



### "Crowded Out"

The day was done. With weary hand and brain  
I watched the twilight's shadows deeper grow,  
And with a troubled spirit thought of all

The tasks I ought to do: So weak, so slow  
Had been the hands to do the mind's behest—  
The work undone lay heavy on my breast!

Then, like a flash of light, there came this thought—  
This saying, that sometime, somewhere,

I must have read when life was new and sweet—  
Ere yet the world had brought a tinge of care—

These were the words that eased my spirit's doubt—  
"In the best-ordered life, some things are crowded out."

Some things are crowded out of every life—  
Strive as we will, some things are left undone;

Or if the worst or best we choose, some tasks  
Untouched, unfinished, or but just begun!

When the night falls, we turn, reluctantly,  
And trust them, vaguely, to another day!

So much to do—so many pressing tasks!  
So full the heart, the head, the hands,

We choose not wisely; as the moments go,  
We stumble on, and thus the record stands;

Our lives are shadowed—other hearts made sad  
Because we had not time to make them glad!

"Some day," we say, with eyes tear-washed and dim—  
"There will be time for all we wish to do;

No setting sun shall shorten the bright hours—  
We shall work on, with courage ever new;

No more vain longings—all shall come about  
Just as we would—with nothing crowded out!"

### Individual Integrity

One of our readers, who tells us that she has tried many ways of making a living—dressmaking included—and failed in them all, takes us to task for urging women who must live by their own exertions to cultivate a respect for their given word and a promptness in the execution of obligations, readiness to grasp opportunity, and to make the most of whatsoever their hands find to do; to do to the best of their ability even the simplest tasks, thus fitting themselves for the higher work when it can be reached; to cultivate self-respect, and in respecting herself, respect the rights of others. In especial, she thinks the woman-dressmaker who, after contracting to do a certain work, came and went as she pleased, or stayed away entirely from the work she had undertaken, should be applauded "if she had the spunk to do it,"

though how such disregard for her contract could be called "spunk" is left to the imagination to determine. Perhaps her own failures have been due to just this cause.

In every field of labor, from highest to lowest, there are unpleasant features; in many of them, hardships; in some of them, injustices and cruelties. We can none of us have things to our liking in the work of this world; though we may be "distinct as the billows," yet we are "one as the sea," and "no man (or woman) liveth unto himself." We are all parts of the whole, and if one part refuses to do its work, the output of the whole machine is imperiled. The obstacle must certainly be removed or attended to; if found "impossible," it is thrown upon the waste-heap.

She says that individuals are not wanted—that corporations alone exist and thrive. The corporation is composed of individuals, and many of the corporations are very just to their employees; but the employee who has no integrity, and shows a stubborn disregard for the good of the whole, will certainly be reduced to the individual plane again, and will surely fall there, if practicing such a lack of principle.

Skill is not all that is necessary in order to succeed. Fitness for the work, a sense of responsibility, a feeling of "noblesse oblige," which will not allow us to do less than our best; a feeling that, if the work is undertaken, the obligation to give it our best endeavors is also assumed, and to do it as nearly as we can according to the ideas of our employers is required. Very few employees, in any business, can be trusted to follow their own ideas as to the fitness of things as a whole, though they may see clearly enough in part; and their judgment merit and receive the sanction of their higher officers. One who succeeds well in little, you know, through faithfulness, is usually found worthy of trust in much.

It is this senseless antagonism on the part of a few which causes them to fail, even as individuals. Families are more and more patronizing the outputs of factories in food and raiment rather than undergo the discouragements and disappointments arising from the unreliability of individual workers. However, the "condition" which confronts us will not be solved by any "theories," and we must all do the best we can.

Our friend accuses me of "jumping on the working woman with both feet," though why she should, I can not see, for I am a wage-earner, too, and like herself, have had experiences with ill-success, though I do not class any lesson that has taught me wisdom as a failure. Where one has succeeded, even in a degree, it has been because she has tried to do just what was required of her, and to work out to the best of her abilities, the ideas of her employer, whether man or woman, and by being at all times dependable.

### Selecting Wools

No "pick-up" work appeals more strongly to the feminine taste than that in which soft, pretty wool or silk threads are used. So many useful, as well as ornamental, things can be made of these materials, and they fit into the spare moments so nicely, that knitting needles and cro-

chet hooks are more or less used by all women. In order to select wools it is necessary to give both the brand name, and the name of the yarn, as the brand name is applied to all descriptions, coarse or fine, light or heavy; but each yarn has its own name. The staple yarns are few in number, while the varieties of each are many. Knitting wool, Spanish yarn, Germantown yarn, zephyrs, Saxony wool, Shetland floss and Shetland wool supply the varieties generally used by the best workers, although there are other kinds, differing only in name and quality from these.

Knitting worsted is generally known as Scotch yarn, and is preferred in degree as it appears like the home-spun article. There is a quality exceedingly soft and pretty in effect, but it is not knitting worsted, being rather a mixture that is neither Germantown nor knitting worsted, both of which it resembles, and its usefulness is limited.

Spanish yarn is much alike in all brands; it has a smooth, firm thread with a hard twist, not so heavy as knitting wool, and its good wearing qualities without clumsiness are assured.

Germantown yarn, instead of the coarse, harsh thread of early days, is equal to zephyr, or, as it is known to many, Berlin wool. In work calling for either, the one may be substituted for the other; as they are so much alike. Both yarns come in four and eight fold, and zephyr may be had in two-fold. Zephyr-Shetland is almost identical with two-fold zephyr.

Saxony wools are known as two fold, three fold and four fold. Two fold is the daintiest of all wools, fine, soft, even, and hard-twisted, and is used for baby wear. This makes the most beautiful of all work—lacy in appearance, yet tightly wrought, and in most of conventional articles, it predominates. Three fold Saxony is just as lovely, but much thicker; it is medium between the fine yarns and the coarse ones, and has the beauty of the fine yarn with none of its daintiness, but all the practical value without the harshness of the coarser yarns. It is never used for loose-stitch crochet, as it soon becomes stringy. Four fold Saxony is as thick as four fold Germantown, and very much like it in texture. While the Germantown is fluffy and practically untwisted, in four fold Saxony the thread is hard-twisted—more so than any yarn except the Spanish, and is used for stockings, and the coarse articles of wear.

Shetland wool has the finest thread of any yarn made. Shetland floss has a coarse, shaggy thread with little body, but exceedingly fluffy. A poor quality of the floss is apt to have a much heavier thread, but it is not so good for the purpose, as the heavier thread will drag the finished article out of shape and deprive it of all fluffiness.

If a substantial article is wanted, in shoulder capes, shawls, and the like, the four fold Germantown, Spanish yarn, or knitting worsted is used, especially where the fan, or shell stitch, is made. For the medium weight articles, Shetland floss, with a loose stitch, is used. Shetland floss must never be selected for tight work, and the double crochet stitches should be ten or twelve to

each shell, the stitches being at least three-fourths of an inch long. Daintier scarfs, and pretty trifles not intended for hard usage should be made of the finer wools, with the shells big and loose as possible, with thirteen to seventeen stitches to the shell.

It is claimed by physicians that knitting is a relief to overworked nerves, and, if taken up only at intervals, it is beneficial. But knitting, like every other good thing, can be overdone. All women love pretty, dainty articles, in some degree, and the colors are but a matter of taste, in most cases. Soft, fluffy materials and delicate colors always appeal to the refined woman's sense of beauty.

### Fashion Notes

White dresses have such a hold upon the hearts of womankind, that they will be worn more or less all winter. The white dress for the fall and winter months must be made of serge, and many neat, taller effects are seen. Plaited skirts, three-quarter length coats, long sleeves and lined jackets are liked. White suits trimmed with a very narrow black, or black and white cable cord, with the jacket having portions inlaid with black velvet, are very lovely.

Silver and gold trimmings for fall clothing are being much used, and the braids are seemingly not complete without a touch of either. These trimmings are very appropriate for cloth costumes.

The fall shirt waists have broad shoulder effects, with bishop sleeves, surplus fronts, yoke effects, military styles, and in some waists are seen the sleeves in madarin shapes. Leg o' mutton sleeves and the Chinese sleeve are not so much seen.

In the new coats, the regular coat sleeve with a modest stitched cuff, seems to be the prevailing mode. The coats reach below the hips, are semi-fitted and close down the center front with buttons. Many of them have collars, cuffs, and lapels trimmed with velvet.

While much of the neckwear may be made at home, some has a style which the home dressmaker can not imitate. But with a little practice and a little faculty for imitating, even a novice can supply herself with many pretty things. A close examination of the store articles will furnish many ideas to the girl who can use her needle.

Black batiste and black lace make attractive neckwear to go with black lawn waists and dresses. Many of the black ones are trimmed with touches of white, or given a finish with suitable colored French knots as a border edge.

The pedestrian skirts are short, but the dressy skirt is so long as to require lifting, and this, in turn requires the wearing of pretty petticoats. For these, white is the most economical as it may be kept fresh by frequent laundering.

### Query Box

S. M.—If you know the young man is addicted to drink, let him alone. You can not reform him. He will only fill your life with regret.

"Summer Girl."—For the ivy poisoning, this is said to be a sure relief: Stir a small piece of blue vitrol about in a saucer of sweet cream until the cream assumes a greenish tinge; then use as a salve on the afflicted parts.

W. L.—For the red ink stains, wet the spot with clean, warm water, and

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.