



The Home Department

Conducted by
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The Cry of the Dreamer

I am tired of planning and toiling
In the crowded haunts of men;
Heart-weary of building and spoiling,
And spoiling and building again.
And I long for the dear old river
Where I dreamed my life away;
For a dreamer lives forever,
And a toiler dies in a day.

I am sick of the showy seeming
Of a life that is half a lie;
Of the faces lined with scheming
In the throng that hurries by.
From the sleepless thoughts' endeavor,
I would go where the children play;
For a dreamer lives forever,
And a thinker dies in a day.

I can find no pride, but pity,
For the burdens the rich endure;
There is nothing sweet in the city
But the patient lives of the poor.
O, the little hands too skillful,
And the child-mind choked with weeds!
The daughter's heart grown willful,
And the father's heart that bleeds.

No, no! from the street's rude bustle
From trophies of mart and stage,
I would fly to the woods' low rustle,
And the meadow's kindly page.
Let me dream, as of old, by the river,
And be loved for the dream always;
For a dreamer lives forever,
And the toiler dies in a day.

—John Boyle O'Reilly.

The Window Box

If you can not have the old-time flower garden, out in the spacious "yards," you can still have the flowers growing, and beautifying the home. There are few things more decorative than a well-cared-for window box, and it is not necessarily an expensive affair; the simplest construction of the home mechanic is as effective as the finest "store" offering. A box may be got at the store that will just fit into the window, or it may have to be cut down, or one may be built of good, one-inch lumber; the length of the window, and about ten inches wide, with a depth of eight to ten inches, is a good size; this will hold enough soil for the plants. There must be drainage provided, and the drainage should not depend on the open joints of the box; all the seams should be packed with moss, or otherwise filled and tightened, making the boxes as near water-tight as may be. As a precaution against flooding in rainy spells, a drainage should be provided by making a small hole at the bottom of the box, and when not needed, keep it plugged. An interlining of zinc may be used, but is not necessary. As the soil must be adapted to a variety of plants, and must be very rich, pains should be taken to have it right. One part of old, decayed sod or rich garden loam, one part leaf mold, and one part rich, old, well-rotted manure, and a little sharp sand, will make a good compost.

For the front of the box, trailing plants should be used, and trailing fuschia, ivy geranium, tradescantia, ground ivy, trailing abutilon, are good. German ivy is a sturdy grower, and very beautiful. For filling, the plants must be chosen to suit the exposure, while those demanding heat and sunshine must

have the south and west exposure. Nasturtiums are fine for trailing, as also are verbenas, trailing alyssum and the various lobelias. When you have your box and soil ready, ask the florist to give you a list of suitable plants for the situation you can give them.

Here and There

When you are making garden, don't overlook the fact that the old folks are partial to the garden cress, or peppergrass grown in the lettuce bed, and a salad in which it is used with lettuce, with a sprinkle of chive tops, seasoned with salt, vinegar and pepper, is very satisfactory to their palate. The peppergrass may be sown with the lettuce, or by itself, and the chives make a very pretty border for the garden bed, besides serving as a flavoring vegetable.

A row of parsley planted around the garden bed, or along the border of the walks, is ornamental, as well as furnishing garnishing for dishes served on the table. Many things can be raised on a few feet of ground if one only takes thought to plant them.

For the house plants, have a set of shelves made like a step-ladder; boxes of rich earth may be set on the shelves, and the boxes should be painted—green or red is a good color, or yellow is pleasing to the eye. Fasten the ladder to the window or fence, or have a supporting frame at the back of the shelves. Plant flowers in the boxes that bloom freely, and you can move your flower garden to whatever location you wish. This will give you plenty of color, and make the premises very attractive. Any one can make the ladder-shelves, as they are concealed by the foliage. Have trailing plants at the sides to droop over the sides of the boxes.

Nothing rests a woman more, or quicker, when tired of housework or sewing, than to get out into the garden; most of women prefer the flower garden, because every woman is in some degree a beauty-lover; but the vegetable garden is attractive, too, and while it should not be turned over to the housewife as a responsibility, and as her particular care, it is more often than not a pleasure to her to get among the plants with hoe and trowel. Every "green thing growing" is a bit of life, and awakens the maternal in the women as she watches the baby plants develop. There is no nerve more effectual.

Timely Suggestions

For the care of your rose bushes, cut this out and paste it where you will know where to find it. Whether any insects appear, or not, the application is beneficial, and in no sense harmful. After a shower, or in the morning while the dew is still on the foliage, have plenty of wood ashes sifted to remove clinders and dead coals, and sprinkle the fine ashes all over the foliage, underside as well as upper. Much of the ashes will stick to the leaves and stems, but some of it will fall to the ground and act as a fertilizer. Meantime, have the soil well fed by working into it well-rotted cow's manure. Where this can not be done, a good top dressing of cow's manure in the fall will act beneficially. If the ashes are applied before insect pests make their appearance, one or two

applications will be enough, but if the insects have already become numerous, several applications at intervals may be necessary. Examine the rosebushes as soon as the leaves are out and apply the ashes. The stronger the ashes, the better insecticide they are.

Another remedy is, make a strong tea of quassia chips, which can be had of the druggist for a few cents, and add to this half as much lye made of wood ashes; apply this mixture with a garden syringe, or by sprinkling with any convenience of the kind, having it as hot as the hand can bear. A few applications, with an interval of several days between, will prove an effectual remedy, not only for rose troubles, but for insects on other plants. Begin the warfare early, and control the situation.

Another remedy, which is good for all kinds of soft-skinned insects, is a tea made of quassia chips, adding soft soap to make a suds, then coal oil, to form an emulsion, applying the mixture at hand-heat, with a fine-rose sprinkler. It is effectual.

Information Asked For

Caviar is a relish made from the roe or spawn of the sturgeon, and is especially liked in Russia. In answer to a querist, we quote the following: "The finest caviar is the bieluga, prepared from the roe of the white sturgeon; less fine is the sevruga prepared from the sterlet sturgeon. Both are put up at Astrakhan, Russia. According to reports, the roe is rubbed through a sieve with care not to break the grain; it falls into brine where it remains for three or four hours, after which it is packed in sacks and allowed to drain. This is the only preparation given to the best caviar; the cheaper varieties are more strongly salted. It is dried after salting. Caviar is used as a relish or condiment, and is one of the finest forms of nourishment for the sick, as it digests easily. Ways of using are given in most of cook books."

Chicory is used largely as an adulterant of coffee, but it is claimed by many that it is an improvement to the beverage, and acts as a tonic. The roots of the plant are roasted and ground and added to the coffee berry. The endive is of the same family. Many people like a small quantity of chicory with the coffee, as it gives the beverage a much richer color and finer flavor.

The usual cause of cake being coarse-grained is lack of sufficient beating when in the dough state. Much beating gives the dough a fine, close texture, and when insufficiently beaten, the texture is coarse and porous.

Paraffine is one of the products of coal tar; and is obtained by distillation. It is useful in many ways, and is not expensive. Paraffin oil is also a product of coal, is very fluid, and lighter than water, and is used for illuminating purposes; it has many uses also in the household. Paraffin wax is a hardened substance.

Odds and Ends

While the spring sewing, house cleaning, and various other industries are demanding attention at this time, there is nothing more urgent than the call of the garden. If seeds are not sown, plants set out, soil put into good condition in the right season, there is no way of catching

up with the work. For the next month at least, there is work that can not be delayed. Every home garden, even the small one, should have a collection of herbs, for the home-grown and cured, if care is taken, are always better than the store goods. Savory, sage, borage, fennel, anise, dill, and several others are usually the most common, but many people like coriander and caraway seeds. Some of these are annuals, others perennials, while quite a few of them obligingly "seed themselves," and should be given a place of their own.

Many things should be sown now for "greens," and as soon as their growth renders them unfit for such use, dig up the ground and plant to something else. In the summer or early fall, the same things may be sown again for late greens, while some of them should be planted quite late in order for a very quick growth in the early spring. Look over your catalogue, and study up for the garden. Be sure you have a bed of mint, for a handful of nice mint leaves helps out many a dish that lacks only its flavoring.

You are missing one of the most excellent of spring medicines if you have no rhubarb in the garden. The early growth is the best, and it brings a good price in the market. When it gets cheap, we don't care so much for it. A few roots set in very rich ground will give enough for a large family. Remember that the soil will grow something, if only weeds and grass, and it might as well grow eatables, and thus eke out a slim pocketbook. The gude mon needs the hour's exercise after his day's work is done, and the boy might put in a few spare minutes—if he can be kept off the street that long.

Some Things Worth Knowing

A splendid scouring soap is made by melting two bars of any good laundry soap together with one pint of very fine, sifted sand, one-fourth pound of good slaked lime and a pound package of baking soda. This makes a good soap for scouring floors, kitchen tables, and other unpainted articles. It does not injure the hands, and can be used as soft soap, or cooked long enough to harden into bars.

In washing delicate articles, it is best to use suds instead of soaps. To make the suds, cut the soap into small pieces and dissolve it in a small amount of boiling water; be sure to use enough water to thoroughly dissolve the soap; then when it is cool, add the soap jelly to tepid water sufficient to wash the garment, and stir until a good lather results, in which the garment should be washed quickly, rubbing the soiled places with the hands, not using the board except for the edges or hems if very much soiled. Rinse well through two or three waters.

For many rugs, the only way to clean them is to wash them, but their weight makes this hard to do. If the rug is large, peg it down securely to the ground where there is a good, grassy sod, and with a large scrubbing brush and plenty of good soap suds, scrub it thoroughly, going over it several times with care and thoroughness; then, when it is clean, turn the garden hose on it and rinse until the soap suds is all rinsed out of it. If the rug is small, it can be laid on a table and scrubbed in the same way, and for the rinsing, can be pinned to the clothes line along the side, using plenty of pins, and rinsed with the hose.

To clean yellow piano keys, use powdered whiting moistened with lemon juice, let the paste remain on the keys for an hour, then dust off with a piece of chamois skin, being careful to keep the mixture from getting between the keys. If the piano