



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## The Line Unknown

How softly and tenderly Time, after all,  
Lays clustering days scarcely heeded,  
A rosary over the brows that we love  
With Sabbaths and holidays beaded.  
Soft sunrise and twilight, moons  
Crescent and full,  
Till some day we turn us in wonder  
To find a dim boundary passed un-  
aware,  
And "today" a dead yesterday,  
Yonder.

What moment did Baby lose title and  
rank,  
And where was the wall he went  
over  
From babyland, leaping to youth's  
sunny ways,  
Through portals we may not dis-  
cover?  
What sunlit moment before you  
stood still,  
Or gave you its face to remember,  
When softly your boy bade his April  
goodbye,  
And held out his hand to Septem-  
ber?

Why were you so startled as if from  
a dream,  
When your daughter's young lover  
came suing?  
You thought, until then, that her  
heart was her doll's,  
Untroubled by wooer or wooing!  
And when did your minister cease to  
be young?  
Which Sabbath of Sabbaths here  
ended?  
What parted his prime from his fal-  
tering days,  
With their lights and their shad-  
ows unblended?

And have you forgotten how startled  
you were,  
When a friend, in his way, rough  
and kindly,  
Asked "How's the Old Lady, your  
mother, today?"  
Who loves must forever love  
blindly.  
When, slowly you turned from the  
shadowy elms,  
And saw the dear face at the  
portal,  
You knew then at first that among  
the lost years,  
Lay the youth that to her was im-  
mortal.

And so, bye-and-bye, we shall hear  
in our turn  
Some word, by a careless tongue  
spoken,  
Then afterwards go, with a question-  
ing eye,  
To our mirror for signet or token.  
And both shall be there. Time's  
scythe never fails,  
As he dubs us each Knight of his  
Order,  
To leave the dim lines which we  
scarcely perceive  
Till we find ourselves down to the  
border.

—Ethel Lynde.

## Lonely People

In the world there are many lone-  
ly people. There always has been,  
and always will be; but in former  
years there was less said about it,  
and the loneliness, being taken as a  
matter of course, was perhaps less  
keenly felt. It would seem that  
there are more lonely women than

men, because women are forced to  
live lonely lives; where man can es-  
cape from intense solitude and find  
some companionship, even though not  
the most congenial. Women are  
forced, by the lawlessness of the  
streets, to stay closely at home, and  
they make few friendships from the  
same cause. But they have a bless-  
ing of which men are deprived—the  
home instinct is so strong with most  
of them that they can make a home  
of the barest garret, and in the per-  
formance of little homey industries,  
can in a measure forget their isola-  
tion. While two or three men share  
a room, or rooms, in which they only  
stay when they are forced to do so,  
it is rarely the case that several wo-  
men can live in comfort when forced  
by circumstances to be almost con-  
stantly together. The only way open  
to some of these lonely people is to  
"room" where there are other wo-  
men, and in this way find occasional  
companionship while still keeping a  
nominal privacy. There was a time  
in the long ago when people trusted  
each other—and with reason; but in  
these days we are forced to be cir-  
cumspect; to be careful of our asso-  
ciates, for we are not all good judges  
of faces, and we are so often deceived.  
There seems a dislike—well founded  
—among elderly women to living with  
their children, and it so often turns  
out to be anything but pleasant, that  
the very best that can be advised is  
to keep one's own home, if but one  
room, and fill the mind and hands  
so full that the absence of other wo-  
men is not so keenly felt. There are  
thousands of women who envy the  
lonely woman her quiet at the end  
of the day, with book or dream,  
where no household problems vex, or  
anxieties can follow. Home, husband,  
children, are all desirable; but you  
can not have these things without  
sacrificing much else. The bad is al-  
ways close on the heels of the good.

## Guests

There are two kinds of "unexpect-  
ed guests"—one kind, you prefer to  
expect—to know the day and hour  
of their coming; the other kind—  
those who, come when they may, are  
always welcome, and before whom  
you feel safe in setting the best you  
have at the moment, if it is only a  
cracker and a cup of tea, knowing  
their visit is to you, and not your  
table. Very often "things" happen  
so that at the moment, the most care-  
ful housewife will be caught utterly  
unprepared for visitors, and she may  
be the one who is "ten miles from a  
lemon," or she may not; but if she  
can dish up quickly the little that  
she has, sure that the guest will un-  
derstand, she is always glad to have  
that kind of company drop in at any  
time.

## For the Holidays

It is not a bit too soon to begin  
preparations for the fall holiday din-  
ners. Remember that the mince-  
meats should be made long enough  
before-hand to allow the flavors to  
blend, and there are cakes that re-  
quire to be made some time in ad-  
vance of the eating. Anyway, the  
planning may begin early, and many  
ingredients may be added to the  
stor in the pantries. It is not too  
soon to begin thinking about the  
Christmas courtesies, and many little  
things may be prepared and laid away  
for the occasion. Among the most  
inexpensive and appreciated remem-

brances are the pretty picture cards  
that will assure the recipient of your  
thought of them. Don't forget the  
children; they love pictures, too,  
though they may appreciate some-  
thing more costly than they will the  
picture; but if you can only send  
some simple thing, the picture card  
is not to be despised. A little gift  
book, or something in the book line  
that you know your friend will like,  
is easily gathered up, and will "keep"  
until it is time to send it out on its  
mission of love. Don't forget the  
old people—especially the homeless  
and the lonely ones.

## Home Comforts

In every home there should be a  
comfortable couch on which, when  
tired, one can lie down and read and  
rest, if only for a minute, while su-  
pervising some domestic task which  
admits of intervals of idleness. One  
of the most inexpensive, as well as  
comfortable couches for this use is  
a perfectly plain wire cot, with a  
good mattress and a cover of some  
thick material that will bear service  
without becoming mused or dingy.  
In these days of small bedrooms and  
frequent changes of residence, these  
couches often take the place of beds,  
and with a few cushions the covering  
of which harmonizes with the cover-  
ing of the couch, this plain, usable  
couch becomes a pleasure not only to  
the body, but to the eye. A box  
couch, with a storage compartment  
under the top in which clothing, or  
quilts may be kept, is a little more  
expensive, but where a straight, plain  
wire cot is used, the expense is noth-  
ing to the comfort. The cover may  
be made of arras cloth of rough  
weave, or of velvet; or, in fact, any  
material used for couch covers. An  
old blue coverlet, which can be had  
at any department store, or an old  
cashmere, or paisley shawl, makes  
an excellent covering. Curtain chintz  
of dark color may be used; but the  
material seems too thin, and will re-  
quire much laundering if used con-  
stantly. Coarse linens, corduroys, or  
tapestry fabrics are also useful. Sin-  
gle blankets of dark color, or one of  
the familiar army blankets, make  
very good coverings. A few well-  
filled pillows, covered with fabrics of  
any suitable texture, may be stacked  
on the couch, and once having used  
this resting place, you will hardly like  
to do without it. The couch takes up  
but little more room than a large  
rocking chair, and can be used, in  
emergencies, as a sleeping place. For  
the tired housewife, a resting place  
like this is worth more than it will  
ever cost, and can be so inexpensively  
maintained that no home should be  
without one.

## Floral Notes

Don't forget that this is the month  
when you should be sending in your  
order for the hardy, spring-flowering  
bulbs, if you neglected to do so dur-  
ing September. If you have not yet  
received the fall catalogues, ask for  
them with a postal card, and they will  
be sent. The hyacinths are the earli-  
est bloom we have in the spring, and  
they are sure to bloom, even though  
they may get frozen after appearing;  
they will stand a lot of cold. They  
are very fragrant, and now is the  
time to get them, bedding them out-  
side, or potting them for indoor  
blooming.

The collections offered by florists

are of a size to give bloom, but if you  
want large flower stems with heavier  
bloom, get the larger bulbs. They  
cost a little more, but they pay.

After you have potted the bulbs,  
set them away in a cool, dark place,  
or plunge the pot in the soil of the  
garden, for growth of roots. If the  
bulbs are not well rooted, they will  
not give as satisfactory bloom; when  
they have shown growth by leaflets  
appearing, if they are brought at once  
into a warm room, the flower stalk  
is apt to be very much dwarfed, in  
some instances, the bloom being  
opened under the soil. To lengthen  
the stem, keep in a cool room, and  
put a cone of paper over the flower  
stalk, cutting off the tip of the paper  
cone.

The hardy bulbs should be kept in  
a cool room; they do not need sun-  
shine. Even if they freeze, it will not  
particularly hurt them. They freeze  
outside, often, after they begin to  
bloom.

For the yard, nothing is prettier  
than the crocus bulbs. They do not  
wait even for the snow to leave, but  
often push up through the late  
snows. They are of various colors,  
and may be planted among the grass,  
as they will bloom before you must  
use the lawn mower. The bulbs are  
very cheap.

One of the loveliest bulbs for house  
blooming is the little tritalea. It is  
lovely and fragrant, and half a dozen  
may be planted in the same pot. For  
inside, plant some oxalis bulbs.

## Gleanings

"Nothing," say Robert Herrick,  
"irritates the thinking woman more  
than to be told that woman's place is  
in the home. She knows it. It is the  
man's place, also, and she knows  
that."

After the summer season is closed,  
light-colored window shades show

## HARD ON CHILDREN

### When Teacher Has Coffee Habit

"Best is best, and best will ever  
live." When a person feels this way  
about Postum they are glad to give  
testimony for the benefit of others.

A school teacher down in Miss.  
says: "I had been a coffee drinker  
since my childhood, and the last few  
years it had injured me seriously.

"One cup of coffee taken at break-  
fast would cause me to become so  
nervous that I could scarcely go  
through with the day's duties, and  
this nervousness was often accom-  
panied by deep depression of spirits  
and heart palpitation.

"I am a teacher by profession, and  
when under the influence of coffee  
had to struggle against crossness  
when in the school room.

"When talking this over with my  
physician, he suggested that I try  
Postum, so I purchased a package  
and made it carefully according to  
the directions; found it excellent of  
flavour, and nourishing.

"In a short time I noticed very  
gratifying effects. My nervousness  
disappeared, I was not irritated by  
my pupils, life seemed full of sun-  
shine, and my heart troubled me no  
longer.

"I attribute my change in health  
and spirits to Postum alone."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle  
Creek, Mich.

Postum comes in two forms:  
Postum Cereal—the original form  
—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c  
packages.

Instant Postum—a soluble powder  
—dissolves quickly in a cup of hot  
water, and, with cream and sugar,  
makes a delicious beverage instantly.  
30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious  
and cost about the same per cup.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.  
—sold by Grocers.