



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Neff

## Misunderstood

The meed of praise too long withheld  
May oft-times come in vain—  
Both powerless to undo the past,  
Or quench the awful pain  
That like a hidden fire burns on  
Till all ambition's strength is gone.

The tears that come so tardily  
May fall upon a grave;  
The tenderness may come too late  
To strengthen, cheer or save,  
If he who walked and worked alone  
Lies, dreamless, under some white  
stone.

What though you say, "How well he  
did!  
How marvellous his pen  
That drew the veil from human hearts  
To please the eyes of men!"  
Ah, yes; so playful each pen-stroke  
You knew not when the great heart  
broke!

Oh, if such praise had only come  
Before the piteous words were said  
That loosed his fingers from the pen,  
And bade him join the dead—  
Ah, honors can not stir or thrill  
The pulse, nor praises pierce death's  
chill!

The far, white heights to which he  
climbed  
But made the stars the further  
seem;  
The moon looked down through tos-  
sing clouds—  
Life seemed a loveless dream.  
On those cold heights he missed the  
thrill  
Of joys which all your pulses fill.

You can not call it true success  
Because men say that he was great;  
He missed the blessings all men  
have—  
The commonplaces of your fate,  
He would have bartered fame and pen  
And left his mountain-tops to win.

You heard his bitter cry to men,  
And said "He sings another song!"  
You said, "Hear how he writes of  
pain—  
As though he felt it!" "Lord, how  
long."  
He cried, "must I stand here alone?"  
He asked for bread: You gave a  
stone.

A marble shaft to mark his rest;  
While you, unknowing, know too late  
That he who voiced his soul in song  
Was not, and never could be, great.  
Earth held his spirit grand in thrall,  
Till Death released him. That is all.  
—Selected.

## Our Social Chat

Now that the schools are closed, many girls are, for the first time, seriously asking themselves what they are to do for a living. Many of them know very little about what constitutes a "living," as they have always had the home behind them, and never realized what necessity of a serious nature means. Scarcely a woman, whose name heads a department in any publication, but has more or less appeal for helpfulness from these girls and young women. And every one of these women who are supposed to be "successes," because they have won work on the battlefield of

the world, would be glad to help these undecided sisters if they could. But they—the applicants for advice—seem looking for "an easy place," where the work is "respectable," forgetting that it is the person, not the place that ennobles. Not one of the many who have written to me has seemed satisfied to take up housework, in any of its branches. They are all looking to the stores, factories and offices. Whether this is right or not, is a question I do not care to discuss. I am a wage-worker, myself; but I am a housekeeper, too. I try to do each work equally well.

Bye and bye, we shall find women going back to the homes—to the home-kitchens, in search of the health of which the factories, in more ways than one, have robbed them. They will grow tired of factory foods, and factory garments and factory homes. But the kitchen of the future, like the woman who goes back to it, will be improved. The crude inconveniences and wasteful ways will be abolished, and the "coming kitchen," like the coming cook and housekeeper, will be something of a joy. Women will know there is no disgrace to be attached to the name of "cook," or to the doing of the work of one. Cookery will be raised to the ranks of the "learned professions," as, indeed, it should be, for it is at the very foundation of all health, both of body, mind and morals. New methods, new machinery, sanitation and hygiene will all be there to greet her, and she herself, will be ready clothed with intelligence and knowledge of ways and means which make for success. A good cook and housekeeper is never out of employment voluntarily.

## Looking to the Future

No girl or woman, however closely guarded, can escape the possibility which may arise of having to care for herself, and perhaps others, at some turn of the tide of fortune. No one who has closely observed the struggles of women in a large city, to earn a living, can fail to note the peculiar hardships of married women suddenly forced from the home into bread-winning. In most large cities, there are thousands of women from the age of forty years upward, unskilled in any business or trade, who are forced by some necessity to engage in gainful occupations. Many of these women are wives or widows, who, long past the age when they might rightfully have been expected to go out into the world and work, have suddenly found themselves forced out of the home to seek employment, in order to support small children or a disabled or invalid husband, without having had the least training in any business or trade.

There is no sadder spectacle than that of the middle-aged or old woman trying to earn a living with no adequate equipment for any one work. Everything is against her. A younger woman, or a bright, adaptable girl, will readily find places where a bare living may be made while serving a few months apprenticeship, or giving a short time to a course of study, preparatory to filling some of the many openings for such; but the elderly woman, forced through necessity to "work out," must accept even the poorest wages given for unskilled labor, however unsuited to the strength or tastes, because the present needs of dependent ones is so insistent that there is no other choice. Few women

past middle age work at wage-earning except from necessity, and thousands of the women who seem prosperous, and are blamed for (apparently) "crowding out the men", are doing the work because there is no other way—the dependent ones must be fed, and there is no other support. Married women cannot always depend on the "protector" for even the necessities of life, even when the "protector" is a strong man, earning good wages. For this reason, every girl should be given a training in some branch of business, trade or profession, whereby she may be enabled to meet the "evil days," should they befall her.

## Before Marriage

No man has a right to ask a woman to take up the duties of a family unless he can support a home, and no woman is wise to take up such duties without a reasonable prospect of such support. Marriage means, for a woman, that her earning power is circumscribed by the new relations of life, if not wholly curtailed. It is morally wrong to bring children into the world unless there is a reasonable assurance that we are able to give them some of the opportunities and helps that go to fit them for a life's work. These considerations are bound to come up after marriage, and it is better to give them some thought in time to satisfy ourselves of either the possibility or the impossibility. If carefully considered, it will save much heartache and moments of discouragement.

"To encourage the birth of children without proper provision for their support is to obtain a very small accession to the population of the country at the expense of a very great accession of misery," says Malthus. Some fathers think if they barely make a living, controlling in the effort the lives of the wife and unfortunate children given them, they are doing nothing censurable. But simply to eke out a living is a negative vice, and a man should realize that he owes more to the woman he marries and the children he brings into the world than a mere animal existence. There must be a higher object than merely to get and acquire, and before there can be a higher type of enjoyment, there must be the means to purchase it. Ferret out the sorrows in most families, and at the root of it all will be found to lie the need of the where-withal to give to those dependent on us the coveted and desirable pleasures and equipment for a life of usefulness. One should be taught from the first to earn a little more than is spent, and in this way an increase, though of slow growth, will be apparent. We have but to look at the hundreds of homes for the care of indigent children, and watch the stream of worse than parentless little ones constantly pouring into them, to realize that marriage should be encouraged with much discriminating care. Not all men and women are fit for parenthood.—Ex.

## A Woman's Mistakes

One of the most serious mistakes a woman makes is in the matter of eating. If a man is not about, a woman thinks a cup of tea, or any old scrap, is enough. If there is any retrenchment to be done, she begins at the grocer-and-butcher end of expenses. If she is busy, she will not "waste the time" to eat; if she is unhappy, it affects her appetite, or, if

she is hurried, or worried, she goes without food.

Another mistake is, that she hardly knows how to rest. If she is tired, she may sit down; but she will be darning stockings, mending the clothing, crocheting shawls or embroidering doileys. She does not realize that this is work, or that it tires. If she is exhausted, she will write letters, or "run up her accounts"—and the "accounts" of most women are regular Chinese puzzles, requiring a strong head to unravel them, because the faculty of "figuring" in the woman's make up has been allowed to lapse; she so seldom has anything of consequence to "figure."

All over the country women's hospitals flourish, and doctors grow rich because of these two mistakes of women. Instead of studying up suitable foods to eat, and then taking time to deliberately eat them, the average woman makes her meals on stuffs from the drug store. It may not cost quite so much in money (and it may cost more) as good nourishing foods, but the expense as regards broken health and unhappy homes is one of the biggest extravagances we have to deal with.

A woman will walk a dozen blocks and fight her way through even a bargain-counter crowd to save a nickel, and will waste a dollar's worth of energy in order to save a dime. Why? Well, she considers the energy as being her own, and she has been taught that the dime is the husband's property. She will only have to suffer for the waste of the one, while she feels that she must account for the other, and she chooses what she considers the least of the two evils.

## "Home-Made and Home-Cured"

Now is the season when fruits of all kinds are beginning to be plentiful, and the products of the garden are at their best. The housewife who "does her own things" is to be envied, and especially so when one reads of the uncleanness, adulterants, poisonous preservatives, inferior quality of the fruits and vegetables, etc., which are used in the food products of the great factories of the land—indeed, of the world. We remember the olden days, when there was no question as to "what was what" when it came to the table; the only question being whether there was enough to "go 'round."

The farm and village family may have pure foods, whatever the restricted city dweller must put up with. Canning outfits for family use may be had cheaply—in some instances not costing over ten dollars, and lasting, with good care, for years. The cost may be divided among several families, but a "neighborhood" outfit would not be very satisfactory, as all are not alike careful of it, and it is not always available when wanted. It is better, with such things, to neither borrow nor lend, no matter how unneighborly such a course might seem. In all neighborhoods there are some who will rather buy their foods than to put them up, or having put up a store with poor success, must buy of more fortunate (or careful) ones. A canning outfit could be made to pay for itself.

Fruit juices should be stored plentifully, to be used in cookery and for pleasant, non-alcoholic drinks, and this can be readily done. A small evaporator, to fit onto the kitchen range, will cost about five dollars, and the fruit can be dried in them as one has time, or has room on the range.

## 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.