



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts Melroy

## "Shutting Out and Shutting In"

I shut the lovely daylight out,  
The dying day, that's growing dim;  
The wondrous stars are stealing out  
Above the roseate evening's rim—  
Late darling of the waning year—  
My garden, daughter of the spring,  
Thy roses bear November's tear,  
How long and sweet the joy you bring!

I shut your lingering glory out—  
Chrysanthemums so subtly bright;  
My heart's delight, the cypress vine,  
My myriad starlings, red and white!  
A little sigh. It is so fair—  
This world of ours I shut from sight—  
Great gifts of color, odor, air,  
Great gifts of life, so oft we slight!

The wondrous planets, blazing stars,  
In awful tryst embrace, commune,  
Then part without a sigh or sound,  
With clinging rings and clustering moons.

I shut you out—ah, dearly loved!  
Yet bring your priceless lesson in;  
To cheer me through life's careless route,  
To lift my soul o'er dearth and din.

I shut the world and worry out,  
I shut the joy and comfort in;  
No racking cares must share my hearth,  
No sound of all the hard world's din.

Some splendor from the planet's path,  
Some perfume sweet from bud and bloom,  
Some voices sweet—I shut them in—  
To cheer me through the months of gloom.

—Selected.

## Mothers as Teachers

Too much scolding is done by irresponsible parties—parties who oftentimes do not know what they are talking about. Very unjustly, generally, mothers are scolded because they do not spend more time and strength in teaching their children, when, unfortunately, many of the mothers themselves need teaching. Then, too, the mothers of today are compelled to be "all things to all persons," wife, mother, nurse, cook, laundress, seamstress, housekeeper, physician, financier, maid, mistress, market woman, besides being an expert in dozens of other lines that converge in the making of the home, and she is required to be a success in every one of them, besides often being compelled to occupy her leisure (?) moments in helping to eke out the family expenses and add to the comforts of those dependent upon her. Almost before they give up their baby talk, the children are taken out of the home, either to the school room, the workshop or the office, and she is thus deprived not only of their help, but of the privilege of leading them along the paths of learning. In most of homes, broadly speaking, mother is but a servant (not always an "upper" one, either), who works her life out without a wage, and in many instances without thanks or appreciation for what she does do, and the wonder is, or should be, how she ever gets through the work so well—work which no other mortal could or would do.

Few little children will care for their hands and feet of themselves, but if taught in the matter, and accustomed to keeping their feet, warm and dry,

and their hands clean and free from roughness by proper attention, it will become a habit; and good habits are as hard to break up as bad ones. See that the little hands are thoroughly dried after washing, and that they do not sit about with wet feet, or go to bed with cold ones. Many a case of sickness comes from the wearing of wet shoes and stockings after the play is done and the blood cooled.

## A Good Use for Them

When your stocking bag gets unbearably full of worn-out footwear, some day, take it to the sewing machine and make its contents into wearable and usable things. Usually, the tops are good, but the feet are hopeless. These tops make good "holders" to use about the stove, if lapped and stitched, and a loop fastened to one corner to hang up by when not in use. You can not have too many of these holders—at least, you never do. Then, flatten out some others and lay a glove—a loose one, on one, with the top of the glove to the top of the stocking, and mark out the size. With the machine, stitch for the fingers, large enough to cut apart; turn the glove, and make its mate. A half dozen pairs of these hand-protectors are none too many, and they are so thin and pliable, and fit themselves to the hand so nicely, that you can work right along in them, at anything that does not require wetting the hands. They will protect the hands from stains, callouses, and roughness. These tops may be made into "half-handers," if they are preferred to gloves. They can be worn by the little girls, too, when sweeping, bed-making, dusting, or, if pains are taken in the making, they may be worn to school, and kept on the hands, if wanted. These tops can be re-footed by flattening out the old foot, laying the foot on the top lengthwise and a new foot cut out, hollowing in a little at the ankle of the foot-piece, and sloping down the leg-part toward the instep. The seams thus made will not come on a part of the foot where it will be felt. It beats darning and patching. This is for cotton or silk stockings—not woolen, as woolen is not good for use in the house, heating and fretting the hands too much.

Old cotton socks make good "holders," too, and can be used as scrub cloths for many things.

## For the Elderly Woman

There are no longer any rigidly-drawn lines of demarcation between the young, the middle-aged and the old lady, so far as dress is concerned. These stages slip along from one to the other by such easy transitions that one hardly notes the difference—not even the woman, herself. Although most elderly women wear black from choice, they are not compelled to do so, as they are allowed choice of all the beautiful, soft grays, the warm, rich browns, the dark blues, greens, etc., with all their shadings, stripes, figures, checks and plain colors with most beautiful weaves.

One of the handsomest, as well as most fashionable styles for gowns is the Princess shape with its straight lines and perfect simplicity of style. It is becoming to nearly every figure, and suitable to nearly all materials, from the simplest print to the elegant silk. It will admit of elaborate trimming, or will appear finished with its row of buttons down the front, and

its ruffle at the neck and wrist. All manner of dainty neckwear, fichus and chemisettes are to be had for elderly women in lace or sheer muslin, and one of the prettiest ways of dressing the neck is to have the dress cut or turned in V-shape, and the opening filled in with folds of lace or muslin, or with embroidered chemisette, with the comfortable collar held in place by a pretty brooch.

One thing the elderly woman does not do, now-a-days, and that is dye the hair. It is left to whiten as it will—in some instances helped to do so, given good care, and it is put up just as the daughter puts up hers. The whitening bands frame the face, softening the complexion and shading away wrinkles. The grandmother of today does not hesitate to use the wash-cloth, with pure soap, followed by thorough rinsings, astringent lotions, softening emollients and cleansing and nourishing creams. In short, having raised her family of children and given them to the world, she proceeds to make the most of her freedom from care, and makes herself as sweet and as lovable as a grandmother always should be.

## Protecting Tender Roses

As soon as settled cold weather comes (usually about December 1 in most localities) carefully bend down the tops of the tender rosebushes and pin the branches down to the earth with forked sticks. Draw the soil up around the stem to a good height, and, if planted in a bed, set a frame the size of the bed over them and fill the frame with leaves or good straw, pressing it down a little, and cover it with burlap, held in place by plastering laths tacked to the frame. This has been tried where ten degrees below zero was the winter temperature at times, with success. Do the covering just before settled cold weather comes, according to latitude. Rough boards may be set over the frame slanting, to protect it from heavy sleet, snow or ice, and to turn off unusual rains. If done too early, the plants may suffer from the unwonted warmth. A coat of straw will benefit the hybrid perpetuals and hardy monthly roses.

## "Making Over"

Did you ever notice what an economist Mother Nature is? During the growing season she hung her draperies all over the trees, shrubbery, vines and plants, in order to gather within reach all the nourishment the air and sunshine could give. Now the growing season is over, and Mother is taking down the draperies, making quilts and blankets of them to tuck about her sleeping children. All the long, cold months this covering will cling, closer and closer, about the brown earth bed, and when the spring cleaning comes, the warm rains, will finish what the winter snows began, and the comforts, blankets and other bedding will be used as a mulch to protect the bare soil from too much wind and sun until the baby rootlets get well established; then the mulching will slowly become food for the green things growing while new draperies will festoon the boughs and branches. To one who studies nature, there is no waste—everything has its use, changing only from form to form.

When the little waists get too short on the shoulders from neck to arm

hole, set in a very shallow yoke of suitable material, lace or embroidery for wash goods, and silks for woollens. If the arm holes are too tight, open the shoulder seams and set in a strap from neck to arm hole, of the width required, setting the strap in the seam instead of on it. In sewing the skirt to the belt, sew the outside and lining of the belt on their respective sides to the top of the skirt, turn and place together and seam the tops of the lining and outside together, thus turning the raw edges inside.

When preparing gathers for sewing, run two threads, like the old fashioned shirring, one thread at the line to be stitched and the other just inside of it; this may be done on the machine by making the tension on one side very loose and drawing the threads together when ready to sew. The second thread will hold the gathers in position, and can be removed when the sewing is finished.

## The Use of Dyes

With many people, it is not a necessity to make over garments, but where economy is the rule there is often a great saving in using materials which are too good to throw away or sell to the rag-man, thus keeping the money for other expenses. Home dyeing is by no means a difficult work, and the made-over garment may be so changed in color by this means as to seem a new one. In buying all wool goods, one can afford to get the pretty, delicate colors for first-wear, as a later immersion in some good dye will effectually blot out all traces of the "has been." Mixed fabrics, as cotton and wool, or other mixtures, must have two separate baths in separate dyes made specially for the material; that is, a dip in the wool dye for the silk and wool, and a dip in a cotton dye for cottons and linens. This can be nicely done, if one is particular to use the dyes indicated, following directions given on every package. Where there are only adults in the family, or the making over is not deemed advisable, the garments should be passed on to some needy person, rather than to keep them as moth-breeders in the closets or boxes. If you do not know where to place them, send them to some charitable association, and let them go on doing good.

## For the Little Folks

In handing down the garments of the elders, if the goods in hand is not worth giving as good work as new material, do not bother with it. Remember that the material which suits the man will be entirely too thick or stiff to fold snugly about the supple, twisting little body of the little boy, and don't feel that, because the fabric of your cast-off was just suited to your needs, that you can fit out the girle with it in any becoming style. For the little ones there should always be a touch of daintiness, either in material, trimming or make-up. Give it a look suited to the age and occupation of the wearer. There are many fabrics which, looking nice in the piece, are, nevertheless entirely unsuited for the wear of the riotous boy or the romping girl. Use plenty of common sense in dressing the children, and consider comfort and usage of the garment as first essentials.

## The Baby's Flannels

The soft, fine woollens in the baby's wardrobe are often ruined by careless washing. Here is a good way to launder them. Put them to soak in

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.