



The Home Department

Conducted by
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"Give Thanks"

Lord, I give thanks!
Thou knowest my best ambitions
failed;
My back with scourgings of defeat
was flailed;
My eyes oft felt the sharp salt wash
of tears;
No guerdon blessed the toll of years;
Fast in the snares, my helpless feet
were tied—
Yet in my woes thou didst with me
abide.

Lord, I give thanks!
Last year my one lone ship came
home to me
A ruined wreck of what I sent to
sea;
No cargo in her hold, storm-torn
and scarred—
O, Lord, thou knowest that it was
hard
To watch her drifting hulk with
hopeless eye,
Yet in my desolation thou wert nigh.

Lord, I give thanks!
Last year the hope I held the dear-
est died;
Ah, like a desert waste became the
wide,
And weary world! Love's sweetest
star went out,
Blackness and darkness wrapped me
round about;
Yet, in the midst of my mad misery,
Thou lent'st thy rod and staff to
comfort me—

Lord, I give thanks!
—Susie M. Best, in Lippincott's.

The Effect of Dress

Some women know intuitively how to dress to the best advantage, and no matter what the material of their garments, they always manage to make a good appearance. Let the gown be simple and becoming in model and color, and it is apt to make a much better impression than one of richer material that lacks in these two requisites. The prevailing style should be followed, but in a way to bring out the personality. No matter what kind of a gown is worn, neatness in its appearance doubly increases the good effect. Color is a very important factor in becomingness. Red has a warm effect, and should be worn in cold weather. There are many shades of red, and not all of them can be worn by one person. Generally some one shade excels in suitableness. Color reveals character, too, in a great measure, and it is claimed that a true, straightforward, dependable woman likes and looks well in blue. Quiet, unobtrusive, home-loving women are said to like gray; hasty, impulsive, energetic women like red. Every woman should study to find the color which best suits her in dress, and it will generally be found that several colors or shades will suit one person, and thus there need not be a clinging to one color in every thing. To one who understands such matters, the style and manner of wearing apparel reveals indirectly the characteristics of the wearer. Clothing should be of the very best grade of material the wearer can afford, even though fewer are to be had, for where taste can be indulged, the clothing usually proclaims the woman.

With two or three nice shirtwaists, silk or messaline, or other fine goods, a nice tailored suit, plenty of neat neckwear, one can make a good appearance yet seem to have several

changes. Stocks, jabots, lace fronts and the dainty accessories so easily made by one with deft fingers and skill with the needle, add so much to one's appearance that they are a necessity, rather than a vanity.

A Correction

A reader calls our attention to the fact that the directions for making a neck-bow given in our issue of October the 7th, were faulty. Here are the corrected directions: Fold and crease the handkerchief in exact quarters; unfold, and in one crease, just an inch from the center of the handkerchief, punch a small eyelet-hole; work around half of this eyelet nearest the center of the handkerchief (this is done to stay the angle, which cannot be hemmed around), and then cut the cloth from the eyelet through the hem on the shortest crease. Neatly hem the raw edges on both sides of the cut; this will give you a hemmed slit or slash on one side of the handkerchief. Plait the lower half of the handkerchief, which will be deeper than the half that is slashed, and form a jabot; tie the two ends of the upper half in a single knot, drawing it straight and firm, to form the bow above the jabot.

Aged Men and Women

A reader, who is something of an observer, wishes to know why it is that women, who age very fast in the early years after middle age is past, do not break down as fast as men, though men hold their age better up to and some years past middle age. This answer is given by one who professes to be an authority on such matters. It is claimed that women retain their vitality and youthful spirits much longer than do men. The burden of life falls from them gradually, and the peace of retirement from active duties comes upon them by littles and almost imperceptibly; when their own cares are ended, they live in the lives of their children; they grow into the new condition naturally, and unconsciously adapt themselves to it. Man, on the other hand, must often suffer at once the shock of laying down the business to which his life has been devoted, and afterwards there is less to tie him to existence. When he lays down his business from whatever cause, he is apt to lay down with it his interest in life, and he lays down life itself soon after. He has not the adaptability to fit himself for other interests, and sinks under the loss.

Telling Fortunes

A pretty and amusing feature of the holiday entertainments is the telling of fortunes by tea-leaves. Rub the leaves up fine, put into the pot and pour boiling water over them, just as you would make tea at any time, only, it need not be very strong. The tea must not be strained when poured into the cups, but the pot should be gently shaken to stir up the grounds just before filling the cup. When the cup is drained, move it rapidly about to spread the grounds, drain any moisture off, and turn it quickly upside down in the saucer, moving it around slowly three times, making a wish each time it is turned. The omens are found in the lines and figures assumed by the grounds. The one whose fortune is to be told must drain the cup. The fortune teller

should have considerable imagination in order to "see things" not visible to others. Straight lines and squares indicate peace and happiness. Long lines indicate long lives, more or less troubled according to whether broken, clear or clouded. A crown indicates honor; birds bring good news; a single tree denotes health; flowers are signs of joy and health; an anchor denotes success in business; a triangle foretells a journey and an unexpected legacy; a serpent is for an enemy; long, wavy lines denote loss and vexation; a lily at the rim of the cup denotes a happy marriage, as do a ring or circle; if clouds are about the ring, trouble and unhappiness; if clear, happiness. A clover leaf is good luck; the figure of a man or woman indicates a visitor, or news of a friend. A small square signifies a letter; if surrounded by dots, it brings money or good fortune; surrounded by clouds, bad tidings and loss. One with the gift of seeing and imagining can make the feature very popular.

For the Toilet

Where soap does not agree with the skin, almond meal may be used to cleanse the face. Here is a good formula: Four ounces of powdered orris root, four ounces of wheat flour, one ounce powdered castile soap, one ounce of finely powdered borax, ten drops of oil of bitter almonds, two fluid drams of the oil of bergamot. Mix well and strain through cheese cloth; use in place of a toilet soap.

The use of face powder is claimed by many to be beneficial, but the benefit depends on the skin; it does not always suit a very dry skin, and it should in all cases be preceded by the application of a skin food or a cream of some sort; animal fats in creams should be avoided as it is claimed that where there is a tendency to superfluous hair, the animal fat increases it. This may or may not be true. The cream should be rubbed well into the skin, left for some time, then rubbed off and the powder applied carefully, and the skin rubbed down well with a piece of soft chamois skin. Nothing injures the skin more than the cheap, impure powders, and one must be careful to get a good brand.

A soap made with olive oil should be selected for daily toilet use, and soap of any kind should be used only when it must be. Little bags filled with oat meal or rolled oats are very cleansing in place of soap, and the use leaves the skin soft and nice. If the skin is inclined to scaliness and dryness, a good quality of cold cream should be used freely on it. A half teaspoonful of cow's cream is a fine emollient. If going out into the sharp cold, cream and powder protects the skin, forming a mask that effectually prevents roughness or chapping. For the woman who stays in the house constantly, nothing is better, and a veil should always be worn.

A girl should be encouraged to take care of her face and hands, and taught how to do it. Careless girls make unsightly women.

For Chapped Hands

Several letters ask for remedies for chapped and cracked hands, which the cold, wet weather is sure to bring to the outdoor worker. Night is the best time to remedy the neglect of the day, and the work should be

done as soon as the out-door work is ended; at least before going to bed. The general health has something to do with the tendency to chaps and cracks that some people suffer from. But generally, it is the result of circumstances and neglect. Before going to bed, give your hands a good soaking in rather warm water in which a little borax has been dissolved—a teaspoonful to a basin half full of water. Then, while the hands are still wet, soap them well with a good, vegetable-oil soap, and take up a handful of corn meal and rub and scrub them, just as you would with soap alone, without further wetting until the soap looks dirty and the hands clean; then rinse well in tepid clear water, and rub well with corn-meal moistened with cider vinegar. Both the meal and the vinegar are healing, and the acid kills the alkali of the soap. Dry them well, and rub into the skin some good cold cream—mutton tallow, with a little camphor stirred into it, is as good as the best. If the hands are quite sore, and the tallow does not "soak in" readily, wear a pair of cotton gloves—home-made are as good as any. If the hands are troubled with "hang nails," which is the ragged edges of the flesh about the nail, press the edge back gently with the thumb nail while the hands are moist, and rub plenty of the mutton tallow in about the edge. The cuticle about the sides and root of the nail has a sort of "selvedge edge," and this breaks and "ravels" back into the flesh if not cared for, making the fingers quite sore at times.

For the deep cracks, have a bit of black harness or shoe wax; heat it in the flame of a candle or lamp, and let drop, burning hot, along the crack until it is well covered, then lay a bit of muslin or tissue paper over it to keep it from sticking to anything else. This is healing, and will stop the pain at once.

Caring for Bulbs and Tubers

When the tuberous begonia bulbs begin to lose their leaves, dry the bulbs off and store in a box of clean sand and keep in a warm place, ready for early planting in the spring.

After the first frost, lift the dahlia roots when the ground is quite wet, and keep the clod of earth on them; store in a frost-proof cellar; the earth will dry on the roots and preserve them.

Let the crinum stay in a tub of soil and keep in a warm room or cellar. Most kinds should be dried off and stored in sand.

The Amaryllis Johnsoni is a winter blooming bulb, and should be kept slightly moist in a warm place until it shows signs of growth, about January 1, when it should be potted and given very little water, increasing the amount as the growth increases. The bulb must not be potted too early, or only leaves will result. The flower-bud is usually the first to appear.

Caladium bulbs should be lifted as soon as the frost kills the leaves, and allowed to dry off, cutting the leaf-stalks off, and the bulb should be buried in sand and kept in a temperature of about 50 degrees. If the bulbs begin to shrivel, the sand must be moistened—not wet, as too much moisture will cause decay, while too much dry will start the dry rot in the bulb.

Gladioli bulbs should be dug and let dry, then stored in paper bags and kept in a frost proof place. The spotted calla is hardy in most of the middle states, and may be left in the ground; but it needs protection. When lifted, it should be stored like gladioli bulbs, but kept in a rather moist atmosphere. It is a summer bloomer.

Don't neglect planting the hardy bulbs that are to make your borders