



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Our Yesterday

Ah, why turn back life's blotted page
To dwell thereon in vain regret?
Better to turn the new page o'er
And strive to pay the old one's debt
By largesse of the living thought
That moves on glowing word and
deed,
Through pain and wrong and pathless
night,
Straight to the heart of other's
need;

Making of self Love's servant true,
Who waits not for the clarion call,
But holds in an o'erflowing cup
Some drops of tenderness for all.
If lovingly, through each new day,
Swerveless we walk life's nobler
ways,
Then, one by one, our God shall wipe
The stains from all our Yesterdays!
—Selected.

Taking the Offered Opportunity

A well-known writer says: "To hear the wall that goes up from prisoners of poverty, one would say that women desired nothing so much as a chance to earn money. Yet never, in a lifetime, can I recall going to a woman for help, whether in typewriting, sewing, or housekeeping, that she was ready to undertake the work at once. No matter what the emergency, or how liberal the pay, or how great her need, she was never ready at the call to put on her apron and set to work. She wanted to see her cousin across the river, or to wash out a few collars, or finish a dress, or make a call, or do something which put off the order a day or a week, or even longer, until the need no longer existed, and when she at last came, and I told her some one else had taken the job, she was highly incensed because I had not kept it for her."

I am reminded of this, because I have recently gone out of my way several times to get work for women who, to all appearances, absolutely needed the little the work would have brought them. In some cases, the opportunity offered was but an entering wedge that would have admitted them to larger opportunities and regular salaries, but they were never ready to accept the call, and so I had my work for nothing. If a woman really wants work, she must keep herself ready to answer the call, no matter what it is or at what hour it comes. She must be ready to drop personal interests, or keep them so in hand that when an opportunity comes, and she is asked how soon she can do the work, her answer shall be "at once." The business woman must learn to "turn on a pivot and stop at a touch"—in short, to follow the Divine command, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye know not," your call will come. Especially is this necessary in doing journalistic work, or furnishing "topical" articles for periodicals. A woman who is to be depended upon, and who has the ability, will hardly fail to get work, if she is willing to prove what she can do before demanding "regular rates" that only experienced ones can be sure of getting.

"Gardening for Profit"

One of our readers thinks we might

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.

eliminate the garden talks, as gardening matters do not, according to the writer, belong to the Home Department. Gardening for profit, in a financial sense, may not, but gardening for food supplies to the home table certainly does bear strongly on the health and comfort of the family. And right now is a good time to call attention to this fact. Little can be done in the out-door garden this month, but the work for the spring and summer should be well mapped out before the demands for it overtake us in the busy season. Between most of us and the first furrow lie many days of storm and cold, ice, sleet, snow, cold rains and frozen fields. But far to the southward the gardens are already begun. Much reading and planning may be done between now and the opening of the springtime in many sections.

In a very short time the hot-beds should be started. If you have never had a hot-bed, you have lost much good eating in the way of radishes, lettuce and other "green things" that can be had at a very little cost, as well as an early stock of plants for transplanting to the open as soon as the weather will permit. Bulletins giving instructions for hot-bed making and managing can be had from the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C. These early "gardens" can be had by the village and city family, as well as on the farm, and the vegetables thus raised will save many a nickle that must otherwise be spent for the bruised, withered things that are shipped in from southern localities. If the home-made hot-bed were one of those contrivances calling for furnaces, steam-pipes and close-fitting layout that would cost much money, we should hardly advise it for the small family; but the work is simple, calling for a few boards, one or more window sash and glass or even a few yards of oiled muslin, a little labor in digging, a load of fresh stable manure, good garden soil and a determination to succeed, with the application of a little brains and common sense methods, and with these, any one should not fail to succeed, supplying the table with the very earliest and nicest fresh lettuce, radishes, etc., at a very small cost. Why not try it this season?

Changing a Pattern

It is a difficult matter for the amateur seamstress to enlarge or reduce the size of a skirt pattern, still it can be done. It hardly pays, however, when patterns can be bought so cheaply; but sometimes one is where a pattern can not be obtained, when to wait to send for one is out of the question, and one is forced to do the best with those at hand. Suppose a pattern cut for a twenty-two inch waist measure is to be enlarged to fit a twenty-eight-inch size. There will be six inches to add, and in a six-gored skirt this would be done by adding half an inch to each side of every piece of the pattern. For a four-gored skirt, three-fourths of an inch must be added to each side. In reducing the size of a pattern, the best way is to fold a plait down the entire length of each gore, being sure to take the plait in the center of the gore. Where an old skirt is to be made over, a nine-gored pattern will be found more serviceable than one of five gores, as small pieces may be utilized.

For the Seamstress

This is the season when the housewife may make up the underwear for

the family, refashion out-of-date dresses, and make over all garments which must serve for further use without having to be strictly in style. In selecting a pattern, get the exact size. For the skirt, allow two inches for a lap, and order the pattern of this size. When you are ready to begin cutting out, have some one measure from the waist to the floor, subtract one inch, and this will be the proper length for the front. Always measure in the center of the front. Then measure the center of the front of your pattern; if it is longer than your own measure, cut the difference from the bottom of each section of the pattern; if not long enough, add paper to make it the required length. This is much easier for the amateur than to lengthen by cutting the pattern and inserting the additional length. If you are a beginner, always choose a skirt pattern with seven gores rather than one with three or five, for the wide pieces require extra care in basting. If your skirt is a little larger around the bottom than you wish it to be, or than the goods you are making over will allow, do not cut from the sides of the gores, but lay a plait at the bottom edge and press it upward; this will not affect the top of the skirt but will reduce the width gradually.

In making up plaid goods, be careful to match the plaids nicely, or the skirt will appear crooked. After having cut the material, pin each seam closely before basting together, and thus avoid puckering. Let each seam be at least half an inch deep, as a wide seam presses better than a narrow one; dampen the seams a little when opening them, and press open carefully when finished. Do not have the seams wet, or the iron too hot. If the raw edges are not to be bound, trim, and overcast neatly. Leave the upper part of the back seam open a sufficient distance to allow of the skirt being passed over the head comfortably, when finished. Sew a facing of the goods three inches wide on the left side, press the seam, and hem the other edge down on the under side, forming a lap a little more than an inch wide. Face the other side of the placket and press it. Lap the faced side over the other, and tack it into place at the bottom. The placket may be closed with invisible hooks and eyes. Baste your skirt according to directions on the pattern, into a band, and stitch it on; then baste down the band and hem it. Nearly always, one hip is somewhat lower than the other, and this requires a little trimming at the bottom of the skirt. Put the skirt on, and get some one to see that it hangs evenly, and pin it so the bottom is even all around, after which baste close to the edge all the way round, finish with hem or facing as it suits you, and put on the braid. Loops should be set on either side of the belt by which to hang the skirt up when not in use.—Housekeeper.

Picture Books for the Children

There are so many beautiful pictures floating about on the printed page, not only in the advertising pages of the high-class periodicals, but in every kind of paper, that one is at a loss how to preserve those especially liked. One of the ways is to let the children spend some of their spare time, on stormy days and during long evenings, in making scrap-books of them. Many books which have outlived their use-

fulness, or which never had any particular value to the family, may be used, cutting out every second and third leaf, and pasting on both sides of the leaf that remains. If the work is neatly done, such a scrap-book will be a thing of joy not only to the young picture lovers, but to the old ones. A durable book, which will last a long time, can be made by taking cotton goods—old calico, or linings can be used—cutting the desired size for pages, and being careful to cut along the thread or weave, so the pages will "hang straight," and pasting the pictures on these. The leaves may be cut into pieces a little more than twice the size of the page wanted; fold evenly together through the center, making two leaves, and sew together on the fold—as many pieces as you wish, giving two leaves to the piece. Paste all kinds of pretty pictures on the pages, as you would in a book. Run a bit of bright-colored tape or ribbon through the back, tie in a neat bow, and see how nice it will be. Let the children do the work themselves. Experience will teach them how to do the work neatly. In the work, a love of the beautiful will be developed, and many beautiful thoughts awakened.

For the disagreeable breath so often afflicting children and adults, get charcoal, either in tablet, or in pulverized form, and take it internally. The tablet form is the most inexpensive, and directions for taking will be found on the package. The pulverized form can be had of the druggist, and rubbed into a paste with a little honey or syrup, and swallowed readily. It is perfectly harmless, absorbs the odor of the contents of the stomach, and sweetens the breath. A teaspoonful several times a day is sufficient. A few doses will do the work.

A Neat Box

A pretty box, or trunk, for holding the new dollie's wardrobe may be made from a small cracker, tea, or other light wood box. It should have the top nailed on securely, and the closed box should be then sawed in two, giving the shallow part a depth of two or three inches for the lid. On the outside of both pieces, stretch tightly and smoothly some suitable colored denims, cretonne, table oil-cloth, or the like, and tack securely in place with brass-headed tacks, either to simulate trunk markings, or in some neat design. The inside may be slightly padded, if desired, and lined with some bright color, or some pretty paper may be used. Join the lid to the body with brass hinges, finishing the corners with brass corner pieces, and fasten the lid down with a brass hasp, or hook and eye. On the ends of the box, screw brass handles. The box may have a shallow till or tray set in the top, if desired. The whole need not cost more than fifty cents for the brass trimmings, and the size may be any that is desired. Such a box is both ornamental and useful.

Now that "detached hair" is coming into use for the toilet in the many forms known to the hair dresser, it will be well to take care of the combings. A neat receptacle for these can be made of a square of window-screen wire, eight to ten inches, by lapping two sides to form a point at the bottom, and fastening them together with wool yarn or silk floss in some fancy stitch, and working over the edges and around the top opening. The wool or silk should be of some bright color. On the point at the top of the opening, a neat ribbon bow should be sewed, and under it a ring or loop for hanging the receptacle. Many pretty and useful articles may be made with bright woolen threads and screen-wire. A wall pocket for holding gloves, or bits of ribbon; comb and