



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

The Mother

Am I not kin to those high souls, elate,
Who dreamed great dreams too won-
derful and great.

For any telling? Yea, I too have
been

As near to God as poet, seer and
saint.

And through glad tears His myster-
ies have seen.

Seeing I sat as humble women may
And sewed on little garments day by
day.

They who have known joy, flawless
and complete—

Am I not one of them, whose joy was
sweet

Beyond the bliss of lovers? Nay,
above

The calm of martyrs crowned,
my joy hath been

The perfect crowning of perfected
love.

Seeing that one glad day against my
breast

The wonder of a little head was
pressed.

Am I not sister unto them: whose tears
All men have venerated through the
years?

There is no sorrow in a world too
wide

I may not know and feel and
understand.

Mine, mine the anguish of the
Crucified;

The heart of Mary—seeing on a day
I kissed a child's dead face and
turned away.

—Theodosia Garrison.

"Taking Thought for Tomorrow"

Are you one of those who never
plan out the work for the days to
come? Do you act upon the impulse
of the moment, with no thought of
how the work will stand the test of
time, or what the outcome, under un-
foreseen conditions may be? If so,
I pity you, for few people can do this
without making mistakes for which,
when too late, they are sorry. Be-
sides, there is a great deal of pleas-
ure in planning ahead—"making be-
lieve," as the children say. You can
thus have your dream, though the
reality may never be yours, and the
grayest life may be made very beau-
tiful by dreams of beautiful things.

These dark days, when the family
is kept indoors because of the cold
and storm, is a good time to lay out
and plant the garden (on paper). By
this means, you will know just what
you want to do, and get your seed
order off and the seeds in hand be-
fore the "rush season" crowds you.
One of the very best preventives
against the "blues," house-nerves, stu-
pidity and yawning, is to keep the
mind busy—hard at work, as the ma-
terial business in hand progresses.
Most of hand-work will allow the
worker time to brood and "think
thoughts," and one might as well think
good, cheerful, healthy thoughts as
to grow discouraged and discontented
by giving way to the "doldrums."
The most common tasks will never
become drudgery if the mind is kept
stirring. It is the child that is kept
idle indoors that gets into all man-
ner of mischief and mishaps, from

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.

sheer idleness. The busy child, busy
about something he likes, is rarely
the saucy, disobedient one.

While plying the needle or run-
ning the sewing machine, the home-
keeper can look out on her yard and,
in imagination, plant her shrubs and
perennials, so that when the time
comes for the actual work, she knows
just what is wanted and where. So,
as she busies about the kitchen, she
can plan for her back yard. Some
of the prettiest things in the way of
vines and flowers should be planted
in sight of the kitchen window—the
most cheerful, and the prettiest, so
she can see them instead of the dish-
pan when the "three-times-a-day"
dishwashing has to be done. If she
wishes to shut out some disagree-
able view, plan for the screen of
vines—and let the vines be beautiful
ones—bearing beautiful flowers and
fragrance, and, it may be, fruits. But
have beautiful, cheerful things. Plan
for your dreams, then work for your
plans. Live, and grow, into the cheer-
ful, beautiful life.

Forcing Rhubarb

"A Reader" asks how this is done.
The roots are dug up after a hard
freeze in the fall, which freezing
seems to be necessary to make the
work a success, and then planted in
a dark cellar, kept moist and warm;
the stalks thus produced grow rapid-
ly, and are much more desirable than
those grown in the open air, being
tender and of good flavor. In old
fashioned gardens, rhubarb was
forced by inverting a box or barrel
over the plant very early in the
spring and piling fermenting material,
such as horse-manure, around the out-
side. In a few weeks, tender, thin-
skinned stalks were produced. The
appearance is attenuated stems, dis-
torted and dwarfed leaves. Never
having had any experience of the
kind, I can not say anything about
its value for market purposes.

For the Window Garden

For those desiring to keep house
plants in the winter, no more than
general rules can be given, as much
depends upon the plant, and more up-
on the condition of the atmosphere of
the room. It is better to begin with
a few easily-grown plants, study them
carefully, and when you have met
their mutual needs, you will soon
learn to recognize their individual
wants. When thrifty growth is es-
tablished, fertilizer, in the shape of
liquid barnyard manure is the best
to use. The color of the water should
be about like weak table tea, and
should be given often.

A good way to get moisture among
the plants is to have a kettle of boil-
ing water, pour the water in a shal-
low pan set under the plant shelf,
and let the steam go up among the
plants. Another way is to heat hard
bricks very hot and put them in the
water to cause steam. In addition,
always keep a shallow dish full of
water on the stove or register.

All dead, yellow or unsightly leaves
should be picked off and burned, and
the remaining foliage should be kept
free from dust. Turn the pots fre-
quently, allowing every side to get its
quota of sunshine, and thus assure
a shapely plant. Water only on warm
days in winter—never at night, or at
noon, when the sun is shining on the
foliage. A dry plant can stand much
more cold than a wet one.

Stir the soil in the pots occasion-

ally with a steel table fork, to admit
air to the roots. If the soil becomes
sour from too much water, set the pot
in a vessel of boiling hot water (the
water must not touch the plant, and
a newspaper may, if desired, be
wrapped about the top of the plant).
When the water cools, lay the pot on
its side to drain thoroughly.

All manner of insects attack plants
in a hot, dry atmosphere. Where do
they come from? I do not know. Do
not let them get a hold on your plants.
Water and moisture on the foliage
are good protectives. A fine sprayer,
costing fifty to seventy-five cents will
last a long time. Give the foliage an
early morning sprinkle with this. Do
not spray at night, and never at noon
when the sun shines on the foliage.
Always use tepid water for spraying
or watering.

For the Kitchen Floors

Is it too early to talk about reno-
vating the woodwork of our homes?
I think not, and if you are in need
of formulas for floor-stain, it might
be well to clip this one out and put
it where you can get it when wanted.
The reason why many women detest
kitchen work is because the kitchen,
itself, is usually the most uninviting
place in the house, and only to be
kept presentable by hard, drudging
work which might just as well not be
required. No dainty woman likes to
spend the greater part of her time
scraping and scouring the floors, or
washing and cleaning the woodwork.
If the floor is an old one, it should be
scoured perfectly clean, being partic-
ular to remove all grease spots,
and let get perfectly dry. Then, for
a good stain, take half a pound of
burnt umber, half a pound of raw
umber, and mix with one pint of Japan
varnish and one pint of boiled lin-
seed oil, thinning with turpentine un-
til it will spread evenly on the floor.
Apply this mixture with a worn paint-
brush, rubbing it across the grain. In
about ten minutes after finishing the
floor, go over it with a woolen rag
and rub off all the surplus stain, rub-
bing this time with the grain of the
wood. When the floor is perfectly dry,
which should not be longer than two
or three days, at most, apply a coat
of boiled linseed oil. Let dry before
using. About once in six months, give
the floor a coating of boiled linseed
oil, and it will always look well.

If the floor is a new one, of either
ash or hard pine, two coats of boiled
linseed oil makes a pretty floor. Such
a floor should not be scrubbed; wip-
ing up with clear, tepid water is all
that is necessary.

The pantry should open into both
kitchen and dining room, and there
should be a closet near the cook stove
for holding the cooking pans and skil-
lets, pots, plates, measuring cups,
kitchen knives and forks, spoons,
bowls, salt, pepper, vinegar jugs, and
other things which are constantly
used in getting a meal. The cellar
stairs should open out of the kitchen,
and a dumb waiter going to the cellar
is a great convenience.

"Domestic Economy" for Boys

An unsigned clipping reaches us
from one of our readers, which is not
so huge a joke as it would, on its
face, seem to be. Here it is:

"In Girard college the boys are
taught to sew, darn, press, clean and
cook. This would seem, at first

glance, a training for bachelorhood,
making for independence from the
'feminine touch.' But the closer con-
sideration shows that it is really a
preparatory training to make model
husbands. It is a necessity to meet
a demand created by the development
of the new woman, who no longer
sews, darns, cleans, presses or cooks.
Her sphere having been enlarged to
'all out-door,' she must forgo the in-
door, domestic economies in favor of
her new labors.

"But sewing, darning, cleaning,
cooking must be done. There is a
limit to which frowsy frumpery may
be carried, and the world marks it.
Pegs will serve for emergency uses
for a while, but not as a permanent
substitution for buttons, and a man
tied together with strings is a men-
ace to himself and the peace of a
modest world. He must, therefore,
learn to attend to his own grooming
and to be not wholly dependent on
canned goods for sustenance, he must
know how to cook. Otherwise, he
dare not become a Benedict. Bache-
lorhood, out of a small surplus, may
make shift with the services of pro-
fessional pressers and menders, but
matrimony has no surplus to be so
squandered. It must attend to its
own belongings, or go uncared for.

"It is well, therefore, that future
husbands be taught to keep them-
selves in order. It will make them
more independent, and the offer of
their hands and hearts less like a
classified want advertisement. And
the woman who marries him: will have
more time for the world-labors which
engross their minds."

For the Laundry

The housewife should avail herself
of all the helps possible in doing the
family laundering. One of the great-
est helps is a good machine and
wringer, and there are quite a number
of good ones on the market. Many
manufacturers will send the machine
on trial for thirty days, free of charge,
and this will give one the opportunity
of thoroughly testing it four times,
in the home, with the home help.
Many that do excellent work, lasting
for years, if given care, can be had
for \$3.50 up to \$6. There are higher-
priced ones, but the cheaper ones
will do excellent work. Neither by
hand or by machine can first-class
washing be done if one does not have
good water and good soap. The wa-
ter should be rain water, if it can
be had, though some springs and wells
give soft water. If hard water must
be used, it should be "broken" with
lye, sal soda or borax. Some excel-
lent washing fluids are easily made
and inexpensive, and will save much
hard labor and soap.

One of these is made by mixing
together one pound of good potash,
and one ounce each of sal. ammonia
and sal. tartar. Dissolve the potash
in boiling water, then add the other
ingredients. One gallon of water
should be used, and the solution, as
soon as made, corked tightly in a
jug, labeled, and put away for use.
The clothes should be properly sorted
the night before and put to soak in
clear water, and if the water is hard,
break it with borax—directions for
using which will be on the package.
Next morning soap well the soiled
parts, and put them into the boiler in
which is as much water as is needed
for the clothes, and to which has been
added at the rate of half a teacupful
of the solution to every three pails of
water. They should boil twenty min-
utes, and when taken out, another
kettleful of clothes may be put into
the boiler, filling up enough water,
while the clothes just taken out may

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