pamphlets, newspapers, catalogs, and price lists, which are no longer valued, will furnish many beautiful and instructive pictures and these may be pasted on the leaves as they are gathered. Let the children help in the selection. But let me beg of you, do not make a book for your child, big or little, of the "funny pages" of the Sunday dailies. Try to cultivate in the child a taste for the beautiful and elevating.

## Poetry

Like to a lily on the lake,  
The fairest child of nature,  
A poem on our view should break  
Complete in every feature,  
In music steeped, or sound sense wrought,  
That does not lag nor totter.  
True bards condense vast seas of thought  
In one live spring of water.  
—J. V. H. Koons in Muncie (Ind.)  
Morning Star.

## The Inevitable Cost of Things

We can never have something for nothing, no matter how valueless the something may seem, or really be, for even the cheapest thing has to be paid for, in some coin. One of the most costly things generally is experience, but only through experience may we "get the habit." If a thing is really good, we have to make some sacrifice to get, and also to keep it; if it is worthless, it has still

cost us something, if only dissatisfaction and disappointment. So, as everything has its price, and the price must be paid, let us try to get "value received" for every bit of energy we expend. Do not buy, or accept, anything simply "because it is cheap."

## Using Up Silk Scraps

Any silk scraps or old garments may be used for making rugs or portieres, either crocheted, knitted, or woven. The strips should be from a quarter to a half inch wide, the width being governed by the softness or lack of it in the material. The soft material may be cut much wider than the stiff, harsh kinds. If you wish a Persian effect, the colors should be well mingled by making the strips short and distributing the colors. For coloring, any of the standard package dyes are good. Any bits of silk, no matter how old, may be utilized. The "string" may be crocheted after the rags are sewed as for carpet filling, or they may be knitted, but they can be woven into the articles wanted for a small sum, and will be much nicer. Woolens may be used in the same way, but silks and woolens should not be used together.

## Tin Cans

Those who use much factory-put-up fruit are often at a loss to know what to do with the tin cans. When a can is opened, let it be, in most instances, at the end that has the small circle soldered on, leaving the smooth end for a bottom. Wash clean and dry, and pound the rough edge down so the can will set level on a hot stove; watch carefully, and as soon as the solder melts, take the can off, remove the ragged tin, and you have a cup, bucket, pan, or receptacle that may serve many useful purposes. The three-pound cans are fine for steaming brown bread in, in the steam cooker, old-fashioned steamer, or for holding foods that you wish to keep hot without any more cooking, by setting the can in a dish of hot water until wanted. For steaming puddings, cooking custards, molding jellied meats, these, and the smaller ones are very handy. For taking water to the field, or for leaving at the spring as a drinking cup, or for storing dry things in, you will find them useful. The gude mon will find manifold uses for such cans at and about the barn and shops, while, if a small hole is made in the bottom, and the can bedded near a plant and filled with water, the plant will stand the most severe drouth and live.

## The Corn That is King

We often read that "Corn is king," and judging from complaints heard from all quarters, it is not always the cereal that rules the world. Very few people, in these days of misfit shoes, have feet that are "unplagued by corns," and it is by no means uncommon, when two or more people meet, to hear the wail, "Oh, my feet torture me so?" Many people—men as well as women—suffer unmeasured torment because of those plague spots on toes, side of the feet and heels. Few things affect one's comfort more disastrously, or are more hard to get rid of by the majority, than corns and bunions.

The style of shoe that for many years has prevailed, has much to answer for; yet we are told that

when the people want a better style, they have but to ask for it. Until of very recent date, it has been next to impossible to find sensibly-shaped footwear, and many sensible people have had their feet ruined because there was only the alternative of going barefooted, if they refused the mis-shapen foot covering supplied them. It is said that scarcely one foot out of a thousand is kept in good shape until adult years. If one's feet were shaped like the "stylish" shoes on the market, he or she would be condoled with as being deformed; yet people go on, not only wearing, but demanding this mis-shapen monstrosity, and suffering self-imposed martyrdom therefor. Many people wear them because they do not know of better ones, but most wear them because they are "the style;" these latter prefer "appearance" to comfort, and are really not deserving of sympathy.

For those who prefer comfort, the foot-form shoe is a blessing; but not all the merchants keep them, and those who do, from some unexplained cause do not bring them forward unless specially insisted upon. Not long since, wishing to get such shoes for a friend, we visited nearly every large store in a very large city, and at last were referred to a house on a side street, where we found them. And even there, the merchant succeeded in selling the woman a shoe which she has since declared she can not wear, instead of the shoe we had sought. Why?

The only sure, permanent relief from torture is a well-fitting shoe.

## Some Kitchen Conveniences

Do you like cupboard closets—the little, dark, narrow hiding places in the walls found in so many old-fashioned kitchens? It is almost impossible to keep them clean and in order because of the fact that, in trying to move about in them, one is always knocking things down, or displacing others. Besides, in these old-fashioned "cupboards," there is no provision made for either light or ventilation, and they are almost sure always to be just in the most inconvenient places. If one can not have a commodious pantry, the wall cupboard—shelves built in the wall, with doors opening the whole width of them and in two sections lengthwise, are much more convenient. There can hardly be too many of these cupboards. A kitchen should be small enough to have everything handy and close at hand, in order to save steps; only one woman uses it, generally, and it does not require much space. It is much better to have two small rooms—the one to be used separately as a dining room, and the other and smaller one to serve as a work room or kitchen—than to have one large room made to serve both purposes. No one likes to invite a guest to eat in the room where the cooking is done. If the room is long and narrow, the whole kitchen outfit should be in one end, and this can be screened or partitioned off with a movable screen, while the other end may be made attractive as a dining room. The place to keep things in the kitchen is where they are easiest to get at when wanted, and the less stepping there must be, the more easily the work can be done.

## Bites of Insects

To allay the pain, itching or burning caused by bites of gnats, mosqui-

toes, or bugs while taking your outing, few things are better than toilet vinegar or aromatic spirits. A decoction of the dried leaves of ver-vian, to be had of the druggist, will keep away mosquitoes. Steep the leaves in hot water, strain, and bottle; rub a little on the hands and face. Elderberry water, or spirits of camphor are claimed to be good preventives. For allaying the pain of the bite or sting, carry with you a tiny bottle of solution of menthol or campho-phenique, or of ammonia and camphor, equal parts of each. Rub a little of this on the spot and the pain will be immediately lessened, if not entirely relieved. A little fresh earth applied to bites or stings is said to ease them. Hot water is good; salt, or soda, thickly applied to the hurt is excellent.

## Care of the Feet

With the coming of hot weather, the feet need particular attention, if we would live in comfort. A tight stocking can do as much harm as a tight shoe. Pull the stocking well down at the toes so the heel may find its place. When buying new shoes, try them on in the evening, as nearly all feet are larger at night than in the morning. Too large a shoe works as much harm as too small a size; too low a heel is nearly as bad as one that is too high; a hard, stiff leather will make callous places that become very painful. For the tired, nervous feet, the best remedy is rest; but this is often the one thing impossible to get for them. Next best is a good massage, but this must be given by a second person, and each toe must be massaged separately, and the foot should be stroked upward, never downward. Relief is sometimes had by a bandage of adhesive plaster about an inch wide around the instep. Cleanliness and often bathing of the feet can not be too often urged. All callous places should be scraped down as soon as they appear, and a good file for this purpose is the Japanese corn file. Try home remedies for the relief of the corn, but remember that there is nothing so good for the feet as well fitting shoes. Put comfort before style, at least in the summer time.

## Complexion Bleaches

Lemon juice is one of the best, most effective and least expensive of the lotions for taking away freckles, tan and other discolorations. It is claimed that a paste made of magnesia and lemon juice applied to the hands, neck and face upon lying down for a half hour's rest will bleach the skin beautifully. For discolorations and stains on the fingers, a teaspoonful of lemon juice in a cupful of quite warm water is very effective. It is claimed that if three or four lemons are sliced into the bath water and left for half an hour, the bath will impart a delicious sense of freshness and cleanliness to the skin.

An old-fashioned but effective remedy for sunburn and freckles is that used by our grandmothers—tansy tea and buttermilk. Get the tansy leaves of the druggist if you can not get the fresh; steep an ounce of dried leaves, or a handful of the green, in a pint of boiling water for an hour; strain, when it gets cold; add to this a pint of fresh buttermilk; bathe the face, neck and arms in this, letting it dry on. The tansy leaves are sometimes put directly into the buttermilk, and left to soak over night, or for several hours.

One pint of green grapes, bruised and sprinkled with a little powdered

## 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.