



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts Meyer

"Might Have!"

I have lived my life, and I face the end—
But that other life I might have led,
Where lay the road, and who was its friend;
And what was the goal, when the years were fled?

Where lay the road? Did I miss the turn?
The friend unknown? Our greetings unsaid?

And the goal unsought? Shall I never learn
What was that life I might have led?

As the spring's last look, for one dear day
From skies autumnal on earth may bend,

So lures me that other life—but, nay!
I have lived my life, and I face the end.

—Edith M. Thomas.

And the Price We Paid

We danced and sang through the sylvan glade
As the piper played, as the piper played,
With never a thought of the joy he made;

For his squeaking pipe was quaintly small
And the rasping notes would break and fall.

We thought it quite poor, if we thought at all,
As the piper played.

The shadows were long in the sylvan glade
As the price we paid, as the price we paid,

We had little to give, else he might have stayed;
But others must dance while he must play,
Yet it seemed so strange he went away,
For we didn't then know we had lived our day
And the price was paid.

—T. S. Jones, Jr.

Social Chat

Here is a letter from one of our good friends whose address did not reach me, but her message is so sensible that I must quote a few lines as a text, thanking her for her kind words and interest in the Home work: She says, "If a farmer and his wife live harmoniously, there is no need of either being so overworked; each should recognize the needs of the other and be willing to help lighten the other's load, and a kindly smile and a few jolly words will make hard work easy. If each would take an interest in the work of the other, whatever it is, it would have a tendency to draw them together, and nowhere can this be better done than on the farm." As this friend says she has been a farm wife forty-six years, we know her words should carry weight.

I commend these lines to the consideration of our friends, whether farmers or not. I am not an advocate of the doctrine that each should live their separate interests alone. The husband's success or failure is also the wife's; the wife's failure is often due to the indifference to her interests shown by the husband. The

husband may have many confidantes, but none of them are so true or interested, or will work so hard for his success as his wife. It is a rare thing to find a wife working against the husband's interests. If the wife is shut out from her husband's sympathy, it is not strange that she shares her trials and worries with the gossips about her. Her close confinement to home duties makes her long for relaxation in a wider knowledge of the affairs of the day, and if she must be restricted to the petty gossip of ill-advised neighbors, who, like herself, are driven to this by social starvation, it pushes her further away from her rightful companion, and a lonely, overworked wife soon becomes a discontented one; a neglected wife sometimes seeks her rightful sympathy from a harmful source. A starved mind is a sick mind, and a diseased mind seldom stops short of a sick body.

A husband should make it his business to know that his wife is happy, or sick, or lonely. He is her guide, her protector, and very few women will refuse to advise with their husband on matters of interest to either. So far as the outside interests are concerned, it is a very frivolous or foolish woman who will not rise to the estimate her husband places upon her counsel. He should consider her more than a servant; if he does not, he is not wise. Nowhere can he get such service as she is willing to render him from a wage earner. Money cannot buy it. She is entitled to more than the so-called love that is given to so many wives; she is entitled to respect, esteem, confidence, affectionate treatment, and a consultation upon all the matters of the business and household. If she is treated like a companion and business partner, few men ever regret the confidence they give her. If she knows she is expected to be wise, few women will be satisfied to disappoint their husbands by their ignorance. In this earnest counsel in all things, they will be drawn closer together along lines that will "hold," even though, as is so often the case, they have no other bonds of sympathy. Many an unhappy married life has its cause in this separation of interests, in which each grows further away from the other—their lives held together by the merest thread—soul-hungry; heart-hungry; each alike an easy prey to the false sympathy of so-called friends. And then? A life of wretchedness, or the divorce court, shameful desertion, the felon's cell or the suicide's grave.

For the Home Dressmaker

The Ladies' World tells us: The professional dressmaker has a very simple way of allowing for tucks in dress skirts. Before cutting into her material, she first measures off the plain length of the skirt, plus the width of the hem, and sticks a pin into the cloth at this place—of course she is always very careful to lay on the pattern of the breadths themselves as she goes along, since some of them round out at the bottom, and then she determines how much extra length will be needed for the required width and number of tucks, and allows this in her material in the actual cutting out. She then bastes her skirt together and fits it around the top, and seams it up and bastes it to the belt, and then she is ready to make her tucks, which she does in the following manner: She lays the unfinished skirt out on a long table and takes her tape and tailor's

chalk and marks a line entirely around the skirt twelve inches from the top, and she is very careful to have this line exactly the same distance from the top for the entire distance around. After this is done, she draws another line lower down on her skirt exactly parallel with the first line, eight or ten inches below, according to the number and width of the tucks, and then she makes all this surplus up into one deep tuck, being very careful to keep it exactly even and to baste through both of the chalk lines. She always takes a fine baste, sufficiently strong to hold this extra material firmly in place, and after this tuck is evenly basted around the top of the skirt, the dressmaker once more tries on the skirt and turns it up at the bottom, evens it off and bastes the hem in place. In the case of a skirt which is to have wide tucks at the bottom, the hem of the skirt is always made to look like the lower tuck, and is generally the same width as the tucks above it; that is, if the skirt is to have three wide tucks around the bottom, only two real tucks are needed since the hem itself furnishes the third tuck.

Then, when the proper length of the skirt has been determined, and the hem measured and basted into place, the broad tuck at the top is taken out and the extra material is made into the desired number of narrower tucks, and it is very important to be careful and exact in this process and work by a gauge or tape measure, and not trust too much to the eye. Of course, bias folds, simulating the tucks, may be applied with much less difficulty, and may look very well, but if the skirt is to be renovated, or let down, the bias bands are not nearly so useful as the extra material in the tucks.

The various hand-made laces, honiton, battenberg, point and other braid laces, are nearly always in vogue, and are by no means difficult to make. Many of the simple, easily worked patterns give the most satisfactory results, and those with but one stitch throughout, with the kind and width of braid, with few cuttings and fastenings, if a good pattern is used, usually make a good effect. In many of the new braids used for lace, a thread is woven at one side which may be pulled when any turning is necessary to fit the curves of the design. If one is skilled in the use of the needle and exercises good taste, many beautiful accessories to the toilet can be supplied at small cost.

For the Toilet

To prepare almond meal to be used on the hands in place of soap; mix four ounces of the blanched and powdered almonds with two ounces of powdered cuttlefish bone, two of powdered castile soap, one of powdered orris root and half a dram of oil of lavender; a quarter of a dram of oil of cloves may be added if liked. First mix the orris root and the almond powder, adding the oils very carefully; then mix the cuttlefish with the soap, and put all together; sift several times through a coarse sieve, put into glass jars and pour a little on the palm of the hand to wash with. This is excellent for the skin that will not bear soap without getting rough and chapping, and for one who has to wash the hands often while about nice work, this is fine.

It is better, when one has to face a sharp wind, to rub her face with a

good cold cream, going over the neck and ears, also, then dust well with a good powder and rub off all loose powder with a soft old silk cloth. This does not necessarily cover up imperfections, but it protects the skin from the wind, to which a woman's face is not sufficiently accustomed not to suffer from the effects of it.

The hair tonic ascribed to Sir James Wilson is made as follows: Three drachms of tincture of camtharides, one ounce of oil of rosemary, one ounce of olive oil, and six ounces of bay-rum. It is claimed that an ounce of rock sulphur, broken into small pieces, but not powdered, and added to this lotion, will arrest the coming of gray hair—the claim being that the sulphur strengthens the bulb of coloring matter at the root of the hair.

Fresh Air

During the cold, stormy days, we often find the air of the living room unsatisfactory, seemingly with all the life burnt out of it. The best way to renew it is to open up the doors and windows and let the cold air sweep through it freely, keeping ourselves stirring busily the while, and after a few minutes—half an hour or so, according to the degree of cold, closing the apertures and letting the atmosphere get warm again. The living room should have plenty of fresh air let into it every morning when we first get up, even though we have to take ourselves to the kitchen, meanwhile. We should especially have it flushed with fresh air if the room is kept warm overnight with a furnace or baseburner, or, in fact, any coal fire which "keeps" all night.

Caring for the Hands

In caring for the hands, remember that it is most important not only that they should be thoroughly clean, but that they should also be properly dried. Imperfect drying is the cause of so many rough looking hands, and in order to prevent them from chapping, one should have some sort of emollient which is to be applied every time after washing. Press back the cuticle from about the nail, very gently with an orange-wood stick, or with the back of the thumb nail, in such a way as to give them an oval shape. Do not cut or pull off hang nails, but rub the rough edges off with a toilet pumice, or let them alone until they of themselves grow out smooth. A good cleansing preparation which may be used instead of soap, is made of four ounces of almond oil thoroughly heated in a water bath, six ounces of rose water in which has been dissolved one dram of borax, one ounce of powdered castile soap; as soon as these ingredients unite, take from the stove and stir briskly until nearly cold; then add four drops each of oil of roses, bergamot, lavender and cloves, and beat it into the mixture thoroughly. When finished, it should be soft and creamy, and should make the skin smooth and white.

Large knuckles cannot be reduced, as it is the bone that is enlarged, but a large hand can be made very nice if one is willing and has the time to give it a few minutes work each day. After thoroughly cleaning the hands, a simple preventive of chapping is two-thirds rosewater to one-third glycerine, rubbed well into the hands after drying them.

For a Sachet Powder

Equal parts of powdered rosewater, sandal, citron, calamus root, gum benzoin, cloves, and half as much cinnamon; add double the quantity of

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.

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 all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.