



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts Mott

To My Dog, Blanco

My dear dumb friend low lying there,
A willing vassal at my feet,
Glad partner of my home and fare,
My shadow in the street.

I look into your great brown eyes,
Where love and loyal homage
shine,
And wonder where the difference lies
Between your soul and mine.

For all of good that I have found
Within myself or human kind
Hath royally informed and crowned
Your gentle heart and mind.

I scan the whole broad earth around
For that one heart which leal and
true,
Bears friendship without end or
bound,
And find the prize in you.

I trust you as I trust the stars;
Nor cruel loss, nor scoff, nor pride,
Nor beggary, nor dungeon bars,
Can move you from my side—

As patient under injury
As any Christian saint of old,
As gentle as a lamb with me,
But with your brothers bold;

More playful than a frolic boy,
More watchful than a sentinel,
By day and night your constant joy
To guard and please me well;

I clasp your head upon my breast—
The while you whine and lick my
hand—
And thus our friendship is confessed,
And thus we understand.

Ah, Blanco! Did I worship God
As truly as you worship me,
Or follow where my Master trod
With your humility,

Did I sit fondly at His feet,
As you, dear Blanco, sit at mine,
And watch Him with a love as sweet,
My life would grow divine.
—J. G. Holland.

The Social Side

From now on, for some months, the hours of darkness will seem in excess of those of light, and there will be needs for the all around development of ourselves and our families other than those of fuel, food, shelter and clothing. In city or country, the hours of daylight will be filled with work, but the evening hours may be most profitably spent in social comminglings and cultivating the social side of life. This method of spending the evening hours will not appeal so strongly to those who have spent the day in company with others, as to those who are confined to the routine work of the home with seldom a word or a glimpse with others than the children, or, in some cases, the farm animals. As we grow past middle age, we are apt to lose interest in the social side, and say we have outlived "such foolishness;" but it is the unused muscle which atrophies, and every withered organ of the body or brain is a sign of degeneracy. It is the person who loses interest in the life about him or her who becomes prematurely old and senile. The more we keep in touch with the world of events, the more life we absorb. If the social qualities are allowed to shrivel and shrink through disuse, we become narrow, one-sided, bigoted, and one-ideal. It is the wide-awake, busy, social men

and women who "carry their age well." Few people kept isolated from their kind develop optimism, cheerfulness, broadmindedness, or charity for their fellows. For the sake of the elders, as much as for the young people, social gatherings should be arranged for, to take place weekly, bi-monthly or monthly, at some centrally located place, and the people should encourage attendance upon them, overcoming the disposition to drift into senility through inertia. After an evening outing—one not given to gourmandizing, breaking up at a reasonable hour—the work of the day following will seem less drudging, and broader interests will enlarge our lives. Plan for them now; then work for the plan. Let us make something more of ourselves than hewers of wood and carriers of water. See that "mother" goes with the rest of you.

Business Methods in the Home

Successful housekeeping and homemaking is just as much a business as any other of the world's works. The woman who conducts her housework along as careful lines as the merchant does his commercial affairs will find it much to her advantage in more ways than one. There should be the same careful keeping of income and expense accounts, the same study of the markets, and the same close watch on the little leaks. In order to make the most of everything and to get the full value of one's money, a woman should study the kinds and qualities of the various merchandise with which her work has to deal. She should know how to choose meats, and how to cook the cheaper pieces palatably; how to select vegetables, groceries, and the standard articles which every housekeeper must have on her shelves. She should know how to keep the scraps from wasting, and the setting of these before her family in attractive form should be her "remnant day," and you know how we all scramble for the "mill-ends" and short lengths that are arrayed so tastefully on the bargain counters.

The times is largely given over to specializing in all business but housekeeping, and even into this work the "spirit of the times" is creeping. Few women who hire out as cook and housekeeper, even among the "common people," will now touch the laundering or the family sewing. The laundress makes no pretensions to being a cook or a dressmaker. The house-girl does not expect to do any cooking, and the seamstress looks askance at the bed-making and the ironing board. But as yet, the house-mothers in general must be a little of everything to her family, and her best plan is to study carefully the real necessities, and make the best provisions possible. The "things" that one house-mother can let go, are the necessities in the family of her neighbor; what one family can scarcely do without is a matter of perfect indifference to another. What is extravagance with one woman would be economy in another, and an economy in one household would be niggardliness in another. Every woman must be a law unto herself, in such matters, but she should be careful of her laws.

Helpful Suggestions

As October advances, the weather will become quite cool at times but do not close the doors and windows

tightly. Remember that you must have fresh air, at all costs, and the best way is to accustom yourself from the first cool days to a low temperature by leaving the windows and doors open as long as possible, and lighting the fires only on damp, disagreeable days and evenings. In most latitudes, the heater will not need to be in constant use until the middle of November or the first of December.

The fuel problem is now before us, and we should realize that it is not solved by the mere purchase and storage of the coal. There are many ways of economizing fuel, and these should be sought out and tried. If you use hard (anthracite) coal, it is claimed that from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the coal is wasted unless the ash is sifted, and the unburned coal and half consumed cinders gathered out to be used over again. Sifting the contents of the ash box by hand is a slow, disagreeable process, but will pay, if nothing better can be done. Several machines that do the sifting more or less thoroughly and cleanly are now on the market. If before laying the cinders on the fire they are sprinkled with water, they will burn brighter and give out increased heat.

The soft (bituminous) coal ash can be used advantageously for making walks about the premises, to and from outhouses. It is of no consequence to sift soft coal ashes, unless you know there is unburned coal, and you must, in such a case, carefully pick out all cinders—"slag"—as these will not burn to ashes as do the cinders of the hard coal. It is just as easy to empty the ash pan along the path to the barn, well, or outhouse, every time it is carried out, as to throw the contents on an ugly heap in the yard. Wood ashes should be scattered over the garden or fields, as there is much excellent fertilizing material in them. If stored, they should be put under shelter, or the rains will "leach" them, removing much of their value. It is the little economies that count.

Buying Silks

If purchasing silk for a street costume, see that it has "body" to it. Flimsy silks will drag at the seams, hang limply, and be altogether unsatisfactory. Thin silks, if of good quality, are expensive, and are designed for housewear—not for the street. To judge of silk, pull the thread from the end as in judging cotton or wool; if the thread is well rounded and firm, and does not split apart at the touch, it is safe to conclude that it will do good service. Another test is to make a crease with the finger nail; if the crease dents deeply, and does not come out soon, the silk is good; if, on the contrary, the crease disappears immediately and leaves a torn or cut thread in its place, it should be rejected. Many silk-and-wool mixtures are equally as handsome as the ordinary "pure silk" and wear a great deal better.

For Home Comfort

Use "silence caps" on your chair legs to prevent scratches on the polished or painted floor, and to stop the noise of moving about. Small pieces cut from an old felt hat, fitted to the post or rocker and fastened on with strong glue, may be neatly done.

For the children's wear of a rainy day or evening, when the noise of the leather shoes become intolerable, cut pieces from the unworn ends and

corners of thick blankets, or heavy woolen goods, or from the legs of discarded wool socks, shape them like a stocking foot, running the seam lengthwise of the shape, from the top of the heel behind around to the instep in front. Bind the top, and sew tapes on the opening at the instep to tie the shoe on with. They are warm, soft and noiseless, saving shoes, floors, furniture and temper.

Make little pillows of cotton batting, cover with some pretty wash material, and hang on the backs of the chairs for head rests when you sit down for a moment. Inexpensive and decorative, if neatly done and regularly laundered.

For the Laundress

Chamois skin garments should be wrung directly out of clean, soapy water and dried without rinsing, in order that it may be soft and flexible when dry.

Very thin, sheer goods may be given a "body" by adding a small quantity of hot water starch to the rinse water. The quantity depends on the thickness of the starch, and can be learned by a little experimenting.

Do not leave flat-irons on the stove when not in use. If kept continually heated they lose the power to retain heat when in use. Do not leave them where the steam of cooking can reach them, or they will rust.

If the flatirons show a tendency to rust under good care, or to smirch the clothes, wash them well in soap suds and dry carefully after the washing, with heat. If inclined to be rough, put salt on a board or bit of paper and rub the iron over this a few times. If inclined to "stick" with the starched clothes, put a piece of beeswax on a thick paper, and rub the hot iron over this lightly before using, running it over a clean paper a few times to remove the surplus wax.

Do not rub soap on ribbons or laces when washing them. Make a suds as strong as desired, and wash in this. Use only a good article of white soap, and rinse carefully. Iron the lace on the wrong side, and the ribbons between two cloths. To ribbons a gloss may be given by ironing directly with the iron next to the goods.

Keeping Honey

Do not store the honey in a cold place, if you want it to keep nicely. Honey kept in a cold place is very apt to "granulate," or "turn into sugar." Old honey is especially apt to do this. To dissolve the sugar, place the honey in a vessel and set the vessel into a pan of boiling water, and let the honey get thoroughly hot. Then pour into the proper vessels and keep in a quite warm place.

Folding Laundered Clothes

Few home laundresses know how to fold freshly ironed clothes so as to give as few creases as possible, and the method can not be learned from the printed page. The proper folding of the garment adds much to the appearance of the finished work, especially in the matter of skirts and shirtwaists, which should have as few wrinkles as possible. If the home laundress wishes to perfect herself in her business, she should spend a few weeks in the folding department of some first-class general laundry, until she has caught the knack of it. Like all other trades, it should be learned by personal experience, with personal instruction, and few mothers are skilful enough to impart the knowledge to their daughters, because they

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.