



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## Questions

Shall we remember when, life at an end,  
Freed from its turmoil and haunting unrest,  
Only the grasses our dust shall be friend,  
Green and blossoming over our breast—  
Shall we recall all the sorrow and pain,  
Madness of anger, and useless regret,  
Toll that was futile, and hopes that were vain—  
Shall we remember? Or shall we forget?

You, whose dear eyes looking deep  
in our own,  
Opened the gates to a world of delight,  
Faithful guides when we wandered alone  
Out 'mid the terrors of shadow  
and night—

Will the bond break, when the garment of clay  
Falls from the soul where its impress is set?  
In the strong light of eternity's day,  
Shall we remember? Or, shall we forget?

Shall we remember the winter's despair,  
Earth and the heavens unheeding our cry,  
Visions of springtime, enchanting and fair,  
Moonbeams and starbeams against the blue sky?  
All that is lovely, and all that is pure,  
Cares of the commonplace, worry and fret—  
What shall we part from, and what shall endure?  
What must we cherish, what may we forget?

Vain are our questions. Oblivion's veil  
Slowly is shrouding the past we have known;  
Faint grow the echoes of sob and of wail;  
Dust at our feet are the idols outgrown.  
Hearts that have taught us love's blessing and pain,  
Eyes that with tears for our woes have been wet,  
Voices that thrilled us with hope's deathless refrain—  
These, Heaven grant we may never forget.

—Sarah D. Hobart,  
In old scrap-book.

## Ignorance of the Bible

The question of having the Bible used in the schools is now being agitated, and many reasons, for and against, are being urged. Recent statistics show that ignorance of the Bible exists to an extent almost inconceivable among college and university students. And this ignorance is disclosed not by attempted religious instruction, but in the study of the ordinary branches of a literary education. The pupils are entirely unable to understand a great mass of allusions in the masterpieces of English poetry and prose. Wholly apart from its religious, or from its ethical value, the Bible is the one book that no intelligent person who wishes to come in contact with the world of thought, and to share the ideas of great minds of the Christian era, can afford to be ignorant of. All

modern literature, and all art are permeated with it. There is scarcely a great work in the language that can be fully understood and enjoyed without this knowledge, so full is it of allusions and illustrations from the Bible. This is true of fiction, poetry, economic and philosophic works, and also of scientific and even agnostic works. It is not a question of religion or theology, or of dogma. It is a question of general intelligence. A boy or girl at college, in the presence of the works set for either to master, without a fair knowledge of the Bible, is disadvantaged accordingly. The Bible is, in itself, a liberal education, as many great masters of literature have testified. It has so entered into law, literature, through the whole modern life of the Christian world, that ignorance of it is a most serious handicap to the student.

## In the School—Or in the Home?

In comparison with the position of the Bible in the family of a generation ago, it is now a neglected book. It is neglected as literature, and the neglect is being felt in many ways. One of the suggestions for reviving an interest in it is in operation in the Sunday school work; another is its study as literature in schools and colleges; but we believe that its revival will only come through attention to the fundamental cause of this ignorance—the neglect of its use in the home in childhood. If its great treasures are not familiarized in growing childhood, they will always be external of the late possessor. In the family is where this education must begin, and it will thus be, as it has been, in the past, an easy and unconscious education, a stimulus to the imagination, and a ready key to the world's tradition, custom, history and literature.

## For Cleaning Carpets

An excellent cleanser for carpets and rugs is given: Take half a bar of good vegetable oil soap (to be had for five cents), two ounces of powdered borax, two ounces of sal soda, half a teacupful of alcohol, and two gallons of soft water. Shave the soap and put into the water all the ingredients except the alcohol, and boil until all is dissolved. When the mixture gets cold, add the alcohol and stir in well. With a brush or sponge rub this into the carpet, a small space at a time, then rinse by rubbing with a sponge dipped in clear water. Go over all the carpet thus.

For cleaning carpets with ox-gall, use one pint of ox-gall to two gallons of water; sponge and rub the cloth well with this, then go over it immediately with a cloth or sponge dipped in clear water, until the gall is all rinsed out with the dirt.

## The Paint Brushes

Coal oil is the best thing always at hand for cleaning paint brushes that have been used for wood work. When done painting, put the brush down in a vessel of coal oil, letting the oil reach not quite to the wood part, and let soak awhile; then the paint can be washed out easily with soap and water, and will dry as soft as new. Brushes that have become like boards through being put away uncleaned, can be made usable by this method. It pays to take care of anything, as it costs less to buy a

good article and take proper care of it than to buy several cheap articles and throw them away. When the careless, or unskilled painter gets drops of paint, or smears, on the glass, coal oil will remove it, and the sooner it is applied, the easier it does the work. And while on the subject of coal oil, it may be of interest to tell you that oiled floors may be kept looking nicely by going over them occasionally with a cloth dipped in coal oil, rubbing well and leaving no surplus oil on the floor to gather lint. A very small amount of coal oil will do the work—don't use it like water.

## Among Ourselves

It is to be hoped that you have possessed yourself of one of "Uncle Sam's" cook books; if you have not, put in your request for it at once, for it is "worth while." We are told that a million copies are to be published, including the bulletin on economic use of meats and kindred subjects, and will contain much of interest to the housekeeper, and the one who foots the bills. Send in your request for a copy on a postal card directed to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Our people do not avail themselves freely enough of this free literature, much of it of very great value in many departments of the home. Remember, the "people" foot the bills.

There are cases and conditions where it would seem that dyeing the hair is justifiable; but one can not be too careful in using even the most harmless seeming dyes. A case is now in court where a lady is suing a well-known hair-dye firm for the ruination of her hair by one application of a dye, and the firm claims that it is the only complaint they have ever had. There may have been many which have not been made public. What is harmless to one, or under ordinary conditions, may result disastrously to another, or under other conditions.

Be sure to have your cans, jars and bottles, with their covers, rubbers, corks and sealing wax, with a pound or two of paraffin wax, in readiness for the fruit season, which is now but a little while distant. Have the metal or glass top fitted to its own jar, have new rubber rings, and put jar, ring and top together, ready for use. Do not use cans showing the least bit of rust, or glass jars or bottles with even the slightest sign of crack or "slivering off." Have plenty of pint jars, even for a large family, for a small quantity "comes handy" sometimes where a larger quantity would spoil before being used. See that the jar fastenings are strong and simple.

## For Damp Walls

Mrs. F. A. E. wishes to know how to prevent her basement walls from becoming damp inside. Here is a method recommended, taken from an old-time "Reference" book: "Use two kinds of wash or solutions for covering the surface of the walls, which must be clean and dry when the application is made. For the first, or soap solution, use three-quarters of a pound of castile soap to one gallon of water, thoroughly dissolving it; for the second, or alum solution, use half a pound of alum to four gallons of water, well dissolved. The temperature of the room should not be above 50 degrees Fahr., when the compositions are ap-

plied. The first, or soap mixture should be laid on boiling hot, with a flat brush, taking care to form a froth on the brick work. Let this wash remain twenty-four hours, so as to become hard and dry, then apply the second, or alum solution in the same manner as the first, having the temperature of the second solution between sixty and seventy degrees Fahr., when applied, and this also should remain twenty-four hours before a second coat of the soap solution is applied, to be followed, as before, by the alum solution. These coats should be applied alternately until the walls are made impervious to water. The alum and soap thus combined forms an insoluble compound, filling the pores of the masonry entirely and preventing the water from entering the walls.

## Helps for the Hurried

Clean the zinc with coal oil, using preferably a woolen cloth. When clean, rub and polish with a dry, clean cloth; use no soap or water.

For papering painted walls, go over the walls and ceiling first with a brush, removing all dust; then go over them with a solution of sal soda, wetting them thoroughly, then, after a few minutes, wash this off with sponge and clean water, drying after the washing. This will cut the glaze of the paint. Then go over the surface with a "size" made of glue, according to directions given recently, and let this get thoroughly dry before pasting on the paper in the usual way.

A good and cheap floor paint is made in this wise: One gallon of oil; yellow ochre, four pounds; turpentine, one pint; red lead and litharge, one pound each. Mix the night before using. This amount will give two coats to a 14x16 surface. The color is a pleasing reddish brown, and the paint is durable. Rub the paint well into the boards, leaving as little surplus as possible; let each coat dry before applying the next. The last coat should dry for one week before using the floor. If one must go over the floor, lay pieces of boards about to step on; but it pays to wait.

Molasses will often remove grass stains from children's clothing. Rub the molasses as you would soap into the stain, and then wash in the usual fashion. Salt dissolved in alcohol is often found to be a good thing for removing grease spots from clothing.

Ivory may be cleaned with a new, soft tooth-brush, a white soap and tepid water. After washing thus, dry the ivory well, brush clean, dip the brush in alcohol and polish until it has gained its former sheen. If the water gives it a yellow tinge, dry the ivory in a heated place. If yellowed by age, place it under a ball jar with a vessel containing lime and muriatic acid, and set the whole in the sunshine. The lime and acid mixture must not touch the ivory.

## Papering a Board Wall

If you want your paper to keep whole, and not crack the length of every joining, tack smoothly over it a thin grade of building paper, and over this tack and paste muslin. Make the joints of the paper as close-fitted as possible, and be sure to tack it well on, or it is apt to "sag," and the muslin must be stretched very tightly. A really skilled paper-hanger will make such a wall look as good as any plastered wall can look, and the paper will not crack; besides, the room will be very much warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

## Query Box

Mrs. S. W., of California, wishes directions for tuffing bedspreads, as our grandmothers used to do it. The