



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKey

Constancy

Just over the dead-black crest
Of the bare hill-top one star has rest,
And sparkles and glows in the yellow west.
Almost the silent night has come;
Long sweeps of reedy marsh lie dumb
Below the gull's flight and the gnat's low hum.
She stands beside the sea—
Watching the night about to be;
Watches the breakers break and form and flee.
She calls, "O, love, wherever you abide,
I know, with happy, thankful pride,
You yearn to linger at my loving side.
You yearn to see my face,
In whatsoever strange, fair place.
You can not rest, across such space."
So, bound with love's dear bond,
She makes her murmur, proud and fond
To him who tarries leagues and leagues beyond.
And he? In far, warm lands,
Near a great, star-light cypress stands—
Prisoning within his own two slim brown hands!

—Edgar Fawcett.

The Lark is Up to Meet the Sun

"The lark is up to meet the sun,
The bee is on the wing;
The ant its labor has begun
The woods with music ring.

Shall ants, and birds, and bees be wise

While I my moments waste?
O, let me with the morning rise
And to my duty haste."

I enclose poem called for by Mrs. M. Robinson. I have not seen it in print for thirty years, but know it by heart, and take pleasure in sending it. I am quite sure it has but two stanzas. Yours very truly,
PERRY BEHYMER.

Many thanks.

The Housewife's Burden

While every one is rejoiced at the coming of spring time, it is not with unmixed pleasure that the housewife looks ahead across the frost line. The spring sunshine shows up every damaged, every dingy spot and corner, and every inch of the house and grounds is screaming for attention. The winter has brought little rest to most housewives, and it requires courage to face the work staring at her on every hand. What can she do? There are but few things she can shirk without discomfort to all her household, and it is usually impossible to hire any help. There are thousands of labor-saving devices on the market; but every one of them has a price tag attached, and there is seldom any money at this season, and but little income. There is but one thing to do, and that is, whenever there is an hour that the men folks and children can give to her service, insist on having the help they can give. Most women attend to the poultry, and more than ought to attend to putting in the garden, besides the inevitable work of feeding the healthy appetites of the family and looking after all the other departments of the home. This is too much. If every housewife could have a washing machine that could be run by power, a mangle, a self-heating flatiron, and a few such things, her work would

be much simplified. If there is a gasoline motor on the farm, much labor could be taken from the house; but if there is not then the washing machine by hand-power, and the self-heating flatiron should certainly be furnished. Women's physical health is held too cheaply on the farm and in the village. It is the most valuable asset the husbandman can have, and should be conscientiously conserved. Yet how seldom is it valued at even a tithe of its worth!

The Family Garden

If you have ever so little a plot of ground, try to have something growing in the way of vegetables. When you are planting a garden you are working for health, for no drugs are so effective to keep the system in order as vegetables and fruits freely used as foods. You will never know until you have tried, and tried faithfully, what a lot of things can be grown on a small space of ground. All the lettuce you want, and all the radishes you will care for will grow in one little pocket-handkerchief back yard, if you will give the soil manure and moisture along with all the sunshine you can catch. Something will grow there, and it might as well be vegetables as weeds and old tin cans. A few rows of carrots, beets, onions, lettuce, radishes, spinach, and other things will furnish many good, healthful meals. Carrots are good young or old, and beets are most wholesome; nothing excels the onion, even in its odor; but it certainly is "good medicine." Keep the ground busy, and plant other seeds as soon as one crop is removed. Fertilizers are readily bought of the seedsmen, but if you can get old, well-rotted manure from the barnyard, that is best. Do not use fresh manure, for that gives the flies a breeding place, and does no good. It must be well rotted, so as to mingle at once with the soil. If you have a few chickens, mix the droppings with wood ashes, coal ashes, soil, or otherwise, but do not use it fresh on the garden by itself. It is very strong. Many seedsmen offer collections of seeds for the home garden at very reasonable prices; but be sure to deal with reliable seedsmen. Cheap seeds, offered by irresponsible persons on the street or through the mails, are not to be recommended. Get of reliable firms. Just try the little garden in the back yard, and keep the soil at work, crop after crop; but feed the soil as it is expected to feed you.

The Milk We Use

The most progressive and best informed of veterinarians say that about one cow in every thousand, by actual count, shows traces of tuberculosis in her milk. They tell us, too, that this disease may be transmitted to human beings through the medium of milk, and claim that this has been proven beyond a doubt. But only those persons who are susceptible, or whose digestive organs are weak, are likely to contract tuberculosis in this way. The dangers from associating with tuberculosis people in public places or in private, from street dust, and such menaces, are far greater than from milk. It has been proven, they claim, that tuberculosis cows, so proven by tuberculosis test, do not produce tuberculosis milk so long

as the disease does not affect the udder. Knowing this, and recognizing the energetic measures being taken in various parts of the country to weed out the diseased cattle, one can judge how few are the chances which a person runs of contracting tuberculosis through milk. Many people prefer the evaporated, or canned milk, because of its being sterilized, and its use is increasing rapidly.

Window Boxes

Many housewives can not have a garden—a flower garden—for want of space, or for some other reason. These should try the window box. All kinds of annuals can be grown in one of these, and they are very ornamental if taken care of. Vines are also used in these boxes, especially those that hang down instead of climb. If you do not know just what kind of plants to grow in these window boxes, write to your florist, telling him what care you can give the boxes, and whether there will be much or little sunshine for them. Many plants may be started now, indoors, and as soon as the season is advanced enough, the plants can be transferred to the window box.

Head-wear

We are all interested in the new hats for spring, and as not all of us can visit the "openings," we must turn to the fashion magazines. Just now, the day-time hats are small; a great many are of the toque order, and these are unusually long from the back to the front, and quite narrow. The larger hats will doubtless appear with the warm weather. There are very narrow brims with round crowns of fine braid; tam o'shatter crowns of satin or velvet come with brims of straw or horse-hair braid; the trimming is to be simple, with under-facings of brims with silk or velvet. The trimming is always aggressively upstanding, back, front, or side. Dark colors, softened with pastel tones are used; trimmings cover the whole millinery range, feathers, quills, plumes, wings, looped bows, ribbon, silk, bands of embroidery, beads, and moisture-proof malines. A widespread movement is on foot to do away with feathers of certain kinds.

Fashion Forecasts

The narrow skirt still rules, but there is a slight change in the shaping which gives an appearance of greater width. Skirts which last years sloped in toward the feet were much ridiculed, besides being very uncomfortable, and the breadth at the feet has been extended to make a straight line from the hip, and this gives a more reasonable and graceful outline. Inset pleats, very flat and taped underneath, are seen, but the pleats must show no flaring. The average width for a medium figure is two yards.

Long sleeves promise to be the rule, the wrist-length and even longer being most popular for daytime. There is unusual liberty of choice in the matter of neck finish; decorative neckwear is varied from the smartest bows to vest-like pieces of pleated net with buttons and huge reverses of shadow lace.

Combinations of fabrics grow more pronounced, heavy materials being used with the light-weights. Crepe weaves, velveteens, corduroys, broad cloths, whipcords, serges, pop-

lins, are all favorites. Charmeuse and messalines in silks are much used, as they drape so beautifully. Odd drapings are seen on many skirts.

Shirtwaists do not go out of vogue, although the one-piece garment is still the favorite. Long draperies, short ones and one-sided draperies, clinging and slender of line are most fashionable. The pleated skirt which is now seen is not the old, flowing skirt which measured yards and yards about the hem. The new one is scant and slender, with the pleats perfectly flat and under-taped; side-pleats, box-pleats and inserted sections are also seen, but the pleats are shallow and held firmly in place by tapes underneath; three and one-half yards at the lower edge, when the pleats are drawn out, is the medium width. A serviceable model has the seams all tuck-edged, and each ends in a side-pleat, lending ease to the lower edge, and a medium-sized skirt is two and one-quarter yards at the bottom.

Need of Responsibility

The Woman's Magazine has this to say, and it meets the views of a large number of the "common people" who have no "axe to grind," or salary to draw, but who do have the training of a family of children, with their best interests at heart: "The time to commence training boys and girls for responsibility is when they are tiny tots; it is not necessary to wait until they are older. * * * Responsibility on the part of children is almost a thing of the past. When they are not in school, they have so little to fill their day that time hangs heavy on their hands. After they have their lessons they occasionally do an errand for mother or a neighbor, and there their compulsory activity ends. Even play appears as a task. With no incentive to healthy work and play, is it surprising that by the time these boys and girls are men and women they learn to avoid irksome tasks and are continually hunting for something new to interest them and while away their time? This is not strange, for habits we must have; the question is only whether habits shall be good or bad, and this is decided largely through responsibilities or lack of responsibilities in childhood. Some cares and struggles are as necessary for normal development as pleasures. Most children are naturally little helpers; they love to assist, and only need encouragement to have this desire developed. * * * Certain work should be demanded of children as they grow older; play belongs to child-life and is necessary, but little folks should be taught that not all their time can be spent in play."

In almost every home there are enough chores and little jobs to keep the young people busy part of the time, and these bits of work should be given them, and they made to feel responsible for the right-doing of whatever is intrusted to them. It is far better than to allow them—boys and girls—to spend all their hours out of school in the street. Make them understand from the first that the well-doing of the work depends on them, and they must not shirk it.

For the Laundry

The "spring openings" in the household, as well as at the stores are due about now, and there is a general overhauling of the last year's clothing. Much must be discarded, for various reasons, but many things may be made over by a ripping apart, sponging or washing, dyeing, or combining with something else. Then there are the new things that just must be had. If you have plenty of money in your