



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## "Put Me in My Little Bed"

O, Birdie, I am tired now,  
I do not care to hear you sing;  
You've sung your happy songs all day,  
Now put your head beneath your wing.  
I'm sleepy, too, as I can be,  
And, Sister, when my prayers are said,  
I want to lay me down to rest,  
So put me in my little bed.

(Chorus):

Come Sister, come, kiss me good-night,  
For I my evening prayer have said;  
I'm tired, now, and sleepy, too,  
So put me in my little bed.

O, Sister, what did mother say  
When she was called to heaven away?  
She told me always to be good,  
And never, never go astray;  
I can't forget the day she died,  
She placed her hand upon my head;  
She whispered softly, "Keep my child,"  
And then they told me she was dead.

(Chorus):

Dear Sister, come and hear my prayer,  
Now, ere I lay me down to sleep  
Within my heavenly Father's care,  
While angels bright their vigils keep.  
And let me ask of him above  
To keep my soul in paths of right;  
O, let me thank him for his love  
Ere I shall say my last good night.

(Chorus):

[Words to the above old song were furnished by a Commoner reader in response to a request for publication in this department.—Ed.]

## Women and Business

A clipping has just reached us with the request that we either give it in full, or comment upon it; the name of the author is not given.

The writer tells us that it never increases a wife's respect for her husband to know that he is her inferior in anything, and that it certainly makes for dissension for him to intimate, by word or act, that she does not know anything. It is proven that in many instances, the judgment of the woman in business matters is better than that of the man, and that her ability to stretch the dollar over the greatest length, especially in providing for the family, is vastly superior to that of her husband, because of her knowledge of the needs in detail. Most men will simply go into a store and order what strikes them at the moment, either have it charged, or pay whatever price is asked, without a murmur; thus the merchant can often work off on the man the stale, or left-over goods which no woman would buy. Men would usually find it profitable to talk over their business with their wives, and at least consider such suggestions as she might offer. But the average man will at once "pooch" such an idea, and assure you that "women can't understand business." But facts do not bear such men out, for thousands of women have taken up business where their husbands have failed, and have made a very creditable success of it. Women are steadily gaining in knowledge of business affairs, and when one looks

back and sees where they stood a few years ago, their developed abilities seem remarkable. Many successful business men frankly admit that they owe much of their success to the keenness of judgment of the wife, and their good sense in taking counsel with her. It is a pity that men do not admit this oftener, where it is true, as a merited acknowledgement to his wife.

## Homes for Aged Men and Women

We are frequently asked to find an old person who wishes a home, and the inquirer always says, "Of course, we should expect her (or him) to do some work, as we have to work hard, ourselves; but we would give him (or her) a good, comfortable home, and it would be better than the average "treatment at homes for the aged." Another will say, "We should be glad to have a woman who is homeless to help about the house, or take care of the children. In return, we would clothe such an one comfortably, and treat her as one of the family." There are thousands of old people in need of a home, and home comforts, who will not willingly go into an institution for the aged. But those who can earn their keep at any kind of work do not seek a home among strangers, where it can not be known what treatment will be dealt out to them. When people are too old and infirm to provide a home for themselves, they are too old and infirm, in most cases, to "work for their board and clothes" among strangers. It is a risk both to the home-seeker and to the home-giver to bring them together, for not all old people are of a pleasant disposition or able much of the time to do chores, or take care of fretful children. There seems no known solution to the problem as to the care of the aged, or supplying the worn out mother or housekeeper with a helper. An old person is like a child, and it requires almost unlimited patience to get along with some of them. They are worn out, and longing for rest, and much as they love children, they fret if forced to follow and wait on them. There should be some way to have the aged cared for; the institutions that house them are often poor places, for the broken down feeble old children who can scarcely forget that once they were the world's workers, and they feel keenly any slight, or suggestion that is at all uncomplimentary. It is pitiful, when one is old and homeless.

## Some Ways of Using Apples

Mrs. H. F. tells us the best part of the apple is thrown away when we discard the peel and core, so far as flavor is concerned. For stewing apples, wash clean, then cut the stem and bloom ends out; then slice the apple lengthwise into eighths; if the core is in good condition, do not remove; but if worm eaten, cut it out. Stew the fruit until it is done, then rub through a colander to remove seeds and the hard shell of the core, season to suit, and see how delicious it is.

Apple Dumplings with Peanut Crust—One pint of flour, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder and two-thirds cupful of peanuts that have been crushed and rolled fine; add a teaspoonful of shortening and moisten with cold water, kneading as for pie crust; roll out and cut in pieces, and fill each piece with

a whole apple, peeled and cored, or with slices of apple; fold the paste together, pinch to fasten, and bake. Make a sweet sauce to eat with it.

For Baked Dumplings—Choose nice apples, peel and core, keeping the apple whole; lay the apple in the center of a square of dough, fill the hole in the apple with sugar and a lump of butter, and set the dumplings in a bake pan; baste frequently as they cook, with a sauce made of a little sugar, butter and water, and brown thoroughly. If properly baked, the dumplings make their own sauce.

## For the Tourist

Dress skirts, to carry well, should be folded properly so as to avoid a crease down the middle of the front breadth; the skirt-band should be fastened, and the back pinned to the middle of the band. Then lay the skirt on a table or other flat surface, right side out, with the front breadth down. Smooth out all creases and lay the folds flat, then begin at the outer edge and roll each towards the center-back until the two rolls meet. In this way the hang of the skirt is not injured, there are no wrinkles or crease down the front breadth. If the skirt is too long for the trunk, fold it over near the top and place a roll of tissue paper under the fold.

## For the Toilet

Rubbing the hands with a slice of lemon every time they are washed and dried, or wetting them before drying with a few drops of a mixture of one-third lemon juice to two-thirds glycerine every night, will whiten and smooth the skin. Instead of the so-called tonics sold for a high price at the drug store, rub a little coal oil into the roots of the hair every morning, using the finger tips for the massage; this will often cause the hair to grow and give it a soft gloss when everything else fails. The odor of the coal oil will soon evaporate, and the hair should be left loosely braided until it does.

A great many women allow themselves to become slovenly simply because they do not think. The kimono, in the bedroom, or for a lounging robe where one is alone and needs a loose dress, serves a good purpose; but it should by no means be worn on the street, or about the housework in the loose, slovenly fashion many women affect. No matter what the material they are made of, they belong strictly to the privacy of one's own room.

Patent leather shoes should not be worn in summer, as they cause the feet to swell and burn as nothing else will. Lisle thread stockings make the feet burn and feel irritated. For the hot feeling the summer heat gives the feet, nothing is better than a frequent change of the shoes and stockings. Powdering the feet clogs the pores and the result is not pleasant.

To make elderflower water, into a half pint bottle put one and one-half ounces of cucumber juice, then half fill the bottle with elderflower water; add one ounce of eau-de-cologne, and shake well. Then add one-half ounce of simple tincture of benzoin, shake slightly and fill with elderflower water; use as often as desired; it is an excellent face wash, absolutely harmless and will make the complexion soft and velvety.

After shampooing the hair, the color may be lightened by rubbing

the scalp with the strained juice of one lemon, which should be rinsed out after ten minutes, and the hair dried in the sunshine.

## Requests Answered

Words to the old song, "Put Me in My Little Bed," have been sent us by Mrs. J. G. Boice, Pa.; Mrs. R. C. Miller, Ohio; Miss Nava Toepler, Iowa, and our young friend, Mr. Dan Sweeny, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeny wishes us to thank those who were kind enough to send him the words asked for, but failed to give their names and address. Many thanks to our friends for the kindness.

## Washing Lace

When lace is washed, a suds should first be made to which a little powdered borax should be added. Never rub lace on a board, or roughly with the hands; it should be gently pressed and squeezed with the hands, and when clean, rinse in clear water several times to remove all soap; if the lace is white, a drop or two of bluing should be added to the last water, or to the starch; but if yellow tinge is wanted, a spoonful or so of strong coffee, according to quantity of rinse water, may be used. For lace curtains, a tinge can be given by using a little yellow ochre, the amount to be determined by the quantity of water and the tinge wanted. Small, delicate pieces of lace should be pressed between two pieces of cheese cloth when ironed, being careful to have it pulled into proper shape, opening the holes and picking out every loop or point.

## Odds and Ends

A good washing preparation is made as follows: To one boiler of water take one heaping teaspoonful of borax, two each of ammonia and coal oil, plenty of good soap shaved fine and dissolved in hot water. Put the clothes in this while the water is cold, bring to a boil and let boil fifteen minutes. This does not injure the clothes, and will save labor.

For the dry, brittle hair, ruined perhaps by too much water having been used on it, let the "tonics" and coloring lotions alone, and take a tablespoonful of coal oil in a small dish: dip the tips of the fingers in this and massage the scalp once every day or two, continuing the massage for some weeks, but doing the work less frequently as results show. A very little massaged into the scalp will serve to soften the hair, which should be well brushed every time the oil is used. The odor of the oil soon evaporates.

## For the Laundry

Rice starch will be found an excellent stiffener for lingerie garments, and is made in this way: Wash one cupful of rice to remove all dust; put it into one quart of water and boil slowly, stirring often at first, or shake the vessel for the same effect. Keep up the quantity of water by adding as it evaporates, and cook until the rice is a pulp. Then remove from the fire, add one quart of boiling water and strain through a white flannel bag without pressing, leaving it to drip. If the starch that drips through is too thick, dilute with cold water and use the starch warm.

If a polish is wanted for starched clothes, add a piece of white wax about the size of a large bean, and also add a tablespoonful of borax to the boiling starch. This gives a pretty luster to starched goods, but it must be remembered that all pretty gloss work is done after the piece is ironed. Put the collar or cuff on the ironing board, run a damp cloth over the piece, then rub the back edge of a broad iron cross