



The Home Department

Imperfection

Like wanderer with tired brain,
Who knows not home nor friend,
Who pauses on a lonely plain
With doubts his heart to rend,

I, too, stand still and gaze around
The vales of loneliness,
Afar to find the mountains crowned
With this world's sweet success.

But where are they? I cannot see
The glittering crowns of fame,
Those are in chains I thought were
free,
Those stalwart men are lame.

I would not dare to shift my load
To shoulders broad and straight;
The boldest perish on the road;
The wisest seems too late.

And they who thrust their souls aside
To gain a world's renown,
Still wear the yoke they have defied,
Beneath a victor's crown.

At last I know that we are made
To fail by God's own plan,
That not through life can we evade
The bond of faulty man.

And then I struggle on again,
And lift my burden high,
And brush away the travel stain
That I am covered by.

And place my love before my pride,
To soothe a brother's pain,
In gratitude that side by side,
Each may be healed again.

—Marion Stuart Wanson.

Home Chat

The woman of leisure and means may have her troubles in regard to vacation matters, but if she have, there are plenty of ways and means at her command to solve any problem, however it may worry her; but the question of how to make the best possible appearance on the least possible amount of money, and to have the best possible time in spite of restricted purse and limited vacation, stares the wage-earning girl or woman in the face on the eve of every summer outing. It is as much as she can do, generally, to take the time from her work, with the added cost of the trip, and in the brief days she may spend in the mountains, at the sea-shore, or in the country, she gets probably her only glimpse of the big, bustling world outside of her sphere of toil. Though the society at the summer resort may be shallow, it is still possessed of many interesting features, and is gladly hailed as a change.

It is very foolish of the woman of small means to try to keep pace with the woman of independent, or even comfortable resources; but very often a woman of taste and judgment, especially if she is skilled with the needle, will make a better appearance on a very small outlay than another would do with large means. Careful planning, judicious outlay and purchases adapted to her circumstances must be made. "The best of its kind," is a good plan, but it is better to get the best your purse will pay for, even though the quantity be very limited, and if the material be reasonably good, it may be made over for another outing, with small addition to cost, thus lessening the next season's outlay. Besides, a garment, cheap as to goods, soon looks "cheap," and if nothing better than a mercerized

cotton can be afforded, it is better than a flimsy quality of showy silk.

One should dress to suit the time and place. The girl or woman who decides to "tear loose" from the conventional and set out for a good time with nature, will need but few clothes, and those of the durable, hard-usage-resisting kind, and she may even use her out-of-date garments with perfect ease of mind. The girl who rows, or sails, or climbs mountains needs stout, thick-soled shoes, servicable garments and protecting headwear; she can, with very few changes, make one or two suits serve for all, though it is better to have one suit for each exercise. But if she intends to go into society and attend functions which demand especial toilets, she is in duty bound by custom to dress especially for them. But there are abundant forms of entertainment usually provided, one or more of which should serve for any wardrobe within her means. With a couple of nice skirts and half a dozen blouse waists, a coat to match one of the skirts and a cape, or pretty scarf to throw over the shoulders of an evening, one is equipped for any occasion, unless it be some one where full dress is required. A nicely made silk blouse of good fit and durable wearing quality, to be worn with one of the nice skirts, some pretty accessory being added to brighten it up, will be in good taste for afternoon and evening or informal party wear. There is next to no use for tea gowns, wrappers or negligee gowns in a short stay at a summer resort; one lounging robe for sleeping rooms, or slight illness or dressing, is all that is required or, indeed, advisable, as one should spend the time out of doors.

Shoes, wear-resisting, are important, and fine kid shoes or boots are too easily knocked to pieces or ruined for the beach, mountain or country wear. For the piazza, shoes may be as dainty as desired; but it is best to dress the feet so that one may start at a moment's notice on an impromptu tramp or stroll. The cheapest and best gloves for common use are the white chamois skin that may be washed with soap and water. A weather-defying suit should be provided, for even at the sunniest summer resort, there will be stormy days. Laundry facilities are usually unsatisfactory, and this should bear upon the wardrobe problem. A full supply of little odds and ends in the way of accessories for brightening effects is of greater importance than the number of gowns. If one is skilled with the needle, these can be provided at greatly reduced cost.

Hard Wood Floors

The hard-wood floor is comparatively a new feature in the house, and it is not altogether strange that housekeepers may not always know just how to care for them. A great many treat them as they do carpets, sweeping them with a broom-corn broom, which is intended well enough to take the dust out of the meshes of a carpet, but not to polish hard-wood floors. The same woman who treats her hard-wood floor in this way would refuse to sweep off her piano with a broom-corn broom, for fear of scratching its polished surface; she would probably take a soft, cotton flannel duster and wipe off the dust, and this is exactly what she should do with her floor. The most convenient way

of doing it is to make a soft cotton-flannel bag for the broom; the dust is easily removed from a polished floor in this way.

Such a broom is also useful in sweeping down walls, though a feather duster accomplishes this work more successfully. A number of such broom covers should be kept ready so that when one must go to the laundry another may take its place. Painted piazzas may also be treated with a covered broom in this way, even when in need of a scrubbing brush, and if not too dirty, will look almost as well as if scrubbed, and certainly better than if scrubbed with a common mop.

Chili Sauce

For Chili sauce, take one peck of ripe tomatoes, scald and peel; chop fine, and mix half a peck of white onions also chopped fine. Put into a preserving kettle, set over the fire, let come to a boil, add one pint of strong vinegar and two cupfuls of sugar. Mix one tablespoonful each of cinnamon, cloves, allspice and black pepper (less cloves, if not liked), tie in a thin piece of muslin and put in the mixture; let boil slowly for five hours, stirring to prevent scorching; remove from fire, take out spices, add salt and pepper to taste, put in jars, seal and keep in cool, dark place.

Query Box

"M." wishes a recipe for making transparent soap. Will some one kindly oblige her with a reliable one?

"R. L. R." wishes to know what to use to "cut or thin coal tar." Will some one please tell him?

"L. E." has a room, finished in hard-oil, which turns white where water touches it. Will some one tell her what to do with it?

Goldie.—Cannot give addresses in this column. If you send me an addressed postal card, will send it to you. Or, you might find out from your news dealer, or public library.

C. W.—Try the cucumber cream I told you how to make a few weeks ago. It is a face bleach, highly recommended, easily made at home, and inexpensive.

C. N.—Coal ashes are of no value as a fertilizer; but used on clay soil, renders the ground friable; all kinds of wood ashes are valuable, as they contain potash and lime, the proportions varying with the kinds of wood. (2) Write to the secretary of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Fannie G.—Stew the cucumbers, and when tender, drain off and save the water; season the vegetable with salt and paprika, and serve with butter or cream sauce. Put the water saved in a bottle for toilet purposes; it is an excellent wash for the skin after a dusty outing.

M. M.—Indications are that checks and plaids will be worn for the coming fall and winter, and the tall, slim woman is in luck. (2) Stitching is done with contrasting colors, and pipings with narrow bands of material—the piping to match the stitching in color.

Unfortunate.—If the coal oil emulsion damaged your plants you doubtless did not make it right, or follow directions in its use. The mixture must be thoroughly emulsified with churning or beating, until like thick cream—a complete emulsion. This will dissolve in water without leaving any free oil. It is the free oil that kills.

Student.—The deepest hole in the

earth is at Schladebach, near Ketschau, Germany; it is 5735 feet deep, and is for geological research only. The drilling was begun in 1880, and the work was stopped six years later because the engineers were unable to go deeper with their instruments. It cost \$53,000. (2) I do not know.

Querist.—Nature supplies us with the finest, most harmless cosmetics, if we only knew it. When peeling cucumbers for salad, put the peel, pulp and seeds into a jug of water and use for the toilet, washing the face and hands with this infusion and letting it dry on. Cucumbers have a wonderfully cooling and softening effect on the skin, and the pulp may be used instead of soap for washing.

S. E., L., R. M. and others, see "Requested Recipes" for answers to requests.

For The Summer Days

While many of our sisters are away on their vacations, there are still a great many who must, for various reasons, stay at home; and as the hot months bring comparative leisure, one may do many things to lessen the work of the early fall. It is now but a short time until the schools open—short, to the mother who must have the clothing ready for her little brood, and does not like to begin on the winter garments, which will be wanted after awhile. Many of the summer garments are being outgrown, or show considerable wear. Where there are younger children, these may be, with a little altering, handed down, and a full fall wardrobe thus furnished with but little expense, save in time and labor. Very few garments can be made over without some outlay for new to go with the old, and the remnant counters and summer sales will come in nicely for this purpose. Even the saving of a few cents is not to be despised, and if one is a judge of material, many real "bargains" may be picked up in this way. But one must be watchful, or the supposed "bargains" may turn out very poor investments. Many serviceable trimmings, as well as yards enough to make the small garments, are thrown out on the counters at this season, and sold at quite a reduction in price, rather than be carried over into another season, when they may be quite unsalable. If one is at all forehanded, it is well to lay in a supply of the standard materials for the next year's wardrobes, such as muslins, calicoes, percales, lawns, etc., while laces, embroideries and sheer goods may still be used for wear this season. We usually have such long, delightful fall months, that summer wear can be worn until well on to Thanksgiving.

Many garments may be freshened up and little touches of trimming added, and for the work now done we shall be rewarded by garments that will serve for early fall wear without much outlay. Cool days are always "happening," even in August and September, and by using the long afternoons now at our disposal, we can anticipate much.

A Woman's Age

"A woman is only as old as she looks," says the old adage, and this must account for the longing of every woman to "keep young" as long as possible. But if the face, hair and person are neglected until evidence of advancing age can no longer be ignored, it will be a hard task to get rid of time's ravages, if indeed it be possible to entirely do so. It is by no means as difficult as some women suppose to retain her charms if one is willing to begin in time, and not

BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bed wetting. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 118, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it.