



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Matis Mackay

A Song of Twilight

Oh, to come home once more, when the dusk is falling,
To see the nursery lighted and the children's table spread;
"Mother, mother, mother!" the eager voices calling,
"The baby was so sleepy that he had to go to bed!"

Oh, to come home once more and see the smiling faces,
Dark head, bright head, clustered at the pane;
Much the years have taken, when the heart its path retraces,
But until time is not for me that image will remain.

Men and women now they are, standing straight and steady,
Grave heart, gay heart, fit for life's emprise;
Shoulder set to shoulder, how should they be but ready!
The future shines before them with the light of their own eyes.

Still each answers to my call; no good has been denied me,
My burdens have been fitted to the little strength that's mine,
Beauty, pride and peace have walked by day beside me,
The evening closes gently in, and how can I repine?

But, oh, to see once more, when the early dusk is falling,
The nursery windows glowing and the children's table spread;
"Mother, mother, mother!" the high child voices calling,
"He couldn't stay awake for you; he had to go to bed!"
—Scribner's Magazine.

The "Hay Box" Again

In answering "Bachelor Girl's" query about the winter use of the hay box, I give below one of many endorsements I have seen in the various publications which come to my table. That it really is a help to many cooks and housekeepers, is beyond question. As there is nothing to buy, and no invention to boom, I should not think the exploitation of it is an "advertising dodge." Read what this writer says of it:

"Now for my hay box, and I tell you it's fine; and you don't have to buy a new kind of stove or fuel to possess it. Having no servant and wanting to attend church on Sunday, I put on my vegetables, soup, roast, etc., while cooking breakfast. Then while boiling hot I take the boilers from the fire and put them in my hay box, which I had prepared in this way: I take a common wooden box of size to suit; line the bottom, sides and top with several layers of papers (newspapers will do). I did not have hay. As soon as the boilers, tightly covered, are set, boiling hot in the box, pack crushed papers, old tablecloths and other cloths kept clean for the purpose; anything to make it airtight; in the absence of hay this is just as good. Fasten the top down quickly and cover with thick blankets or comforts. When I took my dinner out at one o'clock everything was warm and deliciously steamed. Try it and you will rise up and call blessed the one who first thought of it."—Ex.

For the housewife who is not necessarily confined to the kitchen except for the cooking of the dinner, the

vlands may be started to cooking on the range while the breakfast is being prepared, and finished in the sitting or living room while the housewife goes about other business, thus saving the fuel, and allowing of work in other rooms being done. For the woman wage earner who comes home at night "too tired to breathe," there may thus be a warm, appetizing meal awaiting her without any weary preliminary preparation. If you know anything about the way a woman worker feels when she gets home from a hard day's work, you know she would rather not eat than to cook; and if she don't eat, she will be still more tired in the morning. The plan has many endorsers, in various walks of life. I wish those who have tried it, among our readers, would let me hear from them, whether for failure or for success. I personally know of several who have been and are using it with success.

Home-made Lamp Shades

These lamp shades are easily manufactured, and add a pretty effect to the room, as well as shade the light to the eyes.

Cut a piece of stiff paper in a circular form and of the depth desired, and glue the two ends together (a piece should be cut out of the circle to make the shade "funnel-form"), thus making a foundation. Cover this neatly, inside and out, with crinkled tissue paper of any desired shade. Then cut inch-wide strips and make the shade by looping and fastening these upon the foundation. The loops are graduated in length, with the exception of the small ones at the top, which are formed to resemble a ruching. A row of narrow crystal fringe sewed around the bottom of the foundation, makes a pretty finish, and a few sprays of artificial maiden-hair fern disposed among the loops adds a finishing touch. The shade, if for a lamp, must be placed over an asbestos foundation; if for a candle, mica should be used. Paper foundation is only for use when the object is ornamentation only.

"Schooling" and Education

Some of our friends do not like compulsory school attendance, and send me their views on the subject. As to the "right or wrong" of it, I have nothing to say; but it is a well established fact that schools do not furnish all the education, and much of the "schooling" is, in many instances, but wasted time. Many of our most brilliant men and women had but little schooling, but their education was broad—broad as the world they made better by their lives. Their book learning came from reading—not always many books, but books full of thought-inspiration; they absorbed the contents of these books and literally possessed them. Their readings—often but a few snatched sentences at a time—were sandwiched in between hard, rough, or exhausting work, and the privilege was prized. Their deep interest thus laid the foundation for broad thought and extended research outside of books, until these home-students became book-makers and thought-moulders, themselves. These men and women did not "graduate;" they would not have done so, had they been school attendants, for their thirst for knowledge was unquench-

able, and the last leaf of one book only sent them to the first of another. They are still learning—still studying, every day, every hour bringing them new lessons. They "read sermons in stones," and find mental food in every leaf, bud, blade of grass, flower and fruit; every insect or animal; every pebble; every wind that blows or beam of light or air-vibration; every minute of their lives they are seeking, and absorbing, education. The world is their school, and their teacher is Nature's God.

Again, many children and adults go to school for years, "go through" the text books and "graduate," and then proceed to forget the little they did learn. Their aims are not high; they are not aspiring, though often they are ambitious. They fill their places as creditably as the higher intellects fill theirs. In every walk of life there must be those who are simply "fillers," and the world's machinery could not run without them. Give the little ones all the schooling you can, and, outside of the text-books, try to interest them in their own life work, seeking to know what it is. One can do no more. One should do no less.

Minding What "They Say"

An interesting writer says on this subject: "I find that 'minding what they say' is, in some cases, a very good thing to do, as it is often the only incentive one has to do things as they should be done." In the first place, never let your work get ahead of you; work that is put off increases with compound interest. Then try to be orderly. If you have no time to dust your chairs, at least put them in place. If you have no time to shake your rugs, then just straighten them on the floor. Do not waste steps. While you are washing your dishes, try to decide just what you will do next, and remember that there are many corners that no one sees but yourself, and it is much better, if something must be neglected, to have a little dust under the lounge than to have wrinkles in your face from over-work and worry. These remarks are not intended to encourage the naturally shiftless, or careless, but for the over-worked and over-particular, who believe in house cleaning every day, but lack time and strength for it. At first, the corners will worry one, but after a few days you will find they are not so important as you thought them. One thing never do—never call attention to any dirt or disorder when a neighbor drops in, unless it is very conspicuous, because often it would not be noticed if attention were not directed to it."

Remember that your neighbor is supposed to come to you because she enjoys your company, and, in most cases, she is perfectly willing to take you as she finds you. If she were not, she would probably have sent you word to expect her at such a date. As one can not always time her work to suit a neighbor's convenience, one should simply, even in such a case, do the best she can, and let it go at that. It is possible that her visit "happens" at the only time in the week when things are awry in your house, but if you have done your best, just make her visit so pleasant that she will forget to notice anything out of order, or will be willing, for the pleasure you give her, to overlook all unpleasantness. If she

won't—well, there are more desirable neighbors, don't you think?

For the Seamstress

One convenience which is so simple as to be often overlooked is a yard measure. One can be "marked off" on the sewing machine, the dining table, or even the cook table without being at all conspicuous, and it will save a great many steps and time that has to be spent in hunting the tape-measure. When your sewing machine is open, ready for work, take as many common pins as you will need and cut them in two about half an inch below the head. Measure the yard on the table of the machine, or other table, and at the end of the yard drive one of the pin heads in the wood; then one at the half yard, third, fourth, eighth measure, and you will find it a great saving of time. The pin head is quite inconspicuous and is much better than marks or notches, which disfigure.

In mending a tear or snag, if the stuff is at all frayed or raveled, baste a piece of the same material as the garment under the rent large enough to keep the torn portion in place; darn with fine stitches down to the patch laid under it, smoothing out the ravelings as you proceed. Should any roughness appear, after it is finished, clip it carefully away, dampen the place slightly and press. Cut away all the piece laid under except the portion darned into, and the darning must extend far enough into the goods to insure a hold for the stitches. Darning can be done very neatly, if one tries.

In patching, try to match any figure or design in the material. When making up wash goods, it is a good plan to wash some of the scraps left every time the garment is washed, in order to have the patch the shade of the garment if it at all fades. Or the colors may be dimmed and the cloth shrunken by washing it in strong soda or soap solution. This is as good for woollens as for cottons. If the new goods is not washed, it is apt, when the patched garment is washed, to "pucker" or "draw" in the inevitable shrinking. A patch may be inserted, if care is taken, that will look better than the most careful darns. This is especially true of mending stockings that have been torn, or on goods where a seam will not be too noticeable. Care must be taken, however, in inserting patches, to match material, color, design or figure, and the patch must "run" the same way of the weave of the cloth—lengthwise, or crosswise, with the "nap," if any, running the same way.

A Plea for the Club

Those who read the Home pages know that I am very much in favor of women belonging to clubs, or social organizations of some sort, where rest and recreation of an uplifting character may be had. I am not, myself, an active member of any organization, but this is because of circumstances which render me something of a "shut-in." Then, too, I have resources which many women have not, and my life is an extremely busy one. But, try as we may, we can not do away with the monotonous character of most of house and home duties, and the rearing of children is at best a nerve-exhausting work. Too many of our women suffer from nerve-exhaustion, mal-nutrition, and poor blood circulation, owing to the

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children's 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.