



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## BYE-LO-LAND

### Cradle Song

Baby is going to bye-lo-land,  
Going to see the sights so grand.  
Out of the sky the wee stars peep,  
Watching to see her fast asleep,  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Baby is safe in  
Bye-lo-land,  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Baby is safe in  
Bye-lo-land.

Oh, the bright dreams in Bye-lo-land,  
All by loving angels planned,  
Soft little lashes downward close,  
Just like the petals of a rose.  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Prettiest eyes in  
Bye-lo-land!  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Prettiest eyes in  
Bye-lo-land!

Sweet is the way to Bye-lo-land,  
Guided by mother's gentle hand,  
Little lambs now are in the fold,  
Little birds nestle from the cold.  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Baby is safe in  
Bye-lo-land!  
Swing so! Bye-lo! Baby is safe in  
Bye-lo-land!

Answering the call from Mrs. N. P., of Kansas, for the above words, we are indebted to Mrs. Ruth Bartlett, Whitesville, N. Y.; Mrs. Eleanor D. Smith, of Colorado Springs, Colo., (who tells us "This was my favorite cradle song for each of my seven children"); Mrs. C. F. Grear, Jonesboro, Ill.; Mrs. C. S. Hollis, and Mrs. J. B. Lewis, from St. Louis, Mo. Our thanks are due to each of these friends for the kindness.

### The Christmas Season

The year now closing down amid the "sounds of revelry" always to be heard at the season of Christmas good will, has brought to many of our readers much of joy and thankfulness, while to others it has been shadowed by sorrows and losses. We can not wish a "Merry Christmas" to all, for to some, the wish would seem a mockery. But we do wish, most sincerely, that to each and every one of our readers may come the joy of having done well the duties of life, and that they may have health of body and spirit to go through the coming year, doing good unto others, and trying to live, as well as to say, the good wishes that now, in this festival season, spring so joyously to their lips. May you all have a happy, wholesome, satisfactory Christmas, and carry its spirit with you throughout the coming year.  
H. W. M.

### The Church House

Every effort should be made to keep the church clean inside, and its grounds, outside, if it have any, attractive and in good order. Inside, there should be as much care observed in the matter of dirt, as in the home. There should be scrapers and door mats at the door for the removal of mud, or other dirt clinging to the foot wear. The disgusting habit of spitting on the floor is dying out, even in country places, but it should die faster. Very little less objectionable is the cuspidor, and this, too, should have no place in the church room. If the men do not respect themselves, so far as habits and cleanliness is in question, they should at least be made to respect the house of God. It would be a fine thing if the men of the family should spend a few hours weekly, if not daily, in read-

ing the Bible. Instead of dozing over the fire, or going to the village store to pass the time, it would be a sensible idea for them to hunt out a few answers to questions of respect toward the church house, and learn from the Bible that cleanliness is not only a command, but a demand. Then, too, if there is no house of worship, there should be one; the school building should afford a temporary meeting place, and it would be a good idea, when planning and building the school house, to plan also and build in connection with it a hall to be used for religious, social and educational purposes. The only house of worship the Bible describes was the temple at Jerusalem, and every precious thing, gold, silver, copper, ivory, precious stones, silken goods, costly woods, were all largely used in the building. They will learn, too, that it almost exhausted the treasures of the kingdom; but it was done at the express command of the Divine Architect. When we have done our best, nothing more is required of us; but after the house is set to order, it should be made a real house of the Lord, to which each and every one may come, sure of a blessing. Show the spirit of loving kindness in your treatment of all who enter in, no matter the cut of the garment, or the style of the fashion. It is the spirit that should be met, not the clothes of the body.

### Gleanings

The demand for mothers' pensions is being made by several states, and it is a right move. It is extremely hard for a mother, whether or not a widow, to do battle with the world for a lot of little children, to give them the right attention and at the same time feed and clothe them. The cry of "race suicide" has somewhat subsided, and it was a senseless cry from the start, for there were so many little children being thrown on the world without adequate provision being made for them, that the question should have been and still should be, "How are we to care for the little ones we now have with us," not, "how shall we increase the number?" In Illinois, the pension is paid, no matter if the father is alive, if he does not help to support the children from any cause; in St. Louis, the ordinance is that a woman must be a widow, in order to be eligible for the pension. This is not fair to either the child, the mother, or to the father. The father should be forced, by the state to earn something, and devote his earnings to his family. It is argued that if a mother could draw a pension for each child, the father being still alive, many more men would forsake their families. But the majesty of the law should reach out and force those deserting fathers to help pay the pension, if no other way than in the penitentiary, or the work house. If the father finds he can not live with the mother, he is, or should be, still responsible for the needs of his children, and he should be forced to realize the fact by the laws of the state. No wonder women shrink from motherhood, in the face of such conditions as now prevail. It is a costly thing to rear a child—just food and clothing, to say nothing of schooling, and care. Then, too, conditions are such that one never knows what may happen to the child, even in the home. If little

children can be taken from the mother's care merely because she is poor, or unable physically to do her housework, and the mother be forced to give up her children for this cause, what one of us, so situated, but would choose to have no children, rather than to be thus tortured?

### The "Last Things"

In the hurry and worry that has become so large a part of the holiday season, many things may be overlooked, or put off, from day to day, until, at the last moment, everything seems to crowd everything else. In the matter of mince meats, if you have not made a supply, a very good article, to serve as a foundation of a better, may be had of first-class grocery stores. To this may be added cider, either sweet or boiled, to give it the right flavor, then, fruits of various kinds finely chopped, and it is seldom that more spices are needed. In the "ready-made mince meats, there are frequently stems and large pieces of cinnamon bark, whole cloves more than one wants, and these should be carefully picked out. There should be plenty of "filling" in the pie, and when served it should be hot clear through. It may be made several days before using and the pies baked to be reheated. There are many recipes for fruit cake that may be made at the last moment, and will be just as much liked as the more expensive kind made several days before.

If you find yourself too hurried to do all you intended to do, just cut down the list of "things," and do what you can. Any one whose opinion is worth having will appreciate yourself, and your society much more than an overplus of food stuffs. Do not try to do all the entertaining yourself; let your guests entertain each other part of the time. Let the social features predominate. Don't force your guests to listen to the children's practicing, or "speaking pieces," and remember that even a paper, or story, or poem written or selected by one of them, may be exceedingly tiresome to the rest of the company. In these days, when every home is crowded with literature, one can do their own reading at home, and nearly every one likes to talk or listen in such gatherings.

### What the Farm Women Are Doing

The second International Farm Woman's congress was held in Lethbridge, Canada, October 22-25, 1912. To co-operatively handle the problems of the home interests is what this congress aims to do. The International Farm Women's Press Association is an auxiliary to the congress, and was organized last year at Colorado Springs, with 11 charter members, and closed its first year with 62 members. The 11 women who were the charter members felt that upon them as farm-paper women devolved a great responsibility in exploiting and promoting the work which the congress aims to do among women in rural communities. To this end, they organized themselves into this Auxiliary Press association. Its aim is to count among its members the home conductor of every agricultural, horticultural, poultry and bee paper in the country, as well as all prominent contributors to those papers. Through their columns it believes it can reach out and touch the rural

women as they can be reached in no other way. They can acquaint them with the work as it is being done in other parts of the country; can gather information from their own and different localities to pass on to the headquarters of their press association. This in turn can be used as a resource from which to draw to keep up active and continued reports of interest between the parent association—the congress—and the farm women readers. The underlying purpose of the International Farm Women's congress and its Auxiliary Press association, is to make a network of neighborhood clubs. The town and city women have heretofore had about all the benefits of these clubs, or gatherings of women for mutual improvement and for betterment of the home and social interests, but the rural sisterhood is now awakening to the importance of social exchange, collecting and distributing ideas, facts and methods, and developing the social side of life in order to intelligently prepare their children for the work that is now falling to the hands of the coming generations.

### Keeping the Water Supply Clean

A writer on hygiene tells us (what we already know) that "There is scarcely a settlement or village but has its water-course fouled by the lazy and ignorant inhabitants who use them as a receptacle for every and all kinds of filth and abomination, and the waters of which are still used for domestic purposes, if not for slaking thirst." It is not an easy matter to detect impurities, even for the skilled chemist and microscopist; the most dangerous impurities are so hidden that all the light of science has scarcely been able to show them as they are. They are the pestilences that walk in darkness. But there are many pollutions which show up so glaringly that they should be suppressed, and the sources removed. Solid impurities may be removed by filtration, and we have filters of every size and price and degree of efficiency; but too much faith must not be put in filtration to the neglect of precautionary measures. Disease germs do not seem to be stopped by any amount of filtration, although this method of purification is of undoubted utility. An old, unclean filter may of itself become a serious menace. The boiling of water is recommended and often resorted to, and does destroy organic matter and perhaps certain kinds of germs. But many germs resist the boiling temperature of water, and water that has been boiled is not palatable, and not regarded as entirely wholesome, as all gases are removed. Some authorities contend that only distilled water should be used for domestic purposes and cookery, and there are many distilling devices on the market. But whatever one does, it seems to be established as a fact that water, once fouled, can not be cleansed again with any degree of certainty. Much of the offending element can not well be kept from the supply of water, as seepings, drainage through decomposing vegetable matter, as well as through decomposing insect and animal matter, but everything that can be done should be done, and the people taught to look upon the matter as one of life and death, or at least, disease.

### Dry-Cleaning of Garments

For articles that can not be "tubbed" for various reasons, dry-cleaning is a very effective method of removing many spots and soiled places. Delicate fabrics and colors, materials that shrink, garments too heavy to handle, such as men's clothing, and many other things where wetting is not advisable may be cleaned effectually by the use of