

# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McKee

## One of These Days

One of those days it will be over,  
Sorrow and parting, and loss and gain,  
Meetings and partings of friends and lovers,  
Joy that was ever so edged with pain.  
One of these days will our hands be folded,  
One of these days will the work be done,  
Finished the pattern our lives have molded,  
Ended our labor beneath the sun.  
One of these days will the heart-ache leave us,  
One of these days will the burden drop;  
Never again shall a hope deceive us,  
Never again will our progress stop.  
Freed from the blight of vain endeavor,  
Winged with the health of immortal life,  
One of these days we shall quit forever  
All that is vexing in earthly strife.  
One of these days we shall know the reason,  
Haply, of much that perplexes now;  
One of these days in the Lord's good season  
Light of His peace shall adorn the brow,  
Blest, though out of tribulation,  
Lifted to dwell in His sun-bright smile,  
Happy to share in the great salvation,  
Well may we tarry a little while.  
—Selected.

## Home Chats

Several mothers, commenting on a recent Home chat in which I urged the importance of every girl learning the art of housekeeping, take exception to the views expressed therein, and say, in substance, "I do not want my girl to be the drudge her mother has been; I intend to fit her for self-support by something better than kitchen work, and to that end I shall give her the best education I can afford, and then have her learn a trade or business."

Now that is all very nice, so far as it goes; but do, dear mother, include in the curriculum a course of lessons in cookery, a smattering, at least, of bed-making, sweeping, dusting, scrubbing, scouring, patching, sewing up rips, darning rents, replacing buttons and strings and hooks on undergarments, keeping the bottom of the skirt from frazzles, and also a little idea of how the laundering should be done. In short, an insight into the endless little details without which the young woman who enters the business arena no less than the domestic will find herself worsted in more ways than one. If she does not have to make practical application of this knowledge, she will at least be wise enough to oftentimes protect herself from imposition and inconvenience. If you do this, you will at least feel that you have done all you could for your child.

I do not think that all women were born to be cooks, any more than that all men were born to be hod-carriers, but if a man ever expects to do anything at the builder's trade he should know how and why the hod should be carried. Every woman, whether she "expects" it or not, is sure, sometime or other to try home building and housekeeping, altho' she may not

marry, and this knowledge never comes amiss. The knowing-how to do a piece of work will not necessarily mean that she must do it.

All girls should learn to handle the needle and scissors; the ability to use them skillfully will save more than dollars; many times a few stitches set neatly in a rent or tear of the moment will save one a very mortifying experience, as well as lengthen the life of the garment. A practical experience of dress-making will help one over many a difficult situation, and although she may not have to "do" her own dresses, it is a safe thing to know how another should do it.

An ignorant woman is too often a slatternly one, and her home is not always attractive; waste in many departments is the inevitable result of a lack of the knowledge of household methods, and where waste reigns, want is close at hand. It is more often than not ignorance of the very foundation of home-making that makes of housekeeping the drudgery it too often is esteemed to be. A skillful hand rarely makes a "mountain out of a mole-hill," and the "knowing how" often tides one safely over a troublesome sea.

Another thing which I would as strongly advise is, that girls be taught something of business methods, at least the elemental lessons in matters with which she will have to do, even though she may be only a wage earner, with a small salary to handle. She need not "go through" a business college, but she should have some idea how every-day money matters are to be transacted. Give the girls the schooling, as much as they will take, but remember, mere schooling is not all of education; there is a vast deal to be learned outside of books.

## Fashion Talks

The Housekeeper says: "It is remarkable how many of the school dresses exhibited lean to the sailor style. Many are made with kilts, skirts, the plaits being pressed rather than sewn into shape. Small checks are especially desirable for children's frocks, and velvet ribbon is the favored trimming, especially on unobtrusive plaid goods. Misses' garments are more shapely and more carefully made than they have been in the past, and while the styles for the grown-ups are closely followed, yet the key-note of simplicity is not forgotten. It is a mistake to suppose that children's clothes do not need the most careful consideration as to their suitability and becomingness to the individual wearer, and the girl who is tall for her years should not have her height and awkwardness accentuated by tight-fitting garments. For the very slender figure, make the dress full and fluffy, and with breadth across the shoulders. The maid who is shorter and chubby will need long lines and simplicity of design to increase the appearance of height and slenderness. Plaids, and checks should not be used for the fleshy child's dress. For girls in their teens nothing looks neater and prettier than a shirtwaist suit of a thin woolen material for school wear; plain linen or hemstitched lawn collars and cuffs add a becoming and attractive touch; the Norfolk suit is promised much popularity; half-fitting jackets will be worn, also box coats, with some improving modifications.

## Query Box

Josie.—Paint the ringworm a few times with iodine, and it will disappear.

M. G.—Try rubbing the teeth with fresh green sage every morning to preserve and whiten them.

Mrs. R. G.—Make your sixteen-year-old daughter's dress of instep length.

Mother.—You can get a very light weight flannel, and wool is the best for underwear for the child.

Carrie N.—Cover the rust spots on your steel with oil and quicklime and leave it for several days; then rub with oil and rotten-stone or Brist brick.

N. M.—A large quantity of fruit juice will not "jell" so quickly as a small quantity, and the jelly will be darker. For very nice, make only a little at a time, and when cold, pour melted paraffin over the top of the jelly.

Ambitious.—You can but submit your manuscript, and if the editor wants it he will take it; if not, and you have sent stamps for return postage, he will return it to you, and you can send it out again.

Penelope.—Reputable publications are continually warning their readers against the so-called "Clipping Bureaus" which demand that an advance fee should be sent to them before employment be given. All something-for-nothing schemes are open to suspicion.

Student.—All railroads in the United States have been built within the last seventy-five years. There are now in operation over 200,000 miles of road. I cannot tell you the number of men employed in the work.

Tourist.—One of the latest of the immense steamships is seven hundred and twenty-five feet long. Provisions are made on some of them for many hundreds of passengers on one trip. One who travels is in no more danger than one who stays at home.

Sufferer.—A prominent physician, writing for the Inter-Ocean, says one will take a course of physical exercises, not violent, but gentle exercises, sponge the body daily on arising with cold water, masticate all food perfectly, and get the stomach in good working order, the nerves will grow well and strong as ever.

Laundress.—Yellow soaps, unless of the best quality and the goods very carefully rinsed after their use, will cause white goods to have a dull, dirty yellow or brown tinge. For delicate articles, only the best soaps should be used.

Garnet.—Here is a nice way to use up the cold rice: Put into it just enough hot water to soften it so it can be stirred, and add one table-spoonful of vanilla. Beat into the rice two eggs with sugar enough to sweeten to your taste; roll in oblong shape a large spoonful of the beaten eggs and rice after dipping in egg and bread crumbs, fry a nice brown; sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve hot.

R. C.—The women of Wyoming have voted upon the same terms as men since 1869; the women of Colorado, since 1893; the women of Utah and Idaho, since 1896. A much larger number of girls than boys receive the higher education offered by the public schools, and it is demonstrated that there will, in all probability, soon be as many (if not more) women as men who will become college graduates.

Prissie.—Patterns for dolls and for

their clothing may be had of almost any paper-pattern company.

Y. M.—To remove stains made by perspiration, if the material is washable, apply a strong solution of soda and water, rinsing in clear water.

Mother.—Boric acid is a mild, soothing, non-poisonous antiseptic, if pure; impurities in the commercial article sometimes render it irritating.

Mrs. P. H.—I cannot give you a formula for modified milk; this should be done by your physician, and even he may have to change the formula several times to suit the case.

C. M.—Cuttings from nearly all soft-wooded plants will root readily if properly prepared and put into a vessel containing sand, which must be kept moist, and in the sunshine.

Gussie.—The use of the curling iron is to be deprecated, as it causes the hair to become harsh and brittle. Use kid-curlers, which are inexpensive and will last a long time.

Flower-lover.—Do not paint your flower-pots. A plant will grow much better in a perfectly clean pot than in a dirty one, as the clean one is porous and allows the air to circulate about the roots.

B. W.—An excellent nerve tonic is said to be a tea made by steeping the common celery seeds, to be had of your grocer or druggist, and drinking freely of it. It is not expensive, nor bad to take.

Mrs. D.—Salt is the remedy for snails in your flower beds. Drill salt along the rows, not touching the plants, and around isolated plants. Pruning and cutting off the seed-pods will keep petunias blooming abundantly until quite late in the season.

"Beginner."—If you "know next to nothing" of plant culture, begin with a plant of the good old geranium. It is the most patient plant alive, probably, and the easiest to grow. It stands a great deal of abuse, but I would recommend you not to abuse your plants. Give them intelligent care, and study their needs.

Housekeeper.—To prevent your pickles from getting soft, it is recommended to use boiled brine. Make a brine strong enough to bear up a fresh egg (a stale one will bear itself up), bring to a boil, skim, and let boil five minutes; let it get cold and put into it your pickles as you gather them, and be sure to keep them weighted down under the brine.

Hattie.—The Jewish interdiction includes the mole, weasel, lizard, hedgehog, and swine. Although our people still use pork as food, it is strongly inveighed against by all modern dieticians on account of the dreadful diseases to which the hog is liable, and the probability of their being com-

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