



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts May

Two Gardens

"Do you know the slighted garden?
The ground is hard and dry;
The lilacs fade before their time,
The rose-leaves scattered lie.
Unchecked, the rank weeds flourish,
The winds unhindered beat,
The fragile stems are trodden low,
By rough and careless feet.
No hands are busy tending them,
No hearts with pity move;
And so they slowly droop and die
For lack of tender love.

"Do you know the love-kept garden?
The pleasant proofs are there;
Love's hands are always busy,
And loving hearts take care;
Affection's eyes read quickly
Each little plantlet's needs
Of sunshine and of shelter,
Deliverance from weeds;
And gentle fingers trim the plants,
While cool drops from above
Steal down to cheer each little root
And speak of tender love."
—Selected.

"Flowers for the Living"

It is a common thing, when our loved ones have passed on to the New Life, to lay upon the stilled bosom a wreath or bouquet of choice flowers, and the custom is a pretty one. But did you ever think of what a travesty of life it is, when one attends the funeral of one who has been a faithful, loving wife, always practicing self-denial in order to minister to husband and family, and set that husband place upon her bosom or coffin a spray of flowers, when we know that while the poor woman lived he was never the man to spare a dime for a bouquet to gladden her eyes, or to take time to spade up a bed in the yard that she might plant flowers and grow them herself? How often we see women who love and long for flowers, who, when they ask for a few cents to spend with the florist for living plants, roots or bulbs with which to brighten an otherwise naked yard, are met with a refusal, and told that there is no money to waste on such useless things! Just a paper of mixed seeds—costing but ten cents; and it would have gladdened so many dark hours of discouragement; have lifted untold loads from the tired heart. But it was "a useless expense, and a waste of time, and she would better be patching old garments and darning socks, if she had so much time to throw away!" Haven't you seen such cases?

Oh, friends, let us give flowers to the living. Let us scatter real flowers along the pathways over which the living feet must tread, as well as lay them on the hushed bosom of our dead. It is a little thing to do, costing so little in money or time or strength, that it seems strange that men who profess to love their wives do not oftener fill their dooryards with flowers, and cheer the hearts of the home-keeper with the beauty and fragrance while they may enjoy, rather than scoff at this hungry longing only to lay upon the coffin flowers, the cost of which if given to her in life would have filled her days with joy unspeakable. Do you ever think of it—the money she earns for you by her unselfish sacrifices? Do you think nothing belongs to her?

"Women Should Marry"

Recently, in a large city, a prominent minister occupied (by invitation) the bench with a judge who was try-

ing a large number of divorce cases. The lessons of life here read by the reverend gentleman, he says, were appalling. He expresses himself thus: "There is growing indifference to the sanctity of the marriage vows. In the cases that came under my observation, there was no trace of appreciation of the responsibilities of wedded life. Husbands, for no apparent reason, leave their wives—many of them with little children, to starve. They get tired of their mates and, in many cases without even an explanation, they go away from their homes, never to return. * * * The real solution of the divorce question lies in the application to the problems of everyday business and social life of Christian love and charity."

Meantime, while we wait for this saving application, let us teach our boys and girls the real lessons of life, and that the success of married life depends equally upon the honor and integrity of both of the contracting parties. Require of each of them the same careful preparation for the new partnership which you would demand in mere business matters not so vitally important. A great measure of the trouble lies in the fact that, for centuries, girls have been taught that their one aim in life should be to marry, and now, when conditions are so radically changed and women forced to give thought to their own support, they, in many cases marry recklessly for a home, without any knowledge whatever of the character, habits, antecedents, morals or health, or ability to earn a living of the men to whom they give themselves. On the other hand, men marry just as foolishly, but expect that the girls they espouse will be easily moulded in 'o their ideal women—which, however, is not easily done with the materials at hand. Men are not always (especially young, inexperienced men) very skillful at the moulding business. Desertion, cruelty, drunkenness and infidelity, in the order named, are the causes, according to statistics, of most of the divorce suits, whether among the rich or the poor.

The Celibates

Not all women will or can marry, and the same can be said of men. Many women who are affectionate, domestically inclined, and who desire above all things a husband, home and children; have no lovers. It is not the best girls who have the most lovers, or who are the soonest married. The more substantial qualifications, such as loyalty, stability of character, steadfastness, good disposition, willingness to be helpful, sound common sense and strong character, do not often appeal to the young man in search of a wife. Prettiness, winning ways, coquettish eyes, dashing manner, stylish dressing and silly little "babyisms" attract lovers and offers of marriage, and most of men will pass by the plain-featured, sensibly-dressed, hard-working girl who attends strictly to her own business, and devote himself to the pretty, airy, fluffy dressing and "fetching" manners. The result of such marriages are sometimes satisfactory; but not often so.

There are many men—good, honest, large-hearted men, whom any woman might be proud to call her husband who often find it difficult to secure a wife, much as they might wish to marry. For some reason, they do not attract the other sex, and, like the

unmated woman, though in a greater degree, they devote themselves to business interests and live their lives alone. To many others, marriage has become such a "shifting sands" affair that they are afraid to trust themselves to it—the men, because so many women are frivolous, ignorant and careless of home duties and impatient of restraint, while the woman hesitate to assume an obligation which may chain her to one who is the slave of dissipation, immorality, unwholesome appetites and inability to provide a home such as a true woman would wish to preside over.

There are still others, of both sexes, who are absolutely unfit or incapable, through no fault of their own, to take upon themselves the responsibilities of marriage. Persons of this class would be but "misfits," no matter whom they should marry.

The Apron

Nothing is more labor-saving for the mother of little children—especially those of school age, than the plain, easily-laundered aprons made of calico, gingham, percale, or even white goods. The dress so soon gets spotted and soiled in winter time, and the winter laundering is a more momentous affair than that of warm weather, where the thin, light fabrics dry almost as soon as hung on the line. An apron "covers a multitude of sins," such as a partially worn front and sleeves, or a perfectly plain or even out of date style or an unbecoming make or color. There are so many pretty, simple styles to be had in the paper pattern department that one should consider the subject from an economical, or artistic, as well as labor-saving stand-point. Aprons may be made of calico or percale having white grounds with small dots or figures to look equally as well, launder as neatly, and wear better than most of white goods.

For the housekeeper, there are several styles of apron which are to be recommended, as one can slip the big apron on or off, as circumstances may require, admitting of a dress suitable to all ordinary occasions being worn without fear of soiling. Then there are aprons to be worn while sewing, or doing fancy work, with neat, handy little patch pockets on them. An excellent apron for wash-day, or while blacking the stoves, etc., is made of rubber sheeting, or of table cloth, binding the edges with some pretty colored strips of calico. For giving baby a bath, a soft flannel is nice, and it should be wrapped about the little form, shielding from chill, as the drying towel is applied.

For many of the tasks men will find to do at this season of the year, a strong denim, or cottonade apron is not to be despised, as it will save the pants from both wear and soiling. A leather apron is very good, but the washable one is handy at all times.

The Toilet

A useful hair wash, especially for those who easily catch cold, is made by taking five cents worth each of camphor and borax powdered, and pour a pint of boiling water over them; let stand until cold and bottle. When washing the hair, add a tablespoonful of this to the warm water. It is a very cleansing compound, and the camphor will prevent a chill being felt.

A strong tea made of Quassia chips and water, if used as a hair wash, will

destroy all head-parasites and their eggs. Parents who send their children to school often find a need for this trouble, as one infested child will distribute the vermin to a whole school, unless constant care is exercised.

A good bleach for the skin is made by infusing two tablespoonfuls of finely grated horseradish in one pint of scalding hot milk, stirring frequently until it cools. Strain this and bottle the liquid, and dab a little on the face two or three times a day.

A simple way to clear the complexion is to wash it with a solution of two teaspoonfuls of sulphur in half a pint of new milk. Let this stand an hour or more, then apply it to the face and allow it to remain on until dry, then wash off with warm water and soap, and wet the face thoroughly with good vinegar to kill the alkali in the soap.

Ten cents worth of formaline in one pint of water, kept on the wash stand and applied once a day to the armpits or feet will remove and prevent any disagreeable odor. The dress-shields should be sprinkled with it, also.

Camphor cold cream is easily made, and now is the time to make it. Melt together one-half ounce each of spermaceti and white wax with three-fourths ounce of almond oil; dissolve one-fourth ounce of camphor-gum in alcohol, and add to this melted lotion, stirring constantly. Remove from the fire and beat vigorously until it commences to thicken, and add ten drops of oil of geranium, continuing to beat until cold. This is excellent for chapped hands and lips.

For the Thanksgiving Turkey

Always draw, or have drawn, the tendons from the chicken's or turkey's legs. The marketman will draw them for you, but it is well to know how to do it yourself. "If you don't at first succeed, try, try again." Buy (if you do not have it of your own) a fowl with its legs left on, turn it on its breast and hold the back of each leg, one at a time, of course, in the left hand. With a sharp knife in the right hand cut very carefully just below the knee joint, just through the skin—no deeper. Inside will be found the group of tendons, there being eight in each leg, lying snug in a groove. They are attached to the foot, but through the dark meat they run away up into the leg, well into the upper joint. With a strong wire skewer lift each tendon separately, holding the fowl firmly, and pull. If the fowl is young and tender, each tendon will come out easily, and it can be pulled by a slight effort. If the bird has seen several Thanksgivings, all the muscle that can be put into the job will be required, but it is just such a bird that most demands the tendon-pulling.

A turkey calls for more muscle than a chicken, and a long pull and a strong pull altogether. Cut the skin in the leg about half way between the knee-joint and foot, and there will be plainly seen the group of shining white tendons. Slip a strong skewer (or, if the bird is quite elderly the point of the sharpener that belongs to a carving set) under the bunch of tendons. Lift them carefully, then twist around two or three times, acquiring a firm hold. Give a strong, steady pull, and out they will come together. Count them, and if there are not eight, go after the ones that are left. With these tough sinews removed, the dark meat is so delicious and tender that the drumsticks of one turkey will be found scarcely a large sup-

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.