

The Home Department

Conducted by
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Baby Corn

A happy mother stalk of corn
Held close a baby ear,
And whispered, "Cuddle up to me,
I'll keep you warm, my dear.
I'll give you petticoats of green,
With many a tuck and fold
To let out daily as you grow;
For you will soon be old."

A funny little baby that,
For though it had no eye,
It had a hundred mouths: 'twas well
It did not want to cry.
The mother put in each small mouth
A hollow thread of silk,
Through which the sun and rain and
air
Provided baby's milk.

The petticoats were gathered close
Where all the threadlets hung;
And still as summer days went on
To mother-stalk it clung;
And all the time it grew and grew—
Each kernel drank the milk.
By day, by night, in shade, in sun,
From its own thread of silk.

And each grew strong and full and
round,
And each was shining white;
The gores and seams were all let out,
The green skirts fitted tight,
The ear stood straight and large and
tall.
And when it saw the sun,
Held up its emerald satin gown
To say, "Your work is done."

"You're large enough," said Mother
Stalk,
"And now there's no more room
For you to grow." She tied the
threads
Into a soft, brown plume—
It floated out upon the breeze
To greet the dewy morn,
And then the baby said, "Now I'm
A full-grown ear of corn."
—Unidentified.

For the Cemetery Lot

It is hard to advise as to what
will best suit for planting on or about
the graves of loved ones; cemeteries
are usually on high ground, where
the heat of summer and severe cold
of winter have full play, and unless
a care-taker is on the grounds all
the time, only such plants as will
stand the drouths of summer and
the severe freezes of winter, and
which will bear the inevitable neg-
lect to which they must in most cases
be subjected, should be chosen.
There are a few such plants, but
even these require some care in order
to do their best. A few plants will
bloom continuously, or give masses
of green foliage as long as they can
live; but they are few.

It is a good idea, now, during the
rest season of the summer, to re-
move the stiff clay that is usually
heaped on the top of the mound and
for it substitute plenty of rich
garden loam. Do not use fresh ma-
nure, as this tends to dry out the
soil. Rich garden loam is best.
After the soil is prepared, hardy pe-
rennial seeds may be sown, or, a lit-
tle later in the season—the middle
of September to the first of October
stocky plants of the kind wanted
should be set, well watered, and a
mulch of chaff, short straw, or hay
should be laid thickly on the soil
to enable it to retain the moisture.
Plants having delicate colors should
be preferred. There are satisfactory
annuals which "seed themselves" in

the fall, low-growing and fragrant,
which bloom profusely, even in
drouth. Hardy, ever-blooming, or
monthly roses, are fine, after getting
established. Then, there are the
hardy bulbs, which should be plant-
ed this fall, and the old, old myrtle
that creeps so daintily over the
ground, and the memorial roses,
though shy bloomers, will form a
matting of small, delicate foliage
over the soil. The common trades-
cantia, Kenilworth ivy, and money-
wort are all hardy and form a close
covering, while each of them have
pretty, though inconspicuous little
flowers. If nothing better can be
done, after attending to the soil have
it sodded, and then "Let love attest
its strength in memory."

Muslin Underwear

Any of the combination garments
that do away with draw-strings and
belts about the waist are welcomed
by the woman who cares to be well-
dressed. Neatness and trimness
about the waist-line and over the
hips are of as much importance as
comfort, and while the combination
garments can be bought very inex-
pensively at the stores, they can be
made at home with the aid of a well-
fitting paper pattern.

Many women—especially those
who are spare-built—fail to grasp
the fact that fullness over and about
the knees is of great importance.
They strive for fulness and flare
at the ankles, and pad or otherwise
build out the hips; but they never
seem to think that the knees are
the really important angularities to
be protected or rounded out. Notice
half the women you see, how un-
gracefully the thinly-clad knees pro-
trude through one's skirts when sit-
ting down. To do away with this
angularity, a woman should have
ruffles on her short underwear, at
this point, and the ruffles should be-
gin on her petticoat about two inches
above the knees, and she would at
once notice a very great importance
in the set of her outer skirt at this
point.

In buying ready-made muslin un-
derwear, avoid coarse muslin and
careless, coarse stitching. Unless
paying a good price for the garment,
it is best not to choose one having
an over-supply of lace, or of open-
work embroidery, as very little
laundering, even of a careful kind,
will ruin it. Skirts and drawers hav-
ing draw-strings are better than
those having bands, as the home-
seamstress can adjust the gathers
into plaits, side-stitched to a narrow
bias band which fits about the corset
an inch and a half below the waist-
line, or lay the extra fullness in little
gores, or darts, in order to fit it to
the form. Or the skirt may be fit-
ted to a close-fitting yoke at the
top, and the extra length be taken
up in tucks about the knees.

Drawers should have three to five
darts from the facing at top, each
side, to fit the form, and should be
very short and full, and fastened at
back with a rust-proof hook and eye
on a tiny pad of linen tape. Do not
use buttons.

Care of the Complexion

About the worst enemy to a nice
complexion is a diseased condition
of the digestive organs. Another is
the indiscriminate use of a cheap,
alkaline soap. But the very great-
est enemy to beauty in any form is

a sluggish condition of the excretory
organs—constipation. Nothing—
rough winds, sunburn, freckles, or
even cheap soaps—can at all ap-
proach it in disastrous effects, not
only on the complexion, but upon
every other particular of the body,
physical or mental. Cathartic medi-
cines are of very little use to combat
this evil, as the effects of such doses
are but local and temporary. The
evil should be combatted from the
fountain-head of the trouble—which
is generally the liver. The trouble,
with the liver, however, is often but
the effect of other unsanitary or hy-
gienic habits, and a thorough cleans-
ing of the system is the only remedy
for "liver spots," "moth patches,"
and a dirty, muddy appearance of
the skin. One can do much toward
this end by the use of water, external
and internal, and by finding what
foods best agree with their digestive
organs; but in many cases, this is
very hard to do, as there is a la-
mentable ignorance on such matters
among all classes of people—the
learned, as well as the illiterate.
"Self-doctoring" is to be condemned,
generally; but even well-read, ex-
perienced physicians fall in properly
diagnosing the trouble at times, and
only too often their best, most in-
telligent endeavors are frustrated by
the carelessness or inattention to de-
tails on the part of the patient, him,
or herself. One of the greatest
beautifiers, and also "good for the
health," is a cheerful, optimistic
spirit, a determination to see only
the best side of things, and to find
only the bright spots in life. This
optimism may have to be acquired,
but, like any other habit, it can be
established if one determines that it
shall be. A person who is mentally,
morally and physically clean can
scarcely fail to be both optimistic
and beautiful with a beauty that will
abide. Laughter is the finest cos-
metic. Try it, ye longers for the
beautiful. It is a veritable fountain
of youth!

For the Home Seamstress

In buying trimmings and findings,
it is better to buy a little of the best,
rather than much of the cheapest.
Rust-proof hooks and eyes cost lit-
tle, if any, more than the common
iron ones which ruin tub dresses.

In making a dress skirt, care must
be taken to so place the fullness
that the plaits or gathers shall fall
in a straight line from belt to bot-
tom. Care must be taken that the
lines do not swing toward the front.

A sleeve that is improperly placed
in the arm-hole is a most uncom-
fortable and awkward thing. The
outside line of the sleeve should be
placed at the point of the shoulder,
and the inside seam should be just
below the bust-line, in order not to
hamper the movements of the arm.
The lines must properly depend from
the shoulder, or the set of the sleeve
will be spoiled.

A gathered or box-plaited cir-
cular skirt is one of the most
difficult to make and hang cor-
rectly, and should not be un-
dertaken by the inexperienced
seamstress without good advice. The
goods, being cut circular or bias will
sag at the sides, making the skirt
about the ankles hang very uneven-
ly, giving a slovenly appearance to
the skirt. If one must have a cir-
cular pattern, it is a good idea to
hang it up by the belt for several
days, after sewing up the seams, es-

pecially if the material is of loose-
weave, before turning up the hem.

Many women have one hip higher
than the other, and if care is not
taken in the measuring, the skirt
does not hang well. In such case,
first pin the seamed-up skirt around
the hips about six inches below the
waist-line, drawing the side up over
the highest hip until it hangs
smoothly all around; then trim off
even with the waist-line, and take
in all the seams until the skirt fits
smooth and even over the hips and
waist line. Raise the two outer-
folds of the inverted plait in the
back a quarter of an inch above the
waist-line, make the folds hang well
toward the back-seam, and finish by
making the bottom of the skirt even.
It is almost impossible for a person
to "fit herself."

Freckle Lotions

Beauty specialists tell us that a
treatment which is beneficial to one
complexion may be injurious to an-
other, and a little common sense and
intelligent knowledge of the needs
of one's own particular cast of com-
plexion is necessary for satisfactory
results. Some skins are inclined by
nature to be acid, while others are
alkaline, and one must determine in
which of these two directions one's
own complexion generally tends, be-
fore treatment is undertaken. An
alkaline condition of the skin will
be benefited by diluted lemon juice,
toilet vinegar, and such preparations,
while an acid condition is softened
and freshened by using a little am-
monia or borax in the wash water.
Alkaline preparations open the pores
of the skin by removing the grease
and soilure, while an acid closes
them, and before using lemon juice,
which is a very valuable beautifier,
the skin must be thoroughly cleansed
being careful for the removal of all
impurities from the pores. For some
skins, lemon juice, undiluted, is too
strong, and should be applied while
the skin is wet, or mixed with a few
drops of water. Lemon juice is one
of the best and most effective of
whiteners, and shows its effects very
quickly in softening a harsh or hard
skin; but it must be used at night,
or at least never used when one is
going out into the sunlight, as, in
this case, it will prove injurious by
rendering the skin temporarily more
sensitive to the sunlight. For dis-
tinctively marked freckles, lemon
juice is but a modifier, as only very
radical measures—such as gradually
bleaching away the skin, can banish
them; the removal will be but tem-
porary, as, on being exposed to the
sunshine, they will return. One of
the preventives our mothers—or at
least our grandmothers—used most
effectively, was to tie a good, big
sunbonnet (not a sun-hat) under the
chin, so large as almost to hide the
face from sight, and insisting on the
little girls wearing "half-handers,"
or gloves with the tips of the fingers
cut off, all the time. But the very
best beautifier is a good digestion
and circulation of well nourished
blood throughout the body.

Graying Hair

When a woman's hair begins to
turn gray before it is supposed that
she is old enough for such a change,
she begins to worry for fear it may
make her "look old." But gray hair
does not make a woman look old.
Many very young faces go with whit-
ening hair, and if the hair is taken
care of, kept clean and glossy and
becomingly arranged, it is generally
a mark of distinction to the young,
and a great beautifier to the ageing.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY.
MRS. WISSLOW'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.