

The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Mervis

Questionings

I wonder, as I sit alone tonight—
Alone within the old, familiar
room—

If, in the many mansions out of sight,
They speak of me and wish that I
would come.

They are all there—the blessed
household band!

I, only, shiver in the cold outside;
I, only, lift an eager, pleading hand,
Outstretched to reach a love that
is denied.

I wonder should I know my mother's
face—

The face that last I kissed with
bated breath,
Lest I might mar that perfect calm
and peace

That Love calls life, but we, poor
souls, call death.

I wonder if my father's eyes would
smile,

As in the olden times, upon his
child;

Alas! it is a long and weary while
Since any love like that upon me
smiled.

Have the grave questions in my sis-
ter's eyes

Found happy answers till their
depths no more

Seem to brood over hidden mys-
teries—

Are they alight with Heaven's
blessed lore?

I wonder if they know; they loved me
well—

The petted darling of the house-
hold band;

Methinks that e'en in Heaven their
hearts would swell

With grief, to see how all alone
I stand.

I wonder, when I falter, over-worn
With lonely days and ever lonelier
night,

How all the bitter pain my heart
hath borne

Must look to 'hem, in that eternal
light.

Perchance they, seeing with that
clearer view.

From which this earth's bewildering
mists have passed,

Beholding all the dark things
touched anew,

And Life's enigmas plain and clear
at last,

Say this: "The Lord will lead her
safely on;

The weary feet will reach our
home, some day.

And from her eyes, the darkness be-
ing gone,

God's hand shall wipe the burning
tears away."

So all the days, or dark or bright,
go by;

God gives His varying gifts of joy
or woe;

The earth-worn feet go stumbling
toward the sea

Where waits for me the Boatman
pale, I know.

—Chicago Advance.

Training Little Hands

It is to be regretted that mothers
give so little heed to the importance
of their daughters knowing how to
use the needle. Every girl, before
entering her teens, should know how
to sew on buttons, tapes, mend rips,
rents and thin places in her own
clothing, yet few of them, even when
grown, have the skill to do it nicely.
How often do we see little girls be-
tween the ages of eight to twelve

years of age, with plenty of idle time
on their hands, going about with gar-
ments in need of little repairs, where
safety-pins and common pins take
the place of buttons and threads,
holding the pieces together until the
mother finds time to attend to them!
What is to hinder the child from
learning to sew on her own fasten-
ings, to mend small rents or sew
up little rips? Allowing the child to
go about with clothing out of repair
is but encouraging and accustoming
her to habits of slovenliness which
may cause her much mortified vanity
and loss of self-respect in after years.
The "stitch in time" often saves
more than a few additional stitches.

With a very little showing, the
lassie can do her own things—not
always with a very great nicety of
stitches at first, but satisfactory re-
sults will come with practice, and,
with proper encouragement, she will
learn to take a pride in keeping her
garments whole. Then, too, it is no
unusual thing to see the little broth-
ers of grown sisters running about,
regular little rag-muffins in looks be-
cause of rips, rents, lost buttons and
torn-out buttonholes, which the sis-
ters could easily repair if they had
been given the responsibility. In-
deed, many of these little boys could
do much to keep themselves com-
fortably "harnessed," if their own
fingers had been given the proper
training. In olden times, the wee
lassies of from three to five summers
were given tasks in sewing, and by
the time they grew beyond the moth-
er's brooding they were expert seam-
stresses. For the sake of neatness,
comfort and economy, it is well to
imitate our grandmothers in some
things, and in nothing more than
that the lassie should do more with
the family wardrobe and less of the
eye-straining "fancy work" that real-
ly serves no necessary purpose.

Woman and Her Eyes

We are assured that too many
women over-read and under-exercise,
and this, to the woman who does
her own housework, with all that
the word implies, seems nonsense.
But housework is not exercise in its
true sense—it is work, labor, where-
in both body and mind are kept con-
stantly in the stretch. To get the
best good of motion and the use of
body and mind, one must not con-
fine herself to a round that, from its
very sameness day after day, can not
but become a wearisome trial, leav-
ing both the physical and the mental
disastrously fatigued. It is when
in this condition, usually, that the
woman finds time—or takes it—to
pick up a book or paper to read while
she rests, forgetting that reading is,
in itself, work, and calls into play
the muscles of the eye which are
already fatigued sympathetically, if
in no other sense.

The woman who loves to read, and
is always found resting with a print-
ed page in her hand, does not realize
the tax she is imposing upon the
optic nerve until serious trouble is
begun, the eyes over-strained, head-
aches and drowsiness following,
which can make life about as miser-
able as any other known cause. This
can only be cured by giving the eyes
a thorough rest, and this rest may re-
quire a long time of idleness of the
visual organs to be attained.

Reading, writing, sewing, or doing
any work which requires close ap-
plication of the eyes, should not be
done by a poor light—even a poor
daylight. Most of artificial lighting

is bad for the eyes, and as little work
as possible should be done by their
aid, but working in dark rooms, with
windows shaded by porches, vines,
trees, or otherwise "hooded," is just
as bad. Reading on jolting cars, or
while riding in wagons, or swaying
carriages, should be avoided. Brief
rests while at work, by looking at
distant objects, and often bathing the
eyes in quite warm, weak salt water
should be resorted to as a relief from
too steady work.

Between Husband and Wife

Many of the business failures of
men are attributed to the extrava-
gant expenditures of the wife and
family; yet, in many of these cases
where there may be undisputed evi-
dence of the truth of such charges,
the blame for these habits lies large-
ly in the fact that the wife has been
kept in complete ignorance of the
true state of her husband's financial
affairs. Many husbands guard their
business matters most jealously from
the knowledge of the wife and fam-
ily—not always from a desire to
spare the wife unnecessary worry,
but because they deem such things
none of her business, arguing that
women have so little business sense
—are, in fact, such "numb-skulls,"
as regards financial matters, that it
is a waste of time to try to explain
anything to them. They argue that,
as a sex, women are not fit to be
trusted with responsibilities that call
for brains, and while annoyed by the
persistent expenditures, they rush
recklessly on until the crash comes.
This may be so in individual cases,
but even with these, there are few
women who would not be willing to
retrench if the matter were set be-
fore them in its true light, and the
needed economies freely and frankly
discussed. In business matters,
women are, as yet woefully ignor-
ant, but they are learning, and thou-
sands of them are proving their right
to be consulted and advised with, if
success is aimed at.

A Clear Understanding

"A wife is entitled to know exactly
what the income of her husband is,
from all sources. A husband and
wife should be partners in all things,
and each partner is entitled to know
all about the business affairs of the
firm. The wife is entitled to know
everything about what property is
owned, whether mortgaged or clear,
what it is worth, what income, if
any, is derived from it, and what its
maintenance costs. Each should
know all about the indebtedness of
the other, and their resources for
meeting such indebtedness. When
a wife is kept thus informed regard-
ing the financial affairs of the family,
she is in a position to intelligently
disburse the money placed in her
hands, or to limit the credit to fit
the income. She is also in a posi-
tion to defend her rights in case of
the death of her husband, and to
fight off all false claims against the
estate from whatever source. If a
wife is accustomed to discuss busi-
ness affairs with her husband, she
certainly gets a much better idea of
methods of business than she other-
wise would have, and in many cases,
where matters look very dark to the
worried husband, her advice and as-
sistance in unraveling the tangles
are the turning point between victory
and defeat. A great many women
who spend money extravagantly
would not spend nearly so much if

they knew the true financial condi-
tion of their husbands, and before
a man blames a woman for being
the cause of his financial downfall
he should try having no secrets or
reservations regarding his business
matters."—Twentieth Century Re-
view.

For the Home Seamstress

It is time to begin thinking of the
fall sewing—especially if you have
children of school age, for it will be
but a few weeks until they must be
back in the schoolroom. Many sum-
mer garments can be worn for weeks
—in some latitudes, for months—yet,
before heavier garments must take
their place; but even in these cases,
there must always be a choice as to
suitableness for the wear. If one
has availed herself of the remnant,
the clearing and the special sales,
materials have been purchased at
quite a saving, and, often ready-to-
wear garments of special value, need-
ing only a few hours' work in little
alterations, may have been secured.

With a well-fitting, reliable paper
pattern, these materials may be
worked up quite satisfactorily and
at comparatively little cost, by the
home seamstress. While remember-
ing that school clothing must be
serviceable, and able to withstand
hard wear and much tubbing, it is
well to consider the comfort and be-
comingness, also, both of material
and make. Many garments, out-
grown by the elders, may be ripped
apart, sponged, washed, dyed, or
otherwise freshened, and fashioned
into pretty costumes for the school
children, and even if of a somber
color, they may be brightened by lit-
tle touches of color in trimming or
fancy-stitching, giving that newness
so dear to even a child's heart.

Every school child should have a
rain-proof coat, and be taught to care
for it. Materials for such garments
are sold in the piece, as well as in the
finished garment, and patterns for
the same can be had for ten cents.

Do not forget that the pocket is
coming into favor again, and give to
the school girl, as well as to the
school boy, as many pockets as you
can find place for. While making
the pockets, lay in a goodly supply
of pocket handkerchiefs for each
child, and teach them to use only
their own.

"Ready-to-Wear" Clothing

It is seldom advisable to buy
ready-made clothing if one can make
her own, or if a reliable seamstress
can be had at reasonable wages. The
ready-made garment seen in the
show-room is always arranged so as
to bring its attractive points to view,
and its showiness calls attention from
the question of durability of material
or fitness for the purpose it is in-
tended for. Such a garment is sure
not to fit somewhere, and, unless
it is worth the additional cost of
having it altered to suit the indi-
vidual form, the home seamstress
will have a lot of work to do on it
which will probably result in getting
it out of shape in some other par-
ticular. In factory-made "bargain
counter" garments, the goods is
knife-cut in a way to economize
cloth, regardless of nap, or thread
of material, and after a little wear
it sags, pulls, twists, or reams in a
most surprising manner, rendering it
anything but a thing of either com-
fort or beauty. Then, too, there will
be loose ends of threads, frayed
edges or "pulled" places in the
seams; bagginess that have been
pressed into shape for the sales-room
will show in unexpected places; seam
bindings will pull off, showing raw

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for chil-
dren teething should always be used for chil-
dren while teething. It softens the gums, allays
all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy
for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.