

The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts

My Task

I thought to work for him. "Master," I said, "Behold how wide the field and good the seed! How few to sow! For thee all toil were sweet—Bid me to go!" He stayed my eager feet; "Not that, my child, the task I have for thee."

"Thou seest, Lord, how white the harvest bends; How worn the reapers are. Their cry ascends For help, more help to garner up the grain. Here am I, Lord, send me!" Alas, in vain. The Master said, "Let others bind the sheaves."

"Thy lambs, dear Lord, are straying from the fold; Their feet are stumbling o'er the pathways cold. Far in the night I hear their piteous cry— Bid me to lead them back—the wanderers—ere they die." "No. Other hands must lead them home again."

"Dear Master, dost thou see the bitter tears The mourners shed? Through all the long, sad years Their walls ascend. Wilt thou not bid me say Thy hand shall wipe each mourner's tears away?" "My child, I know their griefs, and I will heal."

"Tis not for thee to sow the deathless seed; Nor thine to bind the sheaves; nor thine to lead The lost lambs back into their fold again; Nor yet to soothe the heart sore, crushed with pain. For thee, my child, another task is set."

And then He led me to a darkened room Filled with deep silence. 'Mid the gloom My task I found. Not what I would, but what He wills, is mine. And so, I work, and pray His love to shine And lead me all the way to reach His throne.

—Anonymous.

Home Teaching

It is claimed that the way to learn anything thoroughly is to do it; the way to teach anything effectually is by example. In the one case, you are compelled to give strict attention to the work in hand, and in the other, you are illustrating the lesson you are giving to another. Children will learn far faster and more thoroughly from pictures, or material objects than they will by mere words on the printed page.

One of our readers suggests that the fathers and mothers spend an hour or two frequently in "playing at company" with their children. The idea is not a bad one, if the parents in-

clude themselves. Too many parents forget what it is to be truly courteous and polite to each other, and in this lack of home training, the children grow up to very disagreeable habits, and often are overwhelmed with mortification because of some awkwardness or breach of good manners when they are particularly anxious to appear at an advantage. Children should be taught to consider kindly the special likes and dislikes of their companions; they should be taught to receive and treat guests properly; how to make visits and behave properly as guests. They should not be shut out of the room when you have company, but should be taught the art of grace and courtesy to their elders; how to meet people in their own homes, and not to become intrusive by "hanging about" when their elders are entertaining, but, having greeted the guest, to go about their business. Table manners are imperative. A well-behaved child is a joy at the table, but an ugly, selfish, untidy child is a constant source of mortification to its parents. These, and many other lessons are matters of home training, and if such training is not given, the child's ignorance will "show through" even the finest clothes and surroundings, and the parents will get the blame. The father is just as much concerned in these "recitals" as the mother, for often the most carefully trained child, by following the father's example, will offset any training the mother can give it. It is time the fathers were awake to their own responsibility as to the proper guidance of the children, for, many times, the father's example entirely outweighs the most careful teaching.

Meddlesome Children

We have all had more or less experience with them, and, while we like to see them come, we are doubly glad to see them go. There seems really no excuse for such lawlessness as some children are wont to indulge in, and it is well to give a little thought to the matter and locate the blame. A child guest should not be allowed by its mother to run riot among the possessions of its hostess. How often have we been brought to the verge of hysteria by the little marauder's activity in upsetting all semblance of order or quiet in our homes, while the feeble authority of the mother died away in ineffectual "dont's," and a little faint-hearted apology and excuse that the child was so "full of spirits," and of such an investigating frame of mind.

This spirit of lawlessness shows itself very early in life, and the mother who carries her crawling baby to a neighbor's house and allows it to handle and displace every article that attracts its attention, lays the foundation for a habit of meddlesomeness which will occasion not only to herself, but to any hostess whose hospitality she may accept, some very trying experiences. Such children are never welcomed to the homes of our friends, and in very bad cases, even the visit of the mother is dreaded, lest the child may be brought along. On the other hand, the hostess should not allow her own children to meddle with the belongings of her guest. Children should not be allowed to pile themselves upon the visitor's lap, or to make free in handling the details of her toilet. The ideal child is, of course, spotlessly clean, but the real child too often has the remains of its

last lunch or exercise on its hands or clothes, and, if one is at all neat, it occasions a nervous tremor to find this remains about to be transferred to her street gown or other clothing. A proper respect for the property of another should be very early instilled in the child's mind, and, whatever is allowed at home, no license must be tolerated in the home of another.

The Long Evenings

Every season brings with it its own needs, and the long evenings, gradually lengthening, which bring again the gathering about the lamp-lighted table, remind us that we have a duty to perform upon which the comfort and usefulness of the eyes of not only the aged, but the young, greatly depends. The parents should provide the best lighting facilities within their means, and it is the province of the housewife to see that the lamps give forth a clear, steady light unobstructed by smoke or dinginess of badly kept chimneys. Every lamp used for the reading or work table should be supplied with a good shade, which need not be expensive, or which may be as elaborate and decorative as one can afford. A ten-cent paper shade will serve as good a purpose as those of silk or silkoline, or fancy crepe paper whose cost reaches up into the dollars. A green porcelain shade will cost about fifty cents, and renders the light very comfortable to the busy eye.

It is claimed that coal oil is the best lighting medium for busy eyes, as it gives a soft, bright, steady light—much kinder than gas or electricity. Given good care to the burner, chimney, and quality of oil, cleanliness of wick and opaque shading, almost any oil lamp may be used; but of these there are different degrees of brilliancy and quantity of light given out. One of the best lamps for sewing, reading or any work requiring close application, is the student's lamp, usually furnished with a Rochester, or other special burner; these lamps can be raised or lowered, to suit the needs of the eye, and the shade casts the light directly on the work. They cost anywhere from \$3 up, according to style and finish and material used in them. A very good one can be had for \$3 to \$4, and they will last many years.

Whatever kind is used, it should be kept well filled with the best oil, clean of burner and chimney, and well shaded for the eyes.

For the Eyes

With the return of the season for lamp lighting it is well to remember that the eye-sight of one of our most precious possessions, and good, comfortable light should be provided, not only for the elders, wearing glasses, but for the young people whose school, or other work, calls for application during the evening. In addition to good lights, some simple relief for tired, overtaxed or inflamed eyes should be at hand, and nothing is better than water in which salt, a teaspoonful of salt to a teacupful of water, has been dissolved. This may be dropped into the eye several times a day, or used as a bath quite warm. This, in many cases, is all that need be done to relieve the eye.

Another excellent thing for the eye is a solution of boracic acid. If you buy this ready made of your drug-

gist, it will cost you ten cents for a very small bottle full; but it is best to get ten cents worth of the powdered acid and make it yourself. The acid is valuable for many other uses. Into a teacupful of water that has been brought to boiling and let cool, put one teaspoonful of the powdered acid. Have ready a bottle of sufficient size sterilized by laying in a vessel on a cloth, covering with cold water and bring to a boil, then wash it out, rinse well, and pour this solution into it and cork. For tired, inflamed or overtaxed eyes, drop (with or without a medicine dropper) a few drops of the liquid into the eyes, "blinking" it up under the lids, several times a day, and through the night when the eyes feel uncomfortable. Or the eyes may be bathed in a little of it heated comfortably warm, and all the better if you have a little glass cup, made for the purpose, which will cost you about five cents, at any department store, if your druggist does not keep it. Both of these remedies are perfectly harmless, and recommended by oculists and physicians. Indeed, after taking treatment for eye-strain for two weeks for which treatment I paid \$10, the oculist told me the boric solution was all that he had used, and recommended me to continue the same after I left him. Of course, for diseased eyes, something else may be needed, but many cases of "sore eyes" are but strained eye-muscles.

Tomatoes

Spiced Tomatoes—Boil together six pounds of peeled tomatoes, ripe; two pounds of brown sugar, one pint of vinegar, a dessert-spoonful of allspice and cloves mixed, half a teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of black pepper, and toward the last of the cooking, one finely chopped lemon. Can in self-sealing jars.

Green Tomato Butter—Select tomatoes that are full grown, but quite green; slice them thin; make a syrup in proportion of one pound of sugar to two pounds of tomatoes; boil down slowly for four hours, or until the butter is smooth and thick, stirring frequently to prevent sticking and scorching. If liked, flavor with lemon when done.

Tomato Vinegar—Take two water-pailfuls of tomatoes, and the same quantity of water. The tomatoes must be ripe. Put into a stone or wooden vessel and let sour; when quite sour, strain through a muslin bag, and to the strained water, add one gallon of syrup. Let this stand until soured, and the vinegar will be good.

Green Tomato Sweet Pickle—One peck of tomatoes, sliced; pack in a jar, sprinkling well through them one cup of salt. Let stand over night. In the morning, drain well, and put over them vinegar enough to cover, one tablespoonful each of cinnamon and mixed mustard, one teaspoonful of cloves, and four cupfuls of brown sugar; let all cook over the fire for ten minutes, or until the tomatoes are tender. Put in a stone jar and cover closely, or in self-sealing jars.

Green Tomato Sweet Pickle—Eight pounds of sliced green tomatoes, four pounds of brown sugar; boil three hours in the syrup the juice of the tomatoes and the sugar makes. Then add one quart of vinegar, one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, mace and cloves. Bring to a boil again, and boil ten minutes, and seal in glass jars.

Sweet Green Tomato Pickle—Gather full grown green (no ripe ones) tomatoes; scald, peel, and slice in

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.