



Tap on the Window, Mother

Tap on the window, mother,
Your boy is going astray.
See, he is wandering even now
Afar from the narrow way.
Oh! beckon the poor boy homeward!
Why should he longer roam?
Perhaps a tap on the window pane
Will bring the wanderer home.

Tap on the window, mother,
He's going down the street.
Perhaps your precious boy may now
Some dire temptation meet,
For the world is full of evil,
And the future, who can tell?
Ah! the path to heaven lies very close
To the pathway down to hell.

Then tap on the window, mother,
Your boy may hear the sound;
He may see your fingers beckoning him
From sin's enchanted ground.
When he pays no heed to your weeping,
Though tears may fall like rain;
When his ears are dead to the voice of
prayer,
Then tap on the window pane.

Oh, tap on the window, mother!
How can you give him up?
How can you yield your darling boy
To the snares of the drunkard's cup?
Perhaps he may heed your signal
When tears are all in vain;
Then add to the voice of your earnest
prayer
A tap on the window pane.
—Selected.

"Things to Let Go"

Writers for domestic departments are constantly scolding women for working beyond their strength, and advising them to "let things go." Judging from the tone of many of these scoldings, one is tempted to believe they are written simply as "fillers" by some editor who is short of copy. When they begin to specify what things a woman may let go, it is almost invariably the little "pick-ups" in the shape of fancy-stitching, lace-making, net-darning, crocheting, painting and caring for bric-a-brac, ruffling, embroidering, tucking, and such things as cake and pastry baking.

In my own experience, which has been the experience of the housewife, mother, and general-utility woman of the home and family, I have found the fancy-needle-work most in vogue with the house mother to consist of setting in patches, darning rents, sewing up rips, mending the heels and toes of stockings, reinforcing button-holes, sewing on buttons, and by numerous wearisome processes trying to lengthen the life of some one or more article of the family wardrobe. The woman who most needs the leisure rarely, if ever, has ornamental needle-work in her mind, much less in her hand. As to practicing system in doing the work of the home, it is much easier done on paper than in practice. Housework cannot be run on straight lines, or on schedule time, because it is so apt to be at the mercy of every chance interruption. The whole business is so complicated and is such a network of "branch" affairs, reaching out into every calling, profession or trade, that we can but make the best of it until such time as some master (the word is used without reference to sex) mind shall grasp the situation in all its entanglements, and solve the problem of

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how to do with one pair of hands, the work that might well fill a dozen.

Another "Fairy Tale"

This is the idea that the cares of the household can be laid upon the obliging shoulders of the imaginary ever-to-be-got-at convenient "stout girl," or the ready-to-hand female relative, who is at all times deliriously happy to step into the breach so that the broken-down wife and mother may go away on the delightfully planned vacation with trunksful of beautifully made garments all ready to wear. In these days, the stout girl is actively engaged in the shop or factory, while the bachelor aunt is out hunting house-help for herself.

Then, too, we are reminded of the simple life—plain living with high thinking—as a solution of the problem. But even the plain living calls for a lot of high thinking, now-a-days, and it takes more than a knowledge of the higher mathematics to expand the purchasing power of the weekly wage so it will comfortably cover the appetites and other wants of the natural body. We are often told that the "club" does more harm than good, as its work is usually along the line of dead-and-gone issues and authors, but many clubs are forming for the discussion of live questions, the questions which confront us right now, and if your club is of the useless class, it is your business to switch it off onto the track of the new. If you have not got any club, set yourself to work at once to organize one on the right lines. Remember, "where two or three are gathered together" filled with an earnest purpose, much good may be the outcome.

House-Cleaning Helps

Much wear of the hands may be saved by making "half-handers" of any suitable material to be worked while dusting, sweeping, and such work. Old stocking tops are good for this purpose.

Oil marks, made on the wall paper by resting the heads against it may be removed by mixing pipe clay with water to the consistency of cream, laying it over the soiled spot, and letting it remain until the next day, when it may be easily removed with a dull knife and brush.

Paint may be cleaned by dampening a clean cloth in hot water, dip into whitening and rub the paint lightly until the dirt is removed, rinse with clear water, dry with a soft cloth and polish with a piece of chamois skin.

For a small room, do not use large designs and figures in either carpet or wall paper; quiet colors and cheerful blendings are best. For large rooms, larger and more showy designs may be used. Rugs are better for many reasons than carpets.

To clean a much soiled carpet without removing it from the floor: Mix thoroughly four pounds of Fuller's earth and six pounds of coarse, barrel salt with a pint of turpentine. Use a brush to apply the mixture, and rub it thoroughly into the carpet. Take another brush and use it vigorously to get the mixture out. The mixture will be found very dirty and the carpet much cleaner.

Cheap, showy furniture is the dearest thing one can buy in the house-furnishing line, as it goes to pieces so easily, and can scarcely bear ordinary usage. The upholstery of cheap furniture cannot be depended upon for wear. Better buy one thing at a time, paying for it, and having it of good quality than to buy in "sets" of doubtful utility.

Have a box to hold the odds and

ends as they are gathered out during the upheaval of house-cleaning, putting everything into it that one does not, at the time, know what to do with. Then, as the work progresses, sort out what is needed at the time, and, at intervals, sort out the rest into its respective class of useful and useless.

For the broken places in the walls, plaster of Paris is excellent, and may be used for filling holes and cracks in wooden or earthenware as well. A mattress should be well brushed out often, as the dust and lint that settles in the creases are neither nice, nor healthful.

Have the scrub vessels clean, a clean mop and plenty of hot water, if you want your floors to look nice. Women who use the kitchen slop pail as a scrub bucket cannot have a nice floor, no matter how hard they work.

For the Sewing Room

Although the separate blouse and shirt-waist continue to be fashionable, this season many costumes will be worn, consisting of fitted waist and skirt—the waist made of the same material as the skirt, or matching it in color. The waist-material will be mounted on fitted, boned linings, which are moulded to show the lines and curves of the figure, and on the correctness of the fitted linings will hinge the success of the entire gown. Our amateur dress-makers have so long been accustomed to the loose-fitting, bloused waists that there will be much for them to learn, and only by close reading and application of directions given on the printed page of the magazines or printed pamphlets on dress-making, or by instruction from a practical modist can the "tricks of the trade" be mastered. Fortunately, patterns for model dress-linings can be had of the paper-pattern agencies, and these should be carefully fitted to the individual figure.

There are three different ways the lining may be stayed—two with whalebone, and one with featherbone. For the average woman the bone should extend five inches above the waist line. This may be varied for either the very long-waisted or the very short-waisted woman. Featherbone comes already covered, and may be stitched into the waist. In cutting the strips of featherbone for the waist, cut them two inches longer than the length required; then slip the covering down over the bone at each end and cut off one inch of the bone. Draw the covering over the end again to cover the sharp edges.

Always soak whalebone in warm water for an hour or more before using to make the bone more pliable and so soft that you may sew through it; shave the ends of the bone to make them thinner; when single casing ribbon is used, turn in about half an inch at the lower edge of the waist seam before starting to apply the casing; the center must be directly over the seam, and it is run on at each edge with tiny stitches. A few lessons taken of a good seamstress will help one a great deal.—Woman's Home Companion.

For the Laundry

Washing Blankets.—Shred and thoroughly dissolve half a cake of soap in hot water and pour it into a tub containing enough cold water to cover the blankets; add two ounces of pulverized borax, and when this is dissolved, put your blankets into it, press them down well into the water, work them about a little with the hands, and leave to soak over night. In the morning, squeeze the blankets out of this

water, not wringing, and rinse thoroughly in cold water in which a little more borax has been dissolved; squeeze them from this with the hands, and give them a second rinsing in clear water before putting them into bluing water. Do not wring or squeeze when you take them out of this water, but pin them on the line by one edge to drip and dry. They should be shaken and pulled into shape when drying. It is claimed that if five flannels or wool goods are washed in this way through cold water, they will not shrink.

When starching toilet covers or anything that has fringe trimming, double the cover into four and gather the fringe tightly into the hand, hold it firmly while you dip the middle of the cover in the starch. When dry, shake the fringe well, comb carefully with a large toilet comb, and it will fall as softly and prettily as when new.

Curing Sheep Skins

This is sent in "By one who knows." Take a spoonful of alum and two of saltpetre; pulverize, and mix well together, then sprinkle the powder on the flesh side of the skin, and lay the two powdered sides together, leaving the wool outside. Then fold the skin up as tight as you can, and put it in a dry place. In two or three days, or as soon as it is dry, take it down and open and scrape the flesh side with a blunt knife until it is clean and supple. This completes the process, and makes an excellent saddle cover. Other skins which it is desired to cure with the hair on may be treated in the same manner. If it is desired to use the skin for a rug, it should be well washed in soap suds, rinsed in running water, and let get partly dry, then rubbed together until it is soft and dry.

From Different Points of View

And exchange says: "The widow of a famous government official, some time ago in the columns of a magazine devoted to the interests of women, deplored the exodus of women from the home into gainful occupations of the business world. In all her life, this woman had never known want, or lack of money, or of anything upon which her health or comfort was dependent. After the death of her husband, his friends and the government in consideration of the services rendered by him, provided for her so that she might enjoy the same comfort to which she had been accustomed to the end of her days. Not one dollar of this generous income was the result of her own personal efforts, and but for the bounty of the country, she might have learned something of the stress which forces women to seek business occupations as a means of maintenance for themselves—often in spite of broken health—and for the personal care of little children and invalids. This income was paid her out of money gathered from the taxpayers of the country—the payment of which in thousands of instances meant sacrifice and self-denials innumerable to these toiling women."

Fashion Notes

There is a general tendency in hats this spring, to follow the mushroom style. This shape dominates even those of the sailor shape. Straw hats of this shape may be trimmed in crown effect by overlapping loops of velvet ribbon, a chou of the same at the left side, with clusters of button roses trimming the bandeau.

White cloth jacket suits will be much worn, during the season.

The Bishop sleeve will be worn full length, or shortened for some costumes. They are very plain, with

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