



The Home Department

Conducted by
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A Mother Believed in Him, Long Ago
Time-worn, weather-beaten, with
dim, bleared eyes,
His face like a map of the Country
of Sin;
Knowing no hope and winning no
prize,
Callous without and hardened
within—
Room for him still on the great
highway!
Comrade of shame and companion
of woe;
Look where he staggers, and softly
say:
"A mother believed in him, long
ago."

A wee little babe, on her bosom he
lay,
And gently she chanted an old,
sweet song:
"Hushaby, lullaby; ever, always,
His white angels guard thee from
error and wrong."
And his lips were pure as a thought
of God,
And his eyes were bright, that are
heavy and dim,
As the sleep-angels bore him, o'er
fields untrod,
There where the twilight was sing-
ing its hymn.

Time-worn, weather-beaten—and yet
she dreamed,
With love in her eyes, as a mother
must;
And she saw where the sunlight over
him streamed,
And the prayer in her heart was
the prayer of trust.
A mother believed in him, long
ago—
This is his passport to heights of
peace
Where we walk no more with error
and woe
And the pain and the travail for-
ever cease.

Only a wreck, 'mid the wrecks of
men,
Crushed in the battle; lost, for-
lorn,
Staggering on, through mire and
fen,
Yet to hope's heritage he was
born.
Make room for him, then, on the
great highway!
Whither 't will lead him we may
not know,
Out of the maze of doubt and dis-
may,
Since a mother believed in him,
long ago.
—Alfred J. Waterhouse, in Success.

"What is Asbestos?"

One of our readers asks this question, and many more would like to know something about it, if they only give the matter a thought. The constant increase of the use of it, and the growing appreciation of its value is readily acknowledged, but when one asks what it is, very few can answer the question. Encyclopaedia Britannica contains an interesting account of it, but as not all have access to the Encyclopedia, a few facts in regard to its nature may be given. It is a variety of the hornblende family of minerals, and the chemical composition of the whole family is chiefly silica, magnesia, alumina, and ferrous oxide, but varies considerably. Asbestos consists of fine crystalline elastic fibres with a silky luster, varying in color from white to gray and green, and derives its name from being espe-

cially indestructible by fire. No other product yet discovered could take its place. It has been called mineral wool, and also the connecting link between the mineral and the vegetable kingdoms. After the fibres of asbestos have been separated from their mother rock, they have a fluffy softness and whiteness much like wool or cotton, and can and have been converted into cloth. As cloth, it is impervious to fire, and is used for fire-proof theatre curtains, firemen's wear, and for gloves and shields for men working at the mouths of furnaces. In the kitchen of the home, it has become a necessity in the form of mats and sheets to be used about the stove and to set hot things on. The cloth resembles canvas, and is too coarse for curtains in the home, or women's and children's wear. Surgeons use it in making splints and dressing wounds; it needs no treatment as it is naturally clean and antiseptic. When it is to be cleaned, or purified, it has only to be thrown into the fire. The cost is rather high. Most of the rock which yields the fibre used in its manufacture is mined in Canada, on this continent, but it is also found in Tyrol, in Dauphiny, and in Scotland at several places.

Gleanings

Look at the young, eager creatures—what things of fads they are! Today they are wet to the skin in the eagerness of collecting for the aquarium; tomorrow, covered with the dust of ages in their zeal of digging into an Indian mound; next week, languid and dreamy, mooning about with books of poetry, or sitting up late in the moonlight, or taking long walks in solitude; the week after, swimming, boating, sailing, golfing like mad. You wish your boy would stick to one thing and get through with it—but that is not at all his way. You, mature human being that you are, may have reached the point where things go on to a finish, but he is in the stage of loose ends; he has not yet come to the selvage. It is not yet time for him to turn back and weave a patient thread in and out in the accepted way; he is busily flinging colored threads, intent on a gay pattern he only half knows, himself. Let him alone, keep the machinery in order, and watch for the pattern the Master is teaching him to weave. The boy who never dares venture upon inquiries of his own never truly knows anything. He is so over-taught that he is not taught at all. Let him think for himself. As soon as the dew of his young wonder has dried and he has overcome the damp of the chrysalis, he will spread his wings and, master of his own powers, will go abroad on his own quest.—Success Magazine.

The dream child is seldom found in couples, and the fact may be taken as symbolic of that pathetic isolation of childhood in a world of grown-up mysteries for which even the kindest mother usually fails to give adequate explanation. The answers given to his questionings are generally no less puzzling than the original mystery, and sends him back into his loneliness to ponder it out by himself. Surrounded with the cabalistic writing of a strange world into which he has suddenly awakened, he is lost in questioning. To the lonely thinking child, there comes an almost unbearable wist-

fulness with this impenetrable sense of solitude, and years only can stifle the constant questioning. "Why?"—Sunday Magazine.

Effect of Tea-Drinking

There are certain complaints in which the use of tea is distinctly prejudicial. In flatulent dyspepsia or indigestion accompanied by the formation of large quantities of wind or gas, it is especially injurious, and its use often greatly retards the progress of cure. Many women ruin their digestive powers by taking large quantities of weak tea three or four times a day. The excessive consumption of tea, especially when combined with a poor diet, leads to a condition of nervousness and irritability which is quite pitiable. This habit is especially prevalent among dressmakers and others whose occupations are of a sedentary nature. In the out-patient department of many hospitals the effects of excessive tea-drinking are almost as noticeable as the result of intemperance as regards alcohol, and that is saying a great deal. It is not an uncommon practice with enthusiastic students to resist the claims of the system for repose and keep themselves awake at night by the generous use of green tea. The object is attained, but at the price of destruction of health and vigor, both of body and mind, which is too often the penalty.—Medical Plain Talks.

"At Comparatively No Cost"

There is a great deal of writing done and talking indulged in, just now, on the subject of the surplus of the city going "back to the land," and many are the roseate pictures drawn to tempt them to go. One editor (who, however, does not live on the farm, and would not) tells his readers: "The American farmer can have the best the earth can produce in any quarter of the globe; can have it without asking any man what he shall eat or wherewithal he shall be clothed, for with his garden, field and orchard he can raise it at almost no cost to himself or family, and can have everything in abundance for twelve months in the year. His poultry yard will supply his table with eggs and fowls, and his dairy will furnish abundance of butter and pure milk, while his stock yard will leave nothing to be wanted in the way of meats." And we, who have "farmed," wonder where we failed!

Skirt for a Creeping Baby

Make a front and back breadth, each half a yard wide and long enough to protect the dress. Make two side breadths each nine inches long and three inches larger than the wider breadths. Make a band long enough to button around the chubby little legs. Gather each side breadth so that the material covers about two-thirds of this band, and the two ends project like a strap with button and buttonhole in the ends. Sew up the breadths and gather the top of the skirt onto a belt, with a placket and button and buttonhole in the back. Sew straps on the belt to cross back and front over the baby's shoulders; brighten the little skirt with dainty braid. Slip the skirt over the baby's head, button the belt around the waist, the straps go over the shoulders, and the bands on the side breadths but-

ton around the legs. The bottom of this little skirt to be finished with a hem.

For the Toilet

A harmless cosmetic that has stood the test of time is made as follows: Heat in a double boiler six ounces of oil of sweet almonds, and add one ounce each of spermaceti and white wax, and two ounces of lanoline; stir until the ingredients are thoroughly dissolved and blended. Remove from the fire and beat with an egg beater until cold, adding during the beating process two teaspoonfuls of simple tincture of benzoin and a drop or two of altar of roses. When cold and firm, put in a little jars or boxes and cover with tin foil, and keep in a cool place. This is called "almond cream," and is very healing and whitening, giving a soft, velvety texture to the skin, and making the skin firm. The ingredients, if bought at a large drug store would not probably cost more than a dollar, and it is not at all difficult to make. If bought ready made, this quantity would cost several dollars.

Helps for the Seamstress

Where velvet is used, in ripping the basting threads, cut them every few inches, and if a part must be altered showing stitches, or the pile of the velvet is crushed, fold a wet cloth next to the wrong side and place it close to a hot iron which is stood up on its broad end. This will steam the marks out.

Velvet seams, and sometimes cloth will not bear pressing in the usual way; but by standing a warm iron with the small end up, opening the seam with a dampened finger and running the center of the seam over the iron, the seams can be opened without marks. Velvet must not be pressed with a weight. Velvet is generally becoming to all faces, and especially to a thin, sallow face, or a fading face, as it gives a softened appearance to the skin.

In working button holes, strengthen the material around the cut portion with running stitches of thread, and carry a strand of silk or thread (to prevent the button hole from stretching) along the top of the cut while working. A regular tailor's buttonhole has a bar worked across the end.

To remedy the pulled-down look of the shirt waist shoulder seam, raise at the point of the shoulder only in front, and cut out more under the arm. Cut the neck straight around in front, not to be lowered there, or a stock collar will not fit nicely on it.

If the center of a skirt hangs too full, the other widths need raising at the top; when basting a skirt, commence at the top, and fit the skirt carefully before stitching the seams; have an easy tension on the machine to prevent drawing when stitching up the seams.

A hem on the lower edge of a skirt will not look as well as a shaped facing, and when velveteen or braid binding is used, to protect the edge, it should be allowed to project an eighth of an inch below, or it will not protect the edge.

Packing China When Moving

Have in one place all the breakables and bric-a-brac to be removed. By so doing, you can better judge just how much packing space is required, and can sort and count and recognize the condition of each piece. Get a number of empty barrels, and let them be strongly built ones, if the journey is to be long; a quantity of old papers and excelsior; or prairie hay or chaff may be used. Pack all the articles belonging together by themselves; thus, the dining room china in one barrel, the