



# The Home Department

## Am I Ready?

When I pray that God will use me  
As an instrument of grace,  
Urging that I wait His bidding—  
Any work, and any place—  
Is it so?

If to do His work He sends me  
Far from love and friends and  
home,  
To a life of toil, where comforts  
Ease and plenty never come—  
Will I go?

When the causes scorned by others  
Earnest advocates demand,  
Or a solled and sunken sister  
Needs a kind, uplifting hand,  
Is mine one?

When a duty calls for labor  
In some pathway, leading through  
Neither recompense nor honor,  
If 'tis left for me to do,  
Is it done?

When some service of the Master  
Calls for willing volunteer  
To a sacrifice in secret,  
Am I ready, then, to hear  
And reply?

When, by worldly glamour blinded,  
I am winning wealth and fame,  
If His service claims my talents,  
Do I see it and exclaim,  
"Here am I!"  
—Emma Wyman, in Zion's Herald.

## What Shall the Girls Do?

One mother writes me: "Mabel has finished her school life, and the question now arises, 'What shall she do?' There is not enough work in our home to keep both girls busy, so I shall let one of them learn something outside. They have both been taught the simples of home-making, and, as I have had so much trouble getting my sewing done, both my girls must at least learn to make their own clothing; so, as Mabel takes kindly to the needle, I shall place her with as good teachers in that line as I can find or afford. She must learn to do plain sewing, and do it well, and if she shows an aptitude for dressmaking, she must learn that, too. If she develops taste and ability in other directions, we shall consider other occupation for maintenance."

Another mother writes: "I am going to have my daughter learn typewriting and stenography, as I wish her to have some light, easy occupation by which she can earn a living if she does not marry." I do not suppose that either mother or daughter has ever had any experience in either of these occupations, for if they had, they would hardly class them as "light, easy occupations." There are many careless, irresponsible typists who are willing to work for small wages, and get through the day in small offices or by doing "copying" at home; but for the girl who wishes to make a success of her business, the work is anything but easy. Few, except those who have had experience, know what it means to take dictation of thousands of words and then transcribe them, as one must, who holds a paying position with a good business firm. There goes with the work a large amount of responsibility requiring great care and exactness, and the mental strain is anything but light if the worker is thoroughly conscientious. A recent case is recorded of a business firm losing a lawsuit by the substitution of a "t" for

a "w" in the typewriting. The physical exertion is almost, if not quite, equal to the mental strain demanded, and when the force expended in the numberless taps from the finger-ends is considered, it is small wonder that the typist is both physically and mentally exhausted at the close of a busy day.

The close confinement, steady sitting, often with bad light and poor ventilation must all be considered in choosing a "light occupation." But what, if she marries?

## Considering the Probable

So long as marriages are made and the homes must be kept, just so long will women be expected to shoulder the responsibility for the happiness of either. As about every girl expects to marry and have a home to keep, it is just as well to give each of them at least a preparatory course in the education demanded by either. Not all girls take kindly to house-keeping, any more than every boy looks to mechanical labor as his life work; but both boys and girls should be taught that there are certain inevitables in life—especially in married life—from which there is no getting away, no matter how much love and unselfishness there may be on either or both sides. It is admitted that the husband should be the bread winner, and that the wife will do her part if she "stays by the stuff" while her warrior goes down to do battle with the world's work. When this is done, it is but just to the wife that the two should "part alike" in the spoils—that the wife be considered an equal partner with the husband, if she cares for and looks after the spoils of the industrial fight the husband wages. No woman can do this, however, if she is ignorant of the simple elements of good management, and the bitter lesson learned through the wasteful school of experience does not always make for the highest happiness of either party to the marriage contract. The fact that the home-making is given over to the woman does not mean that she can or should do nothing else; but that she can do this better than any other person, and because the home-making instinct is born in every woman in some degree. If she marries, she must accept this fact, and should be prepared for its responsibilities, though it does not necessarily follow that all the labor must be performed by her hands, or that the means and methods admit of no variation from prescribed rules. But it does mean that marriage is not to be entered into without seriously considering its demands and responsibilities, and if these are understood and accepted, a consecration of our best powers and abilities to the work of making the home life a permanent one. And for this, much preparation is demanded.

## Entertaining One's Friends

At this season of the year, many farm families will have visitors, for the town and village people are only too glad to get out among the fields and for a few days enjoy the freedom of the country. If one is so situated that such entertainment does not entail too much trouble upon the family, even during the busy season these visits may be very enjoyable to the hostess and her family. But not all farm houses are large enough to set apart a spare room for the accommodation of

guests, and it is well to ascertain if your visit would be welcome before making it. The country woman is rarely short of bedding or bedclothing, but it is often the case that one's house is too small to admit of a separate sleeping place, and no one but a child, or a very intimate friend whose love for us can be depended upon to make excuses for short-comings, should be crowded into a room to be shared by some one or more members of the family. If this must be done, however, do not allow the other occupants of the room to sit about, watching the guest as she makes her toilet. Teach them to dress quickly and leave the room to the guest.

Many persons find it very difficult to sleep with any one to whom they are not accustomed, and it would be better, if no bed is unoccupied, to put the guest on a cot, or other "make up" in a room alone, rather than to give them the feeling that they are intruding upon some one's else privacy. In this case, the guest should not occupy the room too long if it happens to be the sitting or dining room, but should be ready to turn it over to the family as soon as needed, in the morning.

A little extra work is inevitable, but the family should not work too hard to entertain the guest. Almost any one would feel extremely uncomfortable if she realized that her visit was interfering with the established routine of the family, and any sensible person can entertain herself most of the time, and at the same time make the family feel at ease while she is with them. If she can not, she would better cut her visit short, and relieve the strain.

## Children's Bloomers

To save laundry work, get a few yards of black sateen, and an ordinary drawers pattern that fits the child; cut the sateen a little larger and longer than the pattern, to allow of a band below the knee, or an elastic run through a small heading. These bloomers will both look and wear very satisfactorily.

## Baby's Food

In summer, the liability of the child to stomach and bowel troubles increases fourfold; this is easily accounted for, as infant's food, on account of the high temperature of the season, breeds the bacteria which, when taken into the stomach, causes irritation and inflammation. The breast-fed infant escapes much, because the mother's milk comes to him direct. Mothers should not wean their babies, if they can possibly help it, during hot weather. The bottle-fed child passes its first summer in constant danger, especially if it has to be spent in the city; the milk has to come long distances, the dairies may not be managed with cleanliness, the cows may not be properly cared for, or the cans not properly cleaned. Formerly, the milk was sterilized, but now it is preferable to pasteurize it. Sterilizing means subjection to a heat of 212 degrees; pasteurizing requires 170 degrees heat. All bottles of milk should be kept tightly corked. The feeding bottles should be washed with brushes and soap and water, and made as clean as it is possible, and then boiled. The bottles, themselves, should have no angles which can not be cleaned, and the neck should be just long enough to hold the rubber nipple. The long

tubes of glass or rubber have long since been discarded. The nipple, after having been cleansed, should have boiling water poured over it and should be kept in a cup of water to which has been added a teaspoonful of borax. Too much care and watchfulness in keeping the vessels and bottles clean can not be exercised.—Dr. Murray, in Ladies' World.

## Floral Notes

During the hot months, the weeds made remarkable headway, maturing seeds in great abundance, and every one should be pulled out of the border as soon as found. Weeds do not depend on the weather.

Many plants should be repotted or shifted into larger ones this month, and those turned out into the border may be lifted and potted, giving them longer time in which to become established before having to remove them to the house.

One of the loveliest winter bloomers is the buttercup, oxalis, which has a canary-colored flower that is delightfully fragrant. The bulbs should be potted now, or as soon as they can be had, in a rich, sandy loam, five or six bulbs in a seven-inch pot. The oxalis is a sun-loving plant, and if kept moist and in the sunshine will bloom all winter. It is fine for a hanging basket or a bracket plant.

Vining plants grow much faster if a support be given them, and such plants as the dahlia, gladiolus, cosmos, and many others that grow tall and are easily broken should be given stout stakes, tying them up with soft strings that will not cut into the stalks, in order to enable them to withstand the wind and storms.

The cutworm works by night, and one should seek him early, cutting off his career as he does the tender young shoots of our garden treasures. He may usually be found close to the plant he has worked on, hidden in the soil. A few vigorous morning hunts will dispose of the whole tribe.

Many plants will not bloom unless starved a little, and it is best to use ordinary garden loam in potting the geranium, if bloom is your object. Give good drainage, and do not use too large a pot. Keep growing thriftily, pinching off the buds until late September. If the pots fill with roots, give a larger size, moving the pot often to prevent roots reaching down through the drainage hole into the earth under the pot. Old plants potted now, and debudded until cool weather make nice window plants.

## For the Toilet

One of the most effective as well as harmless remedy for freckles is lemon juice to which a little glycerine and rosewater has been added. It is better to protect the parts that freckle or tan than to try to remove the discolorations after they are established. A soft, loose handkerchief knotted about the neck, long sleeves to cover the arms, and loose gloves to protect the hands are recommended. There is nothing so trying to the eyes as the veil. Do not wear those having small dots or intricate designs. A plain, thick veil seems the only protection for some faces against sunburn, tan and freckles. In olden times, the faces were kept beautifully clear of blemishes by wearing a big sunbonnet, tied closely under the chin. The choice must be made, either to take extra care, or ruin the complexion. Chiffon veiling, either white or yellow, is very becoming to most of

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.