



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
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## His First Night Away

The neighbor lad had teased, and so had he,  
Till mother sighed: "Well, if it has to be!"  
And father said: "Sure! Let him run along;  
It's so near by there's nothing can go wrong."  
So mother rolled his gown into a lump  
Smaller than one her throat held; put his comb  
In with it; and he left, with joy a-jump—  
First time he stayed all night away from home!

He choked a little when he said good-night  
To stranger-parents; and he saw a light  
Shining in his own house, two worlds away  
In the next block; then dreamed till dawning day  
That he was homeless. At their breakfast-time  
He could not eat, but made his homesick flight  
Without adieux—to him no social crime—  
When first he stayed away from home all night.

And mother met him with her arms outspread,  
And in her loving bosom hid his head  
A long, long time while neither of them stirred  
Nor anybody said a single word.  
In her a pang old as maternity  
Forewarned her of long partings that must come;  
For him had ended all eternity—  
First time he'd stayed all night away from home!

—Strickland W. Gillilan.

## Taking the Babies Out of the Home

It would seem that, with nearly everything else taken out of the home, if it is to continue, the babies might be left. But some of our "advanced thinkers" are busy planning to have the little toddlers placed under the control of the state, and removed from its mother's care about as soon as it can stand alone. In an address before the International Kindergarten Union, recently met in St. Louis, Mrs. A. G. Spencer, a prominent educator and member of the School of Philanthropy, is quoted as having urged the passage by every state of a compulsory education law, requiring that all children at the age of four years be placed in a kindergarten. Her statements were "received with prolonged applause by the 200 kindergarten teachers present, representing nearly every state in the union."

It is true that in many families, owing to many things, the mother is not the best fitted or situated for the proper care of the babies—not always because of ignorance of the physical laws, or lack of "maternal instinct," but only too often because of the failure of the father of the family to provide the necessary food, clothing and shelter, which forces the mother to become a wage-earner in order to meet the physical demands of the children. But would the few hours' attendance at the kindergarten benefit the little, love-hungry baby? Would the possible benefit compensate it for the awful agony of loneliness that little children endure during school hours,

even at a more advanced age? To say nothing of the added work to the mother, and her anxiety during its absence, what could compensate the baby for the absence of the love-element which cuddles the soft little body when tired of play, or when suffering from the aches that babies always know, and which only the mother-heart can ease. Who would watch over and understand its little wants, stimulating its physical and mental growth and intellectual gropings as only its mother can do—which no kindergarten teacher, having the care of a dozen or more on her hands, can ever realize or understand.

What do you think of it, mothers? Could you spare the baby?

## Repairing Damages

It is not yet too late to re-plant many things that were killed by our second edition of winter; the seed beds should be carefully prepared, fresh seeds sown, and tender plants reset to take the place of those our untimely March promise beguiled us into putting in the soil. Many of the shrubs and perennials will live, but not give us blossom; especially is this the case with the early blooming varieties. But with good care, they will make thrifty growth and we shall hope for better things the coming year. Many things will do well if planted up to the first or middle of June—among them the ever-blooming roses. The mail order size will make thrifty plants if cared for. Summer flowering bulbs may be planted, and annuals of the early blooming sort will give good results.

Do not forget preparations for next winter's window garden, for thought must be given to these plants during May and June, if we would have the best results. Many things may be started in the family garden and good crops result. The success of the garden—fruit, flowers or vegetables, depend in a very large measure on the "man with the hoe," or the woman who aids and abets him in his plans.

## Recipes for the Young Housewife

We have two letters from young housekeepers, asking for good recipes which a beginner may use with success. One asks for an easily made salad dressing, as she does not succeed with the mayonnaise, and she is very fond of salads. Another will be thankful for any recipes for doing up small messes of fruits and vegetables, as she will not be able to buy "so very much" this first year. Both these dear girls wish "recipes for cooking for two—just good, plain living."

## For the Warm Days

A serviceable hammock is made of two strips of denim, thirty inches wide and seven feet long; the denim is sewed together at the edges and ends, and each end is lapped over a spreader and securely sewed. The spreader is of pine or white wood, four inches wide and three-fourths of an inch thick, thirty inches in length, rounded at one edge, and six holes bored at intervals along the middle a little over four inches apart, with one hole close to each end. Knot a cotton rope at one end and pass the other through the holes, lashing from the holes to a ring located about twenty-four inches away from each end of the spreader. From these rings a double

rope can be carried up to the hammock hooks and screwed fast to the post or to the building; or the rope may be tied to trees. A coarse cotton fringe sewed along the sides will improve the looks of the hammock, but is not necessary to its usefulness.

## For the Corner

A corner cupboard or closet may be made in the hall or kitchen, or bedroom by the home mechanic, and will be found a very great convenience, wherever it is. It may consist of as many shelves as is desired, but should have at least three. It is made of three or more quarter circle boards, measuring fifteen inches on the straight sides, and three sticks or posts four feet long (or as long as the closet is desired to be high), and may be made of a board one inch thick and three inches wide. These must be fastened securely with nails or screws, to the wall, one in the corner, and one at the corner of each shelf, the shelves being either fastened to the pieces, or resting on cleats fastened to the uprights and the walls. Cover the top with oil cloth, or burlap, and tack curtains of cretonne or denim to the front for drapery.

## Mending the Under Part of a Sleeve

If the sleeve and waist are worn underneath and the cuffs frayed, mark the original position by stitching in two or three places opposite each other so the sleeve and waist may be returned to their original position; then rip the sleeve either partly or entirely out, as is necessary; remove the cuff and open the seam about two-thirds of the distance to the arm's eye. Cut a piece of material large enough to cover the worn place entirely, fold it, and baste on the very edge of the fold with small stitches. Turn the sleeve inside out, press out all the wrinkles, and cut the new material exactly like the sleeve. Cut the worn part away, overhand, and press the seams. This work may be done by machine, but is better done by hand, if the seamstress is skillful. After the patch is pressed, put on a new cuff and sew the seam, or if the sleeve has an opening on back side, instead of in the seam, the order may be reversed. The worn place under the arm is mended in almost the same way; then sew the under-arm seam, press, replace the sleeve, and if neatly done, the waist will be almost as good as new.

## Contributed Recipes

Asparagus and Peas—Mash one cupful of cooked asparagus tips with one cupful of cooked green peas; season with salt and pepper, add one-half tablespoonful of melted butter and one beaten egg; let this get cold, mold into croquettes, roll in bread crumbs, then in egg, again in bread crumbs, and fry in hot oil or fat, drain on unglazed paper, and serve at once.—Ella G., Iowa.

In cooking asparagus, cook the bunch standing up, with the tips out of the water, as, being more tender than the lower part, the steam will cook the tips while the water cooks the tough parts.

For cooking Yorkshire pudding, the dripping pan should have a rack to fit it, so the roast is above the pudding, and as it cooks, the gravy may drip down onto it. If the pan

has no rack, it will pay to have one fitted, as it may be used for many other dishes.—Mrs. E. R. California.

Yorkshire Pudding—Beat four eggs separately until very light; stir one pint of milk into the beaten yolks, add alternately the frothed white and three cupfuls of flour which has been sifted with half a teaspoonful of salt; mix quickly to a smooth batter, and half an hour before the meat is done, pour it into the pan under the beef and bake at once. Cut into strips three inches long and one inch wide and lay about the meat on the platter, or serve with the helping of the roast.—Mrs. Ella G., Iowa.

Tomato and Lettuce Salad—Peel the ripe tomatoes and set on ice until wanted. Have the fruit as perfect in form and coloring as possible. Wash and pick over the lettuce, dry and put to chill. At meal time, make a nest of the crisp lettuce leaves, slice a tomato into each nest, pour over a French dressing and serve.—Emma S., Texas.

## Removing Tattoo Marks

A reader wishes to know if this can be done, and as the method given is painful, it is better to have a physician attend to it, as it is apt to leave a scar. Apply nitric acid with the stopper of the bottle, but a better instrument would be a glass rod pointed to carry the acid; use only sufficient to cover the stain, and let the acid remain about a minute and a half, until the cutis vera is penetrated and a crusted appearance shown; then wash off with clean cold water. In a few days a scab forms which contains the tattoo mark or stain; remove the scab, and to prevent inflammation, poultice and bathe in warm water. It is best not to try to do such work one's self.

## Query Box

L. L.—White spots on the nails are said to be caused by there being too much acid in the blood. Corrugated nails are caused by nerve-exhaustion.

Housewife—The seeds of dandelion should be sown in a well made bed of rich earth early in May; best sown in drills about fifteen inches apart and thinned when well grown.

E. M.—A sack of flour weighs ninety-eight pounds, and is equivalent to half a barrel. A family that uses baker's bread generally may not find it economical to buy flour in such quantities, as it will deteriorate before it can be used.

Ella S.—For powder for the baby, use one teacupful of powdered corn starch, one cupful of pure talcum powder and two tablespoonfuls of boracic acid, sifting all together several times through a fine sieve. Get a shaker—a tin pepper box will do, and dust only a little at a time on the child.

Blanch L.—For sachets to lay among the clothing, this is nice: Mix together one pound of lavender flowers, half an ounce of lavender oil, one ounce of benzoin, and dram of musk. After thoroughly mixing, sew in little muslin sacks and lay in the bureau drawers and on the closet shelves.

Mrs. J. H.—Silk and woolen goods, even the most delicate shades, may be cleaned with soap bark by sponging or by regularly washing. It is said to be perfectly safe in all cases. A few cents worth is enough for a good deal of cleaning; can be had at any drug store, and directions for using are generally on the box or package.

Nurse—To give a "half drop" of medicine, let fall one drop in the spoon, then a drop of water; mix and give one drop of this mixture. (2) The corks should be rather large and left in boiling water for an hour,