



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

The End of Summer

Down by the browning meadows,
From out the bending trees,
The clamour and cry of the blue-jays
Storm through the languid breeze.
The corn-fields are seas of tassel,
And close by the corn-field's edge
Snow-on-the-Mountain and Golden-Rod
Mingle with sward and sedge.

The ruddy fruits of the orchard
Fall ripe in the aftermath,
And, ripe in the sun, the blackberries
Hang lush o'er the well-worn path.
The meadows are golden billows,
The quails from the stubble call;
The iron-weed and the thistle tall
Bloom by the old stone walls.

In the air is a spicy odor;
The woodlands are filled with haze;
The grapes hang ripe in the wild-woods,
The ivies are all ablaze.
Oh, the gorgeous, glowing garlands
That hang o'er each smoke-tinged path!
Oh, the glorious, golden mornings,
That come with the aftermath!

—Park's Floral Magazine.

Homes for the Aged

One of our readers sends in a clipping from the Kansas City Journal, giving an account of the troubles of the helpless old people consigned to the tender mercies of the poor farms in Missouri. She says: "Libraries and colleges are all very well for the young, and those who have time and strength to avail themselves of such things. But there are as great needs, and very little thought seems to be given to them. One of these needs is the home where the old and worn and helpless—not always paupers—may find a refuge from the ill of life to a certain extent for the few months or years they must still bear the burdens of existence. These homes should be wholesome and comfortable and attractive. Many old people are able and willing to pay all or part of the cost of their keep, while others are in a manner helpless. Many of them could still do light work, and would be glad to be employed. How can one go about bringing this need to the notice of men and women who are philanthropically inclined, and interest them in such a project? Or, indeed, the government, which should hold itself responsible for these old people who are daily dropping out of the ranks of workers, with no refuge for their helplessness? The war veterans have home and pensions provided for them, but the fathers and mothers of men—those who have sent their sons to uphold the flag—is there no help for them?"

The clipping gives us a sad picture, but I do not know how it can be brightened. Here is an extract from it:

THE OLD FOLKS IN MISSOURI

"Sold to the lowest bidder! Such in a word is the fate of the public poor in eighty-four Missouri counties, according to information collected by Charles A. Ellwood, professor of sociology in the university of Missouri. It is the practice in these eighty-four counties for the county court to ad-

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.

vertise for bids for the keeping of the poor and to let the contract to the lowest bidder, regardless of the inhumanity that results. That horrible abuses exist, Dr. Ellwood says, is supported by abundant evidence.

"Here in Jackson county, which is wealthy and prosperous, a convict in the county jail fares better than a poor unfortunate in the poorhouse. A county court composed of men of education and wealth is responsible for the management of the home for the aged poor and the treatment they receive is enough to bring tears of indignation and pity to the eyes of Christian people. A committee of women from a local organization paid a visit to the poor farm recently, and they reported that the conditions were unworthy of a civilized people. Old men and women whose only crime was poverty were herded together without any regard for the rules of hygiene or sanitation. The privacy which is so dear to a modest woman was denied to the women, who were caged in cells without doors, and who were compelled to bathe in a place wide open to the public view.

"The fare was miserable, and the poor old folks were forced to walk through the cold and wet to go from their cells to the dining room. Persons of culture and refinement were crowded together with the vicious and insane, the lowest classes of society. No provision was made for books, magazines or newspapers, and no amusements or entertainment to comfort their declining years. Day and night these helpless creatures were made to feel that they were the recipients of cold charity begrudgingly bestowed. Naturally under such conditions the eventide of their lives, which should be soothed and lightened by every comfort and solace which Christian mercy and human love could devise, becomes hard and bitter, and it would be small wonder if they died cursing God and man.

"Truly, in some respects, modern civilization is only a varnish, and in these vaunted days, as in those of the poet-philosopher Burns, "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

The Colored Supplement

A writer, quoted in American Motherhood, says of the colored supplement which accompanies so many Sunday papers: "It would not be so bad if these wretched perversions of so innocent and helpful a relish to life as the comic reached only persons of mature life. Even readers whose time is so valueless that they can afford to waste more than a glance at a Sunday supplement must realize how worthless pictures of this sort really are. It is the children who suffer, for they absorb unconsciously the unsavory quality of such efforts to amuse, and are thus the involuntary victims of voluntary and responsible corruptionists. At a time when this country is seriously trying to implant a knowledge of and stimulate a taste for better things, artistic and aesthetic, through exhibitions in museums, libraries, and even Sunday schools, it is not a little disheartening to realize that every step in this direction gets a weekly setback through these colored atrocities. * * * There are certain negative results at least that parents have a right to expect from every educative force that is brought to bear on their children; that these

children shall not be deliberately taught disrespect for old age, or for physical infirmities and deformities; that they shall not learn to cherish contempt for other races or religions than their own; that they shall not take satisfaction in the tormenting of animals or weaklings. * * * A morbid gloating over the deficiencies and humiliations of our neighbors is pretty sure to develop vulgarity and a lax moral fibre in ourselves.

Another writer, speaking through the same magazine, says of the charm these colored pages have for children: "The thought came to me that the charm * * * lay in the continued action of the pictures. * * * The child is interested in what things do, rather than in what things are. Children's books and periodicals show that action in pictures is becoming more and more popular. In the latest pictures the characters are all doing something; * * * movement appeals to the child; his first stories are pictures, and for a long time after they cease to be the only ones he reads, they remain his favorites. The best story in words will usually make the best story in pictures if it covers only a short period of time, and is not wanting in movement. The standard of purity, in morality and in style of these picture stories should be as high as that of the word story.—Stella C. Dysart.

Hot Weather and Baby

Do not forget, dear mother, that you must take good care of the baby, now that the weather is becoming changeable. Use due diligence in looking after his comfort, but remember that the clothing can not always be of the same thickness at all times. For the cool mornings and evenings, do not fail to slip on some light, extra garment, which can be removed when the heat arises. The child should never be dressed so thickly as to induce undue perspiration; nor so thinly as to admit of the delicate flesh becoming chilled. Constant attention must be given the little one, and much judgment exercised. Many ailments are induced by improper clothing—weakening by too much heat, or chilling by too little. In this matter, no rule suited to all babies can be given. Accustom the little body from the first to being well aired, but this should not mean chilled. The flesh should be cool, but not cold. A healthy baby may perspire freely and its flesh still feel cool, but it will not be clammy. During the hot part of the day, and often well along into the night, very little clothing may be worn; but as the night cools, add a little covering, that the change may not be too keenly felt.

Making the Home Beautiful

If you want to keep the young folks at home, give them something to be proud of and let them help to make it pride-worthy. They will thus feel a sense of responsibility and ownership which will result in strong attachment. A lawn is what most people call a "front yard," and one name is just as good as another, if we keep things in shape.

For the grounds about the house, don't begin by leveling, or grading or terracing. This will give it a look as though it had "been picked up in the city at auction and dropped down by

your door," as some one expresses it. Let the grounds be as ample as you think you can keep clean, and too much "lawn" must be neglected, and it will soon look "like it was bewitched with brush, stones, stumps and general neglect." "A little lawn well tilled" is much better than a big one "weed-filled." If you can not give much attention to it, get it into grass as soon as possible, not letting a weed show up without being pulled or cut out immediately. The little ones will take interest in doing this, if they are given the responsibility, and a sense of ownership—or rather, partnership. Nobody likes to work for nothing—not even a woman.

Plant your shrubs in groups, or in corners. While young they will not make much show, and may have some quick-growing things planted with them, to be removed as the shrub calls for more room. Many native shrubs are beautiful in bloom and foliage, and these may be transplanted this fall. Many trees may be grown as shrubs, if rightly treated; these may be cut back to the ground, so they will shoot out a dozen stems instead of one trunk, giving them an annual cutting-back that will make delightful bushes of them, which will bloom profusely. Wild cherry, catalpas, beeches, acacias, tulips, lindens, and many other flowering trees may be so dwarfed as to become large shrubs or bushes, giving a pleasing variety to the scene.

Drying Vegetables

Lima beans, green peas, sweet corn, and many other vegetables are easily dried, and are very palatable when properly soaked and cooked. Dried cabbage, spinach, cauliflower and beets are also sold by first-class grocers. Many things may be dried, if one has not the proper facilities for canning, and in thus preparing them there will be less cost both as to time and money, and the dried vegetables are regarded by some as of much superior flavor to that which is canned. It might be well to experiment a little.

Trees for Shade

The lack of shade about the average farm home is never more apparent than during the hot months when it is most needed. This fall will be a good time to supply the need. A great many farm buildings are entirely destitute of shade; around many of the others the only trees are fruit trees, which, while better than none, are objectionable for the chief reason that they are short-lived; just as they get of sufficient size to furnish shade they are apt to break down from an over abundance of fruit, or succumb to insect enemies, and become at best unsightly.

Cedars, pines and other evergreen trees are valuable and attractive if planted for wind-breaks at a suitable distance from the house, but poor for shade trees, as grass will not grow under them, and many varieties drop cones freely, which are a menace to the life of the lawn-mower. There are many quick-growing, fine-foliated trees that grow to good size and last for years, and under which a soft carpet of grass will grow luxuriantly. Many nut-trees are valuable both for shade and for nuts, and from their early blossoming in the spring, until the leaves fall in winter, they are beautiful. The nuts may be planted where the tree is to stand, and, although some of them are slow-grow-

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.