



### The Baby for Me

I have heard about babies angelic,  
With a heavenly look in their eyes,  
And hair like the sunbeams of  
morning  
When first they appear in the skies,  
And smiles like the smiles of a  
cherub,  
And mouths like the buds of a  
rose,  
And themselves like the lilies and  
daisies  
And every sweet flower that grows.

My baby's the jolliest baby  
That any one ever did see;  
There's nothing angelic about him,  
But he's just the right baby for  
me!  
His smile's not at all like a cherub's,  
But rather a comical grin;  
And his hair—well, it favors the  
sunbeams,  
When sunbeams are wondrously  
thin.

His eyes, though they're blue, like  
the heavens,  
Are remarkably earthly with fun;  
And his mouth's rather large for a  
rose bud,  
Unless 'twere a half-opened one.  
His hands don't resemble a fairy's  
In the least. They're a strong lit-  
tle pair,  
As you'd think, I am sure, if he'd  
got you,  
As oft he gets me—by the hair!

And he isn't a bit like a lily,  
Or any sweet blossom that grows,  
For no flower on earth, I am certain,  
Has a dear little cunning pug nose.  
He's himself—full of mischief, the  
darling,  
And as naughty as naughty can be;  
And I'm glad that he isn't angelic,  
For he's just the right baby for  
me!

—Housewife.

### Keeping Things Neat

Remember that "mother and the children" should not shoulder all the responsibility for "the looks of things" about the premises. If "pappie" leads the way, the work is sure to be done. Every one should be interested in keeping the house surroundings neat and orderly.

The first time you go to town, be sure to invest ten cents in a good sized blank book. Some of you have done so; but this is for the other fellow. Then, without delay open up an account with the farm, and be honest with both yourself and it. Credit the farm with every cent's worth it yields to you, and charge yourself with every thing you use, at current prices. You will be astonished, when you sum up the figures. Balance your accounts at least once a month—every week is better.

Gather up the leaves that fall on the lawn; do not burn, but store them in boxes, bags or barrels for bedding the stock, and they will thus be returned as fertilizers to the soil; or they may be used as covering for plants and shrubbery and dug into the soil in the spring.

See that all the sticks, bits of board, old rubbish of every kind, and large limbs of trees are picked up and put into the kindling pile. Burn all trimmings of trees, shrubs and vines not large enough for kindling, and have everything neat and clean when the first snow falls.

Be sure to have some free-bloom- ing shrubbery and vines set out

about the house and yard. These should act as screens to shut away unsightly views from the windows. Don't have all the beauty spots in the front yard. Let the kitchen win- dows have an agreeable outlook.

Have the garden spot plowed and thrown up into rough ridges this fall, that the alternate freezes and thaws may get in close touch with the soil, and thus make it nice and mellow for the spring working. Let it be well enriched with old manure. A sprinkling of good wood ashes will help things.

### For the Home Seamstress

A walking skirt should be cut two inches off the ground all around; but for a short woman, one inch will make her appear taller, while a tall woman may increase the escape to three inches, and for the slim, angular woman, this will be much more becoming. Only substan- tial materials should be used for walking skirts. When waist and skirt are made of the same material, the effect will be more graceful if the skirt just clears the ground com- fortably, for the short woman, but for a tall figure, two inches will be more effectual.

A round length means all the way around, resting a couple of inches on the floor; the sweep length is made short enough in front for ease of walking, gradually becoming longer on the sides, so that the back length, or sweep, is not less than three inches, though seven inches is the maximum for the sweep skirt. Of course, these are for dressy occa- sions. Dinner gowns are made with trains of varying length; several inches is the shortest, while twenty- four is the usual length.

### Cleaning Wool Garments

The flannel dresses and skirts for children can be carefully washed in tepid water, using a mild, white soap; the soap is not to be used on the material, but a suds should be made of the soap and soft water. Woolen goods should be well rinsed in soft tepid water, or if hydrant water, or hard well water must be used, it should be slightly softened with a little ammonia or borax—a table- spoonful of household ammonia to the pailful, or a teaspoonful of powdered borax to the gallon. Hang the skirt by the band, or it will dry crooked. The garment should be ironed on the wrong side with a mod- erately hot iron, having a piece of muslin between the iron and the cloth.

Before washing flannels, the gar- ments should be well shaken to re- move all dust and lint. The water should be warm, but by no means hot, and soap should not be used on the goods. The day before the flan- nels are to be washed, take as much soap as will be required for the washing—flannels and other things—and shave it down in a sauce pan, pour enough boiling water over it to cover it, and set on the back of the range to melt slowly; if allowed to boil, it is apt to boil over onto the stove; scraps of soap may be used, and when all is dissolved, put into a jar to be used at one washing, as it does not keep so well, becomes wat- ery and loses strength. For the flannels, make a good lather with the jelly and warm water, adding a tablespoonful of ammonia for each gallon of water, and put the woolen garments in this, shaking about,

squeezing and sousing about until clean as this water will make it; then put through another water with less soap jelly and no ammonia, then through clear water, rinsing thor- oughly if necessary through two wa- ters. Squeeze out of this, or put through a wringer, and shake out well before hanging to dry. Dry in a warm place, and by no means must woollens be allowed to freeze.

### Tanning Hides for Rugs and Robes

There are so many ways of doing this work that one may take his choice. Sheep or calf skins, properly prepared make most comfortable winter rugs. If you had a favorite dog, with beautiful fur, it could be kept by tanning and making into a rug. Here is a method for the sheep or calf skin: When the pelt is removed from the carcass, sprinkle the flesh side plentifully with equal parts of powdered alum and salt, roll tightly and lay away for a few days. When ready to tan it, unroll and remove the surplus salt by shaking well; then wash the pelt in a strong soap suds (the old-fashioned soft soap is said to be best for this), and make it as pliable as possible, after which all bits of flesh and fat must be scraped from the hide with a blunt edged piece of wood, or old, dull kitchen knife; nothing but the skin and wool must remain. When washing, it must be worked by hand, or rubbed on a wash board, and when the water is as much squeezed out of it as possible, the flesh side should be sprinkled with equal parts of pulverized alum and borax, and this well rubbed in. The alum acts as a stay to hold the wool, and the borax helps in the tanning process. These substances will be more effec- tive if well moistened (not dissolved in liquid form) and applied to the flesh side as plentifully as possible, rubbing it well in. The skin must be dried slowly, rubbing, stretching and manipulating as it dries, to make the leather pliable and soft. To make the rubbing easier, the pelt may be tacked, wool-side out, on a board, or wall.

### Clothing Little Girls

It is a mistake to get a greater number of garments for children than are absolutely needed, as they soon outgrow them, and the task of making them over for the smaller ones is one that few mothers like. Girls from four to eight years of age look well in dresses made with long waists and full skirts that have two or three tucks above the hem. The skirts are easily lengthened by let- ting out the tucks, and new cuffs may lengthen the sleeves and freshen the garment. Flannels are always in good taste, and come in plain colors or plaids; cashmeres are soft, graceful and wear well if taken care of, while smooth, hard-twisted serges are excellent for wear. Only dur- able materials should be chosen, and these are not necessarily the most expensive.

### To Tan a Dog Skin

Answering S. J. B.—Here is one way of tanning the dog skin: The skin must be freshly removed from the carcass; take two ounces each of salt, saltpetre and alum, and dis- solve with soft water enough to make just enough liquid to cover the skin; fold the flesh side, one half over onto the other, and leave two

days in the brine; then turn the skin over and leave another two days; then take from the brine and remove any flesh or fat that adheres to the skin side. Nall where the sun will reach it, and be sure it is stretched tight. When nearly dry, rub plenty of neat's foot oil on it, rubbing it in, and leave a day or two, then take down and rub out all the oil you can with a wedge-shaped stick, and manipulate until soft.

### Curing Meat

A reader, signing himself S. J. B., sends the following method for curing meat, vouching for it: Salt the hams and shoulders after trimming, putting them in tubs or barrels; on these lay the jaws and side pieces, salting, and put weights on them, cover with cold water and let stand two weeks. Then lift out the meat and throw the brine away; re-salt, put back and let stand four weeks; take out and wash hams, jowls and shoulders; wipe dry, and cover every place not covered by skin with pul- verized borax, rubbing it in every raw place, and close to the skin. Hang it up and smoke it, and not a bug will touch it. Bacon cured in this way may hang where cured all summer.

### Query Box

Several Querists—See methods of tanning given in another column.

T. E.—Cork bicycle handles may be cleaned by rubbing with a cloth wet in methylated spirits. (2) Ask your druggist.

Mrs. B.—There is nothing known that will bleach the hair white. The use of ammonia for the purpose is said to ruin the hair.

L. L.—For coloring the switch you should take it to a professional. I do not think you could bleach the faded switch white.

"Unhappy"—Naphtha is advised for removing spots from fabrics, but not from the face or skin. Such spots must be removed from within, and local applications do little good. Take advice of your doctor.

Housewife—To clean the ceiling, use a cloth wrung out of warm wa- ter containing washing soda, a table- spoonful to a basin of water, chang- ing often, and keeping the cloth clean.

H. L.—To clear the chimney of soot, it is recommended to burn bits of zinc, any old pieces; or, put all potato peelings on the fire in the kitchen stove.

Mrs. H. K.—It would be best to write your friend, asking when she would be able to receive you for a few days visit, and mentioning the length of time you wished to stay. Do not make your visit too long, no matter how pleasant it may be.

"Typist"—For whitening the hands, get ten cents worth each of

## A Pair of High-Grade Shears FREE

is being sent FREE AND POST- PAID by The American Home- stead of Lincoln, Neb., during the next few days to every subscri- ber who sends in a yearly subscri- ption at the regular price— 50 cents a year. This great farm and household paper contains in- valuable information on all farm topics, household matters, fash- ions, building plans, home gard- ening, fruit growing, bee-keep- ing, poultry, etc.

This paper offers prizes every month for the best recipes and household sugges- tions. You have an opportu- nity every month to receive a cash prize. See full particulars of free Shears on page 12.