



The Home Department

Our Rubbish Pile

How can we blind ourselves, poor mortals here,
And count our bits of stick and stone
And pile them up and think that all is well
If ours, the others has outgrown.

Our rubbish pile wherein is buried low
The homely deed, the kindly thought
That make for fellowship with all mankind,
Things that in commerce count for naught.

The cast-off coats of poor four-footed beasts,
The entrails of the lowly worm,
The dross of earth in vicious purging fires
Made precious by world-jargon term.

And how the gods must laugh to see us pile,
And sorrow, too, as, passing by,
We miss the real, the treasure trove of life
And pile up rubbish till we die.
—Frank Fair, in St. Louis Republic.

Narrowed Lives

We are often told, on the printed page, that life in remote regions is necessarily narrow, hard and monotonous. But do we not find it so as often in the crowded city? More often than not, the energies of the whole family are used up in the ceaseless fight for bread and shelter; thousands of people—not alone among the most poverty-stricken and improvident—have no time for anything but work and the little sleep that comes to their overwrought nerves. For these, the wage for the work is barely sufficient to cover, not the luxuries, but the demands for existence. Car fare, food, fuel and shelter are the first things to be provided for, and after these are met, whatever is left is quickly swallowed up in the inevitable expenses that attend all human life. Often the shelter is but one or two rooms in a crowded tenement; the fuel, of the cheapest and scantest, and the food ill-advised and often extravagant and unsuited because of the ignorance of the provider, and the scarceness of fuel with which to prepare it. Often the bread-winner is the bread-maker as well, and in such cases, the cooking or preparing of the food is but an incident, sandwiched hurriedly in between the demands of the work and the needs of the worker. In these days of high prices, even an average salary, steadily coming in, will frequently fall short of meeting unavoidable expenses, and then, to add to this is the always haunting fear of probable loss of work through circumstances which neither employer nor employe can control. Added to this is the frequent "lay-offs" for various causes which stop the income, while the expense goes on. A country reader asked in a recent letter, why the working people could not walk to their work, as it would make for health, as well as save car fare. Many workers live miles from their place of employment, while others must be "on time" at a very early hour. There are many reasons why there must be "car fare" which the

country and village reader can not understand.

The Work at Hand

A letter from a teacher employed in one of the city schools tells me she is "doing time" on the Pacific coast, but says the first days of September will find her again in the forest of brick walls, ready to care for the children. And this recalls the fact that the beautiful summer is ending, and that September, with all its duties, stands, full-armed, at the door. The housewife is still busy; there are still fruits and vegetables to cull and care for, but the children must be got ready for school, and the whirr of the sewing machine must be heard in every home. For a month or two, the summer garments will serve, but there will be cool days, and sudden chills that must be prepared for. The thinnest of last winter's garments should be brought out and, if put away without repairs last fall, will now demand attention. Much of this repairing may be turned over to the young daughters, and indeed, the sons can learn to handle a needle, or use the sewing machine, if mother has time to "show them." It is a good thing that boys should know how to take "emergency" stitches, and a girl can often "dress on dimes" if she can do things for herself. It is becoming too customary for the last year's garments to go into the rag bag, and the ready-made to take its place. Many times, it is well worth while to use the good fabric of the cast-offs for the new garment, with a little touch of new, or trimming, to give it a pleasant effect of newness, rather than to buy the ready-to-wear store clothing that usually, when in season, sells for much more than it is really worth, and calls for no end of re-stitching, button or tape fastenings, or readjusting to suit the would-be wearer. Often it is a distinct saving to let something else go, and make over garments of good texture. Then, in buying, get the best possible, if less of it. One good garment is more satisfactory than half a dozen of inferior workmanship and cheap material. "Cheap" garments are an extravagance, if of poor materials.

Fashion Notes

Very attractive and serviceable suits for the school girl are fashioned after the latest models, the Moyaen Age ideas. The long-waisted dresses with pleated skirt portions seem exactly suited to slight young figures. The designs with pleated or gathered skirt sections below the hips are the dominating mode of the season, and it is prophesied at the centers of fashion that they shall continue in favor for several seasons to come, so becoming and graceful in line are they. These dresses are very easy to fit, being less than semi-fitted; the plaited section may be a straight piece and could be made of bordered material or flouncing; the neck may be cut out in square outline or in round outline; the use of the bertha is optional.

The full-length coat, made with the long lines now so fashionable, seems to be most favored for fall wear; the elongated waist line is brought out very cleverly in many of these models. Some are trimmed with straps of materials coming below the hips; others have clusters of pleats introduced in the side

seams, also coming below the hips. Many of the skirts of new coats have pleats; the military idea is well thought of by many fashion houses.

One who can use the patterns sent out by the various agencies, and who has taste in fitting and sewing, can make the new style garments at home, and thus save quite a sum and at the same time use better materials.

Serge is distinctly one of the most important fabrics for fall. The wide-wale diagonal serge is still in evidence, but has yielded place insofar as modishness is concerned, to finer weaves, and with the white serge as with the blue serges, the hard surface has given place to the softer, looser weaves. The soft weaves do not shed dust so the harder did, and the soft white serge soils easily. For the white serges, however, a lavish use of powdered magnesia will do much for them.—McCall's Magazine.

"Vacation" Jobs

Nearly every householder will have some more leisure time than is absolutely necessary for his resting spells, and besides, we are told that true rest means only a change of employment. Anyhow, it will be money in the man's pocket to attend to the little things now which must be done before the cold, stormy weather of the fall and winter sets in. Here are a few reminders: Look after the catches, hooks, door-fastenings, stops, drawer pulls, and other necessities to household comfort. A minute here and there will add much to the life of such furnishings. Chairs, tables, bedsteads, and many other articles of furniture, become loose and shaky in some ways, and a few screws, slim nails, bolts, a bit of glue, and some strips of lumber will make them "like new," especially if paint and varnish are added to the supply. If possible to get the paint, give the outsides of buildings, especially the house, a coat of paint; out houses look very well with some of the good whitewashes, or cheap paints, but get good paint for the house. The boys and girls can often apply the washes and paints to the out houses, and many a boy can do a good job on the house. Shingles shrink under the hot sunshine, and some day, the roof will spring a leak; now is a good time to go over the roof. Ruined walls and ceilings, stained paper and broken plaster cost more than a few shingles. If the shingles are stained or painted, it will add life to them. If you have a furnace, look it over, and see that it is in good repair. Later the furnace man will be busy, and you may not get the comfort you want on cold, raw days. Look to every flue and chimney; get the heating stoves ready to put up, and see that there is plenty of pipe, and that it is in good shape. The drouth may have left the water in the cistern low, and now is a good time to clean it out and get the filter in shape. If you have no cistern, now is a good time to get one ready for the fall rains.

Odds and Ends

The corner cupboard means so much to the housewife whose working room is limited as to space, that one can not have too many. Shelf room above in abundance, bins below, or a closed closet for the staples; a table setting diagonally across in front, just far enough out to admit of the worker standing be-

tween, will save many steps and much walking. There should be cupboards in the corners near the stove, the uses for which will be indicated, and if room admits behind the door, a corner closet is an ideal place for the garments to be thrown on when going outside, for the brooms, dust pan, brushes, overshoes, mittens, and other things designed for outside wear. The lumber for the shelves will cost but little—scraps will do, if you have them, and any one who can use saw and hammer can put them up.

In cooking fish, a baking sheet is almost a necessity; it is simply a piece of galvanized, or plain sheet iron, just large enough to fit in the bottom of the baking pan, with rings at each end to lift it by. When the fish is prepared for the oven, set it on the sheet iron, which should be well greased, then lower into the pan and bake. When done, lift the sheet by the rings, slip the fish from this onto the platter without breaking it, and serve whole.

To make a ventilator at either top or bottom of a window, take a half-inch board eight inches wide and an inch shorter than the space inside the window frame; screw small brass or iron eyes into the ends of the board three inches from one edge; screw corresponding hooks in the window frame a little way inside the sash. When the air is needed, either raise or lower the sash six inches, then set the board over the opening. The eyes fitting over the hooks will hold it fast, and the in-rushing air gives it a slight slanting inward. No direct shaft is possible, but fresh air will come in plentifully.

For the Toilet

A wash made of the juice of one lemon, a teacupful of soft water and a few drops of attar of roses, well shaken before application is made to the face, should be used in place of water for cleansing the face during hot weather. This will soften and cleanse and remove tan and the ravages of the wind and sun. The mixture should be made fresh every day or two. Dip a soft cloth into the mixture, and mop the face and neck, turning the cloth as you use it in order to avoid rubbing the dirt just removed from one place into another. Do not dip the soiled cloth into the mixture, but use a fresh bit of cloth when a change is needed, then dry with a clean, soft cloth. If the skin is dry, a teaspoonful of glycerine should be used with the half pint of mixture.

Hard water should not be used for toilet purposes. If fresh rain water can not be had, a scant teaspoonful of borax in a basinful of water that has been boiled and cooled, will give it the requisite softness. Boiling alone will soften some waters.

Fresh cream, or sour cream, is an old, well-tested skin beautifier, and a remedy for sunburn and blister. Good authorities on the care and treatment of the skin claim that a little powder is a great protection to the skin of face, neck and hands in hot weather. The powder should be lightly dusted over the freshly cleaned skin, then wiped off with a soft old silk handkerchief. All surplus powder that will show should be removed.

Cleanliness of the person and the often changing of the clothing is better than perfumery. No perfume can long disguise the smell of the body in a state of neglect. Soap and water and a wash cloth are the most effective, as well as least expensive odor-killers.

Answering Requests

For the cucumber wash, take two or three cucumbers at the time they are right for the table, and chop into rather fine chunks without peel-