



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Miller

## Wireless

I am the spirit, Thought. In the clumsy garb men praise  
As a thing of sense and sound and sight I walked their common ways.  
Then over their iron threads I paced with patient care.

But they've found, at last, these sons of men, they may trust me to the air.

Tell me whither to go. Clothe me and set me free.

I pass and my winged feet skim the waves of the wide electric sea.

Where you would have me tarry, make me a welcome there.

Faithful to you, O sons of men, you may trust me to the air.

Freer at last am I to fly as a spirit may,

With only the weight of the wings I wave. Oh, this foretells the day

When without speech or language some cunning mind may dare

Waft me to other minds and know he may trust me in the air.

—Charles P. Cleaves in the Youth's Companion.

## Home Chat

Now that the opening of the fall schools is so near, those who went away for the summer are drifting homeward, and, enjoyable as the vacation surely was, it is now practically at an end. The house mother has hardly got her traveling wraps off before she is deep in the work of getting the children ready for school. There are duties for every member of the family, and let us hope that each will bear his or her own share of the burden of preparation.

To the father, this season of preparation will mean a devising of ways and means by which to meet the heavy demands upon the family purse for the purchase of new wardrobes, new books, new school supplies, traveling expenses, and all the endless calls for expenditure such things entail. To the mother it will mean overhauling the summer wardrobe, exploring boxes, bundles and bags, sorting, selecting, a few stitches here, a little altering there, a letting down of this, a retrimming of that, until she finds the inevitable shopping must be done, and the almost hopeless search for a competent seamstress begins. To the elder sisters it will mean a helping of mother in these tasks, and hours of unselfish lightening of her load, while the older boys can materially help the father in his tasks in many ways. To the school children themselves, it will mean joyous anticipations, the getting together of their scattered school belongings, plottings and plannings for the new joys the opening of school always brings about.

## School Clothes

In these days, when the school garments resemble party costumes more than anything else, and the one idea with parents seems to be that "our children" must be dressed as well as, if not better than, those of our associates, the demands upon the family purse and the strength of the mother seem unlimited. Children are very sensitive about their clothes, and feel keenly any adverse comparisons, and so long as the present customs prevail, care must be taken to have them as presentable as possible. The first consideration should be comfort, hygienic weight and warmth; after that, material, becomingness of color and stylishness of fit and make. The demand for school dress is no

longer simply to be neat, clean and whole, but the young people must be as much like the fashion plate as are their elders. If the little one is sent out among its mates simply neat and clean, it is sometimes made to see that there is something lacking.

Of course, this should not be; but it certainly is; and so long as silly mothers will allow it, the results must be borne. But many a sweet-mannered, sunny-faced child is changed into an ugly-tempered, ugly-behaved and altogether unlovely character by being made to feel that it is poorly dressed and not up to the standard of dress demanded by custom. It would perhaps be better if there were restrictions imposed and limitations enforced, thus bringing, so far as dress is concerned, the children of varying fortunes to a more uniform level. It is not always the best equipped or finest dressed child that is the most earnest scholar, yet many young boys and girls become disgusted with school very early in life because of being made to feel the distinctions of dress, and from having the "cold shoulder" turned on them, no matter how high their grade of scholarship, because of plain or poor clothes. To these, compulsory attendance at school is the cruelest thing their young years have to bear, because it is a matter in which they are in no wise to blame, yet are helpless to change.

## Query Box

**Floral Sister.**—Young plants of double petunia, started from cuttings in August, or early September, should bloom well in the window garden, if given good care and plenty of sunshine.

**R. T. B.**—Could not make out your post town, so sent reply to Nevada, as that address headed your letter. You should have sent stamped, addressed envelope, if reply was expected.

**Halle.**—The water hyacinth can be kept through the winter by potting in earth and keeping the soil well moist (not too wet) about the roots, giving the plant sunshine.

**I. H. L.**—Two quarts of water, it is said, is the minimum quantity a person should drink daily. Fleshy persons usually perspire a great deal, hence, drink a great deal of water. Spare, lean, nervous people perspire less, and usually drink far less water than their nature requires.

**Ada S.**—Butcher's linen is used for tie, cuff and belt sets with suitable embroidery. Collar and cuff sets may be made of sheer lawns trimmed with lace and lace braid and faggoting. Washable belts, made of material like the costume with which they are worn, are very popular.

**T. S.**—For folding the coat, lay it out perfectly flat, with the inside down; spread the sleeves out smoothly and then fold back from the elbow until each end of the sleeve is even with the collar; fold the revers back; then double the coat over, folding it directly on the center seam, then smooth out carefully.

**Mrs. J. B.**—For your intended plant table, have a shallow tray of either galvanized iron or zinc (though zinc is best) made to fit the table or shelf on which your plants are to stand. In this, place a layer of woods-moss, or if this is not to be had, a layer of clean sand, and saturate thoroughly with water. Invert the saucers and set the pots on them. The moisture arising from the pan will temper the air about the plants and promote

vigorous growth and bloom.

**Anita.**—The monthly roses should be mulched in mid-summer, especially if the bed is fully exposed to the sun; use old, well-rotted cow or stable manure, if to be had, and apply plentifully. In autumn, stir this into the ground about the roots. This treatment will keep the surface of the soil cool and moist during hot weather, and will enrich the earth about the roots, insuring growth, and bloom for the following year. The foliage must be kept free from the various insects which destroy bud and foliage.

**Helen M.**—If you buy your cyclamen from the green-house, select young plants, just beginning to bloom, as they will increase in size and beauty for several years. If you plant the dormant corm, a four-inch pot is large enough for one an inch in diameter. Use a compost of sharp sand one part, leaf-mold one part, and rich fibrous loam (rotted sod,) two parts. Put a little charcoal in the bottom for drainage, fill the pot to within a half-inch of the top, jarring to settle the compost; make a hole in the center and place the cyclamen corm, allowing it to protrude at least half above the surface. Firm the earth to hold the corm, water thoroughly, set the pot in a shaded place for a few days, and gradually accustom the plant to more light. Keep in shade; the atmosphere must be kept moist all the time. Green fly trip and red spider must be guarded against. Cyclamen do not do well where gas is used, and under any circumstances, a moist atmosphere must be supplied.

## For a Stout, Elderly Lady

Answering Mrs. J. N., we give the following, from an expert dress-maker: "The large abdomen and unduly prominent bust is a species of deformity that women bring upon themselves from standing badly and lacing the superabundant flesh about the body so tightly that it is pushed either up or down until it becomes deposited in a manner most unbecoming to behold. If one comes to her senses before it is too late to remedy the evil, much may be done by proper exercising, etc.; but when it has become a settled fact, the woman must altogether eschew all close-fitting dresses. Her gowns should be cut in one piece, from under the arm to the foot, and have those under-arm forms fit the body smoothly. The front of the dress should fall in careless folds from the bust to the foot, confined by a girdle below the waist-line over the largest part of the abdomen. This will take away the "string-around-a-meal-sack" appearance. The flat back and sharp angle at the top of the corset which so often accompanies the self-made bad figure of a too stout woman may be modified by having a pointed yoke arrangement on the bodice with a ruffle, or some similar full trimming covering the broken line made where the figure stoops as she lets herself down into her corset, instead of making her bones and muscles hold her body erect."

In any case, after a woman has allowed herself to "settle down," she should study to find just what will give her the best appearance, and, fashion or no fashion, she should cling to this complimentary style.

## Cucumber Creams and Lotions

One of the most effectual cosmetics for the removal of discolora-

tions of the face, neck and arms, is the juice of the cucumber. Its whitening properties lie in the arsenic in the juice which lies next the skin. To get this juice, the cucumber should be washed and sliced, peel and all, and put into a porcelain-lined sauce pan, with a cupful of water to two large cucumbers, and the whole simmered slowly until the pulp is quite soft. If boiled, the juice is not extracted, and the preparation worthless. The cucumbers should be ripe enough to eat on the table, but not yellow with age; neither must they be too immature and green. The softened pulp is to be strained first through a colander, then through a hair sieve. Another way to get the juice, though not so good, is to wash, slice the cucumber without peeling, and pound into a pulp in a marble or wooden bowl, then squeeze the pounded pulp through a thin muslin.

Unless made often, this juice is likely to sour, but this may be overcome by adding to the juice an equal quantity of best alcohol, and it is then called an essence, or concentrated extract, and may be used in several cooling lotions and creams. As this is the season at which cucumbers are most plentiful and cheap, it is as well to make up a supply of the juice, which, in some preparations, will last until cucumbers come again. I give a few of these preparations, both for immediate, and for future uses.

For a brown, streaked or yellow neck, cut the cucumber peeling in long strips and bind on the neck at night. The effective juices lie next to the skin or peel.

Cut up without peeling, three good sized cucumbers, and boil in a teacupful of water until quite soft; press the pulp through a colander, then through a fine sieve, and to the juice thus extracted add five drops of salicylic acid, two teaspoonfuls of glycerine, half an ounce of sweet almond oil, and a few drops of any preferred perfume; beat up well, and keep in a closed porcelain jar.

**Cucumber Cream (2)**—Put six ounces of sweet almond oil in a double boiler; slice four good sized cucumbers without peeling and chop fine; after the oil is thoroughly warm, throw in the cucumbers; let this simmer for four or five hours, adding one ounce of white wax, one ounce of spermaceti and one ounce of lanoline; beat the whole until cool and smooth, and then add slowly, beating, three or four drops of tincture of benzoin.

**Cucumber Face Cream (3)**—Take the juice of fairly ripe cucumbers, extracted by mashing thoroughly and straining, and to six ounces of the juice add two ounces of glycerine, one ounce of bay rum and half an ounce of rose-water. Shake well, and let stand for a month, when it is ready to apply to the face, neck and arms, and clears, softens and removes discolorations.

**Cucumber Cream (4)**—Powder a quarter of an ounce of imported castile soap and dissolve in three ounces of cucumber essence (made as above with juice and alcohol), not the juice. Let this stand over night to dissolve thoroughly; to this add eight ounces of the expressed juice of cucumbers, half an ounce of sweet almond oil and a dram of the tincture of benzoin. Use any preferred perfume. After the nightly washing, wet with this, and let it dry on.

**Cucumber Lotion.**—Wash, slice and simmer one large cucumber (ripe for use, but not soft or old) until the pulp can be pressed through fine muslin; when this is perfectly cold, add ten

## 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.