



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Marks McVey

"Marah"

She sits alone, with her forehead bowed,
And her hands clasped on her knee;
With the great, round tear-drops glittering
And falling steadily.
O, ye who deem that the minstrel seeks
But the plaudits of the throng,
Come stand in the shadow here with me,
And list to this Marah's song:

"Would you love me, love, if the world had rayed
An aureole round my name?
Would that name grow musical to you
In the trumpet-blast of fame?
Should the wreath of fadeless bays be mine,
Through pencil—chisel—pen—
And I ranked with successful ones,
Beloved, would you love me then?"

Or if beauty's blessed dower were mine—
The fair and winsome face,
The wave-like flowing of tresses bright,
The step of winsome grace—
Would you, then by the brightness of brow and eye,
By more than pity moved,
Give the priceless boon that the heart still craves—
Would you love me then, Beloved?"

The dearest offering I have to give—
My all that is fair and sweet—
These poor, pale, thought-flowers of the heart—
Are lying at your feet.
And even a dark soul may grow bright
If fostered by love's warm ray;
Then love me a little, O, Beloved,
That I may be fair, some day."
—Galesburg (Ill.) Free Press.

Fall Sewing

Everything about us suggests the coming of cool weather, and the necessary attention to the family wardrobe. Every paper or magazine is full, from cover to cover, of talks about fall goods, fall fashions, fall fabrics, the choosing, buying, cutting, fitting and putting together of the various materials now being put upon the shelves and in the show windows of the stores. The chilly mornings and evenings are sending our thoughts, if not our bodies, in search of the garments stored last spring, and the heads of the household are busy apportioning their surplus moneys to meet the necessary fall expenditures.

Before buying the new, it would be well to overhaul the old, and see how much can be suitably made over or renovated, by using new trimmings, linings, combinations, and cutting down, after ripping apart, washing or sponging, dyeing and pressing. With the proper care, many dollars may be saved toward the purchase of better materials for the new. It costs money to throw away garments "as good as new" and buy the new styles outright, and many a soiled, sun-streaked or faded, or partly-worn garment can, with a little time, patient planning and a few packages of some good ten cent dyes, be made fresh and bright looking, and, in the case of good material, "like new." For many garments, the ripping apart is not necessary, but care should be taken with the dyeing

of these, that all the seams and folds are reached by the dye.

Many garments will only require a thorough cleaning, and the removing of grease spots, stains, etc., with a good pressing, making little repairs, and, in some cases, lengthening or shortening in order to adjust them to the uses to which they are to be put. It always pays to do over good materials, and many garments can be passed down the line, saving many dollars, and at the same time giving good service, if little details are attended to. Be careful in the cleaning, sponging, dyeing, pressing, and see that you have a pattern suitable to the pieces you are to make over.

Fall Shopping

In many homes, these early autumn days, the sewing machine holds the place of honor, and there is inevitably more or less shopping to be done, according to the size of the family, age and sex. In order to get the worth of one's money, there should be some knowledge of the materials entering into the various fabrics, and a knowledge of methods of satisfactorily testing the proportions of each. For winter wear, there are many cotton and wool mixtures, and some of them are so cunningly woven that even an expert may be deceived. For some purposes, a cotton and wool mixture is better than an all-wool, as it wears better; but for holding its shape and appearance under even hard usage, nothing equals pure sheep's wool. A great deal of the stuff sold for all-wool is a mixture of cotton and shoddy, and shoddy is made from rags ground up, with no long threads to hold it together, and the cotton threads are used to keep it from falling to pieces—which it does on being given much service.

Cloth commercially known as "all-wool," is generally shoddy and cotton; the cotton is carded to give it strength, and the shoddy gives it the wool appearance. Cotton will not hold color, and the shoddy dropping out, leaves it thread-bare. In buying, be sure to buy the wool of the sheep; wool is an animal product, and cotton is a vegetable; wool, if boiled in a solution of caustic potash will dissolve—the potash will eat it up. Cotton will not dissolve. For testing woolsens: Take the bolt of goods at the cut end, and examine closely the cross-thread, slowly pulling apart; if it breaks almost evenly and comes apart slowly, then one may conclude it to be all-wool. If it breaks in short, uneven strands and falls apart easily, do not buy it, for it is unmistakably cotton, and you would do better to get either pure woolen, or all-cotton goods.

An all-wool fabric is usually much more expensive than the wool and cotton mixture, but it is cheaper in the long run, as it gives better service, and keeps a better appearance.

Ready-to-Wear Suits

A bargain in any kind of merchandise is not generally found at the "marked-down" sales, though one sometimes finds a marked-down article that is a bargain. Do not look for "bargains" on the counter on which is dumped a collection of goods thrown out of every department; the real bargains will be found in the section where the article is regularly on sale. Many garments which are of good material, well made, and in the prevailing style, of a cloth that is a standard,

are offered at the special sales at the close of the season at a somewhat reduced price, but you rarely find such in the "bargain counter" heap. You can not get something for nothing, even in special sales, and the sensible thing to do is to spend the sum at your disposal on the cloth, rather than on a cheap, inferior fabric covered with elaborate trimming which is used to cover the defects of the material.

Many expensive-looking suits will not bear wear because of poor linings. Examine the collar, belt and seams; look at the finish of the button holes, the quality of the button; notice how the skirt gores are cut with regard to the "thread" of the cloth, and learn to distinguish between lining materials and also between cheap and inferior fabrics gotten up to sell, and the really good fabric designed for wear. Get the best of its kind, whatever the kind may be. A really good gingham is far more satisfactory when made up than an inferior piece of silk. In buying, the question should be, not how well the garment will look when finished, but how long it will look well after being worn.

True economy is on the side of the really good cloth, even at a few cents more a yard; the best workmanship or style will not give satisfactory results unless the best material is used. The garment that hangs in the show window is there for sale. The garment you want to buy should be for wear.

Fall Underwear

Among the best materials for serviceable underwear may be counted the outing flannels of a good grade. It may be had either in white or in colors, and while it is warm and soft, will bear repeated washings and constant wear. The cheap, thin grade is not so economical, as the "nap" wears away, leaving only the threads; but one garment of the better quality is better than a half dozen of poorer ones. For gowns, skirts, and drawers, both for children and adults it is better than woolen wear, as all underwear should go regularly and often to the laundry for cleanliness' sake, and much washing, if at all careless, soon ruins wool flannels.

Petticoats of fast-colored gingham with several narrow ruffles around the bottom, are both neat and serviceable, while for dressy wear, these skirts may be trimmed with heavy white or colored laces, either on the ruffles, or without them. These undergarments will serve as lessons in sewing for the small girls, just learning to sew. Never mind the little faults in the sewing, as time and experience will remedy all this. Let the lassies "do their own things," as much as possible. The knowledge will do them good.

One of the things that should be provided for the girl or boy—but especially for the girl—is the change of comfortable leggings; one pair is not enough, for the single pair is not always available, especially in bad weather. Do not send the little girl out into the cold with no protection for the thin little limbs other than the single thickness of a cotton stocking, or even the "stocking drawn over the underwear reaching to the feet. Protect the children's feet and legs.

Do not get too many articles, but spend the money in hand for that which will give serviceable wear and bear much tubbing. For each child there should be three suits of under-

wear, making one in use, one in the laundry, and one for an emergency. Knit underwear is good, but the light weight fleeced cotton is preferable to wool, remembering the laundry. A child's warmth should come largely from exercise, good food, and good blood.

Fashion Notes

The fashions, as well as the materials, this season, lend themselves admirably to the remodeling of garments laid by.

A band of ribbon velvet or soft silk, drawn closely about the throat and fastened in the back with a clasp and hook, is much worn with the high-necked blouses or low-cut gowns.

A belt or a girdle of a totally different color to that of the costume is in bad taste.

The belt to wear with a tailor-made suit should be of kid or leather, plain, rather wide, and in keeping with the cuffs and collar; the fastening should be a plain buckle of brass or dull silver.

A girdle or belt to wear with dressy blouses should be made of soft silk, matching the color of the costume, or the trimmings of the cuff and collar, fastened with loops and ends at the side front or back.

An economical use for the outgrown summer dresses is to rip the seams, removing the best of the trimmings and the good portions of the garment, and make them up into guimpes or little aprons. The guimpes to be worn with the jumper dresses for the fall.

The thin, ungraceful girl of twelve or thirteen should have the length of her skirt broken with two or three tucks or applied folds that simulate tucks. Subdued colors may be brightened by piping the edges of tucks or folds with some bright color, or with some distinct marking of plaid goods, either in colors, or black and white, as indicated by the color of the garment.

Where much laundering is not objected to, cotton prints, or other light colored goods, make pretty aprons for the little school girl, and patterns showing a small dot or figure should be chosen for these. With a touch of white added to them by edgeings, bandings, braids, tapes, or heavy white feather-stitching or cross stitch designs, the chambrays, and plain gingham of light colors make becoming aprons.

The Schools

It is not enough that our children are clothed and sent regularly to the school house, or that we try to give them time for study at home, yet many parents—especially fathers—regard this as the extent of their duty to their children. There are many things about the house and the grounds demanding—though seldom receiving—the attention of the parent, and without which attention, the children suffer more or less in many ways. Few men would entrust a valuable animal—a horse, or dog—to strange hands without looking after the conditions to which it would be consigned. There would always be solicitude for its welfare, and very often personal supervision, no matter how busy the men were. But the children! The little, dependent, human animals—that is another story.

In large cities, great attention is being bestowed upon the condition of the buildings and grounds with regard to sanitation and the welfare and comfort of the young people. Ventilation, the proper size of the desks, the arrangement of the light,

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.