



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Little Master

The Little Master lies so still,
With quiet hands and folded eyes;
It can not be it is his will
To let the bright hours slip away,
Forsaking all his merry play—
It is a strange and sad surprise!

The Little Master sleeps so deep.
He does not list to any call;
He does not hear his mother weep,
Or hear the happy robins sing,
He takes no heed of anything—
We can not wake him up at all!

The Little Master sleeps so long;
The day and night to him are one.
No evening prayer, or morning song,
Or tripping feet adown the stair,
Or ringing laughter anywhere—
His little joyous time is done!

Oh, Little Master, still and cold,
Fairer than all the fair, you lie
This last hour in the dear home-fold,
And then your couch a low, green
bed,
With sweet flowers strewn above
your head—
Oh, Little Boy, good-by, good-by!
—Emma A. Lente in Farm Journal.

Aid for the Deaf

Some weeks ago, I was in company with several persons who were so unfortunate as to have defective hearing, and there were several mechanical appliances for their relief among the afflicted ones. But one of these appliances was so simple, so inexpensive, and so easily and effectively used that I must tell you about it, with the permission of the lady who used it. Get of the fancy-work store, or at any other place where you can find it for sale, a sheet of celluloid, about twelve inches wide. I think my friend said it would cost about sixty-five cents; but even at that, it is very inexpensive. Roll the sheet so the opening in the center will be about an inch and a half in diameter, and tie a cord around the roll, to keep it in shape. Then, tie a ribbon around the roll about the middle, and have the ends of the ribbon long enough to make a loop sufficiently large to slip over the hand, and carry the roll on the arm. It is exceedingly light, and always within reach. When you wish to hear what is said, put the open roll, one end over the opening of the ear, and have the speaker put his or her lips quite close to the other open end and talk into the roll, just as you do with the telephone. The contrivance was so simple, inexpensive, easily carried and effective in enabling the lady to hear conversation, that I felt that you would all be glad to hear of it. A deaf person must learn not to be sensitive about the affliction; but sometimes it is very hard to do. I know; for I am one of the afflicted, myself.

Cooking for the Sick

This is one of the branches of the housewife's education which is only too often neglected; yet it is very important. A woman may be a very excellent cook where healthy appetites are to be served, but there are so many little things that the delicate stomachs of the sick require, and upon which their recovery is largely dependent, that it seems one should know how to make the simple, dainty dishes.

Nearly every cook book contains recipes for these dishes for the sick,

but they are not often used. A sick person should have nourishing foods, well and delicately cooked, and served with extreme daintiness. Often, if the tray is daintily arrayed, the dishes pretty, the napkin perfectly clean, the food will be eaten with a relish when, if the arrangements of the tray were untidy, nothing would be touched. In serving soup to an invalid, do not salt and pepper it, but leave that to the taste of the invalid; every bit of grease should be carefully skimmed off the surface, and the broth should be served hot. A cool, greasy soup is disgusting and unwholesome.

The bread should be thinly and smoothly sliced, and if buttered lightly, so much the better. The tea or coffee should not be slopped about over the dishes, and the spoon should be bright and shining and laid in the saucer. The meat, if meat is served, should be nicely and thinly sliced, and all the ragged edges trimmed off. Gravies would better be served in a separate small dish.

There are so many pretty paper napkins now on the market, and very inexpensive, that there will be no need of a soiled, crumpled napkin. An invalid's tray is a household necessity, as one never knows when it will be wanted. Very pretty ones can be had for as little as ten or fifteen cents each. Remember that daintiness in serving is fully as important as good cooking; but they are both of the utmost importance, and every girl should learn to cook for an invalid.

About the Parcel Post

How many of you have tried the parcel post, and with what success? It is claimed that up to May 1st, there had been carried 150,000,000 packages, and the increase had been at the rate of 10,000,000 packages each month. The great bulk of the business comes from the cities. The movement from the country to the city has scarcely begun.

Exterminating the Fly

Here is another "sure death to the fly" recipe: Do not, under any circumstances, try to drive the fly out of the house. Try to kill every one that finds an entrance into the room, and in this way, shorten the number not only of the present generation, but of the coming multitude. No dead fly can leave progeny. Keep windows and doors screened, using mosquito netting if nothing better can be had; and whenever a fly is found to have gained an entrance, just get after it with the whole family, and keep after it until its term of active service is cut short. Kill the flies.

"Living Wages"

There is a great deal of advertising of the fact that girls are paid such poor wages; but very little is said of the wages which the majority of men, heads of families, are paid. Thousands of men with families of little children—good, industrious, moral men, are working for \$10 a week wages; many of them for even less than ten dollars a week. Many men who would gladly work can get employment but part of the time. The wives and children of such men are seemingly compelled to earn something to keep even the scantiest food, clothing and shelter for the family, even where the head of the

family has steady work all the time.

At a convention of the Lutheran church recently, it was stated as a fact that the average salary paid to ministers is \$600 annually, with the added remark that, if laymen had to manage on the same wages, the poor houses would become over-crowded.

In these times, it is almost an impossibility to keep a family together in decency on such a wage, owing to the cost of shelter, food and clothing, to say nothing of other absolutely unavoidable expenses. In many such families, the wife, already taxed beyond her strength in caring for the family needs, supplements the husband's earnings by doing laundry work, plain sewing, or in various other ways that forces her to neglect her young family.

Growing Horse-Radish for Profit

We have had several letters and some clippings on this subject, and as we can not give any of them in full, we give a summary of all. Every one of the writers discourages the idea of making a specialty of growing the roots, as a market for the roots, unless of the very best shape, is hard to find. Where but a limited amount can be disposed of to local buyers, or through arrangements with commission houses in the cities, the straightest roots can be sold as dug; but the roots which are poorly and irregularly shaped will have to be sold grated and in bottles. A plant that grows a lot of side root branches, or divided main root, will not sell well anywhere. A limited market can be worked up for the grated root put up in bottles with a gross weight of one pound, containing something over half a pound of the grated root, well mixed with good vinegar. Such bottles are sold at retail for about ten cents each.

Packing Eggs in Water-Glass

We have frequent inquiries about this method of preserving eggs, and as the work should be done when eggs are plentiful and cheap, we give a few more items concerning it, copied from Good Housekeeping Magazine: "Water glass or soluble glass is the popular name for potassium and sodium silicates. Commercial water glass, often a mixture of both silicates, is much cheaper than the chemically pure article, and is just as effective for preserving eggs. It is sold in two forms, a syrup as thick as molasses, and a powder. The cost varies. Water glass sometimes sells as low as a cent and three-quarters a pound in large quantities. The retail price is commonly ten cents a pound. Much of the water glass is alkaline in reaction. Eggs preserved in such water glass will not keep well, so test it before using, with a piece of litmus paper, obtained at any drug-store. If the litmus, red at first, turns blue when placed in the water glass solution; or if the litmus, blue at first, remains blue, it is a sure test that the solution is alkaline and unfit for use.

Use clean receptacles or glass, earthenware, wood, or of most any material, if same is paraffined inside and can be sealed hermetically. One-half gallon screw-top glass jars, which will hold fourteen or fifteen eggs are most satisfactory, and in every way advisable. Common silicate of soda, or water-glass, a syrup-thick liquid gives good results; it should be kept well sealed by para-

fining or vaselined paper, pasteboard or cork stopper, or other cover impermeable to air and moisture, to prevent it from hardening. Glass stoppered bottles, however, should not be used, as a little silicate may find its way to the ground neck, and it will be impossible to remove the stopper later on, as silicate of soda will cement the stopper to the neck of the bottle. One part of the silicate should be mixed with ten parts of boiled water, or one part powdered silicate should be dissolved in thirty parts of boiling water, and the solution well cooled before immersing the eggs therein."

Directions for Packing Eggs

Only clean, sound eggs, with strong shells, should be packed in waterglass; they should be as fresh as possible, and should not be washed, as the water will remove the coating from the shells; eggs should not be more than one day old, to have best results, but they may be used older. Unfertilized eggs are better for the purpose than the fertilized, but the fertilized eggs will keep well if care is taken to have them perfectly fresh, as they must be put into the solution within a few hours of their having been laid. To have the unfertilized eggs, the male bird must be removed from the flock some time before the packing is begun. When the eggs are packed in the liquid, the vessel should be at once carefully sealed with the paper or pasteboard treated with paraffin or vaseline, or with the screw top or other cover that will be air-tight. If this is not done, the water will evaporate in time, and expose the upper eggs to the atmosphere. After packing, the sealed vessels should be stored in a cool place.

Query Box

M. N.—The official flower of Spokane, Wash., is the aster; that of Portland, Ore., is the rose.

F. W. B.—The item about the egg-shell remedy was merely a bit of reprint; I do not suppose it can be found in the drug-stores, or would be worth buying, if it were.

H. L.—Institutional life for children or for old people is seldom what the managers of such places hold it up to be. The best of institutions are seldom as good as the very mediocre home, where love is.

A. G. H.—Do not experiment with cheap typewriter ribbons. It is claimed that a light application of olive oil, brushed over the ribbon with an old tooth brush, will serve, but I know nothing of it. Get ribbons of a reliable firm.

R. S.—The falling of the hair will probably continue until the scalp ailment is cured. If it is dandruff, we have frequently given a cure for that. Cure the ailment, let all the dead hair fall, and then use a tonic, keeping the scalp free from disease. The hair will grow again.

Anxious—Thirteen states have passed mothers' pension laws; several large cities also have mothers' pension laws, and seven other states are said to be considering a trial of them in their large cities. When the mothers are forced to give up their children, the state has, in most cases, to partly or wholly support them, and it is more humane and just to leave the children with the mother and give her aid.

C. R. S.—Send to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for their free literature on the subject of canning and preserving. Or write to your congressman, who should supply you with the pamphlets.

Gooseberry Dainties

Far greater favor is shown in England than in America for goose-