



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

"Bye and Bye"

Bye and bye, I sang it softly,
As I clasped my baby fair;
And the fire-light flashed and sparkled
On her face and sunny hair.
And I pressed my darling closer,
Closer to my throbbing breast,
And with murmured words of blessing,
Hushed her to her nightly rest.

"Bye and bye," I still kept humming,
Clasping close my baby girl,
Crowning with a mother's kisses
Rosy cheek and brow of pearl.
Soft and low, the sweet words floated
On the slumber-freighted air;
And the song of love and blessing
Shaped itself into a prayer;

And I traced my baby's footsteps
Onward through the coming years;
Bye and bye, I seemed to see her
Crowned with woman's hopes and fears.
And I prayed, "Oh, Father, lead her!
Hear a mother's earnest cry—
Guide my darling; keep her safely,
In the far-off bye and bye."

Twilight shadows softly gather
'Round me, in my quiet room;
And the firelight's glow and sparkle
Scatter every shade and gloom.
"Bye and bye," my lips are crooning,
Murmuring still the sweet old song;
Though my sweet dreams of the future
To a buried Past belong.

Long ago, the baby left me;
Pansy-eyes and golden hair!
And my empty arms are stretching
Out into the empty air;
Yet I pray, "Oh, tender Father,
Heed a mother's yearning cry—
Guide me to my darling, safely,
In the longed-for "bye and bye."
—"Incognito".

Along With the Automobile

Judging from what we read, our farmers are all buying automobiles and fine farm machinery, and snapping their fingers at the cry of hard times. But we read a great deal that is not true, and we learn to look askance at the newspaper reports. Still, we know that in many ways, the farmer is more prosperous than in former years, and we are glad of it. Some of us were "farm folks," ourselves in former days, and we can appreciate what good prices mean to our brothers and sisters in the country. But the wives should share in the prosperity. When we read of the farmer buying automobiles and having big bank accounts, we wish we could look into his home kitchen and see it stocked with labor-saving machinery that will lift the drudgery from the shoulders of his hard-working companion. Much of the lack of these things in the home is caused, or rather continued, by the conservatism of the housewife, herself, who refuses to try the "notions," and discourages the buying of them. But if she is wise, she would insist on having them, and persist in using them until she finds how very much help and strength-saving they are. The husband should insist on her availing herself of these helps. It would make home much more attractive, besides bringing better health to the whole family,

through the better health and spirits of the house mother.

Home Helps

Among the helpful things that should find their way into the home, are the kitchen cabinet, the zinc-covered cook-table, the linoleum-covered floor, windows raised or lowered by weights, sink and drain-pipes, running water, a first-class range, or even an alcohol burner, a range for coal or wood, or gas or gasoline range, or even an alcohol burner, a good washing machine, wringer and light tubs, self-heating flat-irons, whether by gas, electricity, alcohol or charcoal; a steam cooker; a fireless cooker; a bread mixer, cake mixer, measuring cups, vegetable and meat choppers, measuring spoons, can openers and wrenches, fruit pressers, egg separators, apple parers and corers, cherry seeders, canning machines, double boilers, and roasting pans, together with the hundreds of little things costing but a few cents each, and altogether not running the sum expended very far into the hundreds, while the possession and use of them will make life worth living, and save many an ache and pain to the housewife, as well as fits of irritable temper, which are invariably the result of worry and exhaustion, in trying to do the thousand things with one pair of aching feet and two strained hands.

Filling the Floor Cracks

If you have more money than time, putty is a good filling, and it must be beaten until perfectly free from lumps or grains, and quite soft, pressing it well into the cracks and smoothing it even with the surface of the boards. If money is lacking, saw-dust and glue is a good filler, but the cheapest is a good flour paste in which soft old newspaper is soaked, making the mixture quite thick with the paper pulp, pressing it in the cracks with a knife blade, and smoothing the top even with the surface. Any of these fillers will dry hard, and may be painted over satisfactorily. For the saw-dust and glue, dissolve one pound of common glue in two gallons of water; when fully dissolved, stir in enough fine sawdust to make a paste; the paste may be colored to match the color of the floor. Finely shredded paper should be soaked in hot flour paste until the pulp is as thick as ordinary putty. Nail holes, and other rough places, cracks, crevices where insects may hide, should be stopped with the filling.

Neckwear

Neckwear never was neater or prettier than at the present time, and what is much more to the purpose, nearly everything offered at the stores can be duplicated by the girl or woman who has a little taste and a bit of skill with the needle. The ready-made bows, jabots, ties, collars, cuffs, and other "creations" which cost so out of all proportion to their value, can be readily made at home a few cents each, and of far better materials than those sold for many times the amount.

The general shape does not materially change, but the variations are many and pleasing, and within the reach of the slimmest purse. A few cents worth of lace, lawn, net, or linen will make each of them, or they

may be made without any apparent cost, from the bits and scraps so often to be found in the "scrap bag" of the home seamstress.

Nothing so adds to the appearance of the girl or woman, especially about the housework, as a dainty bit of white about the neck, and this can always be worn, no matter what the duties; but the bit of white about the wrist, as shown by the cuff matching the collar, may have to be laid aside at times. The cuff-and-collar set adds a touch of refinement to the plainest or coarsest garb, and is one of the most inexpensive accessories a woman can have. The collar is now rarely fastened at the back, for which we should be thankful, and the neat little bow, or knot of becoming ribbon and an inexpensive bar-pin, makes it particularly becoming to any face.

It has been often said that if a woman will keep her neck and feet becomingly dressed, much will be forgiven her. The making of these little accessories serve as a specially desirable "pick-up" work, and every girl and woman should have a supply.

The straight, high collar is said to be the favorite, but the shaped collars are as much worn as ever. Many of the new designs have a touch of color, generally matching the color of dress worn by the woman.

Care of the Teeth

It is to be commended, when a woman really wants to be "at her best," and is willing to take pains to bring it about. One of the "worries" that will not down is the faulty complexion, and while we readily spend time, labor and money, trying to get a good complexion, we neglect shamefully one of the real "foundations" beautifiers, when we neglect our teeth. Good health depends upon good digestion, and a good digestion is accountable for much of the beauty for which we sigh. But unless the teeth are able to do their share of the work of preserving health, we must pay the penalty. The teeth should be cared for, and kept in good condition as long as possible before they are drawn, and when we must give them up, nothing will take their place in the economy of nature except a good set of artificial teeth, and these should be made by as good a dentist as we can find. From the earliest years, the care of the teeth should be made a duty, and the importance of their office should be impressed strongly upon the mind of the child as well as the adult. Do not depend so much upon bleaches and lotions, but more upon the means which nature has provided, remembering that good health is the greatest beautifier in the world.

Growing Roses

Many publications are now offering a number of rose plants for "clubs" of subscribers, and in most instances the plants sent out will grow well, and, with good care, give many beautiful blossoms. But, if you attempt to grow these plants—the delightful teas, bourbons and noisettes for summer flowering—you must give them good care and suitable soil. Roses will live indefinitely in poor soil, and with poor care; but they will do very little more. To secure the best results, you must give them plenty of food. Old, well rotted cow manure is the best fertilizer for them, but if this can not be had—as in large cities—bone meal, which can be

bought of the florist, may be substituted. Generally, if you can reach a dairy, the manure can be obtained. But if bone meal is to be used, dig into the soil three or four spoonfuls about each plant as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring, and again in mid-summer. If the cow manure can be had, dig a handful in about each plant. In the ever-blooming class of roses, flowers will always be produced on the new branches, and when the buds on these branches have all been developed, cut the branch back to within a few leaf-buds of the main stalk, or crown of the plant. If the soil is well fed, in a short time new branches will start, and another crop of flowers will come on. Each plant should be cut back after each blooming. High feeding of the soil, keeping it loose and moist, with sharp pruning, is the proper treatment for satisfactory results. By following up this treatment throughout the season, you will have plenty of bloom until the coming of freezing weather. When the weather becomes hot and dry, in July and August, the ground about the roots should be mulched with litter, or lawn mowings, or other suitable covering to keep the soil from baking, and it would be well to keep the ground moist by watering in the evening; but this must be done regularly, or harm will result.

Dressing the Hair

Many women find it almost impossible to keep the hair smooth and in good shape when having to work in the hot kitchen, or live in furnace-heated rooms. For this trouble, a good dressing is made of four ounces

A GOOD CHANGE

A Change of Food Works Wonders

The wrong food and drink causes a lot of trouble in this world. To change the food is the first duty of every person that is ill, particularly from stomach and nervous troubles. As an illustration: A lady in Missouri has, with her husband, been brought around to health again by leaving off coffee and some articles of food that did not agree with them. They began using Postum and Grape-Nuts food. She says:

"For a number of years I suffered with stomach and bowel trouble which kept getting worse until I was very ill most of the time. About four years ago I left off coffee and began taking Postum. My stomach and bowels improved right along, but I was so reduced in flesh and so nervous that the least thing would overcome me.

"Then I changed my food and began using Grape-Nuts in addition to Postum. I lived on these two principally for about four months. Day by day I gained in flesh and strength until now the nervous trouble has entirely disappeared and I feel that I owe my life and health to Postum and Grape-Nuts.

"Husband is 73 years old and he was troubled, for a long time, with occasional cramps, and slept badly. Finally I prevailed upon him to leave off coffee and take Postum. He had stood out for a long time, but after he tried Postum for a few days he found that he could sleep and that his cramps disappeared. He was satisfied and has never gone back to coffee.

"I have a brother in California who has been using Postum for several years; his whole family use it also because they have had such good results from it."

Look in pkgs. for the little book, "The Road to Wellville." "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.