



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## The Night Time

Oh, the regal, still nights of the autumn,  
And the full harvest moon beaming bright,  
Lighting up the bronze fields in their richness,  
Enhancing their beauty at night.  
The crickets chirp low in the hedges  
In a drowsy and slumberous tone—  
The scent of dead leaves and of grasses  
Known to glowing October alone.

Oh, the pure, holy nights of the winter,  
With snow lying deep on the ground—  
Moonlight sparkling bright on snow crystals  
And never a murmur or sound.  
All nature asleep for a season,  
In a silent and death-like repose,  
Renewing her strength and her vigor,  
For the coming year's joys and its woes.

—Grace Percy Wicks.

## "The Woman Thou Gavest Me"

The story, old as the human race, in which the blame for man's downfall is cast upon women, is being repeated in the courts of justice today. "The woman thou gavest me" is to blame. According to reports from authoritative quarters, a Chicago judge has said, "Every law protecting the women of America from insults should be repealed until women learn to dress modestly enough not to invite insults." Another officer has said, "Men and boys who insult women are being let off with lighter sentences by the judges because of woman's suggestive dressing." "She dresses like a tough," is the excuse offered, and accepted, and which influences the court officials. The Woman's Christian Temperance association, through its president, insists that children more than ten years old should not wear knee-length dresses. Who is to blame, where mothers send their girl children out clad in immodest garments, with transparent clothing—what there is of it, in many instances not reaching to the knees on girls of large growth. It is said that the greater number of girls brought into the juvenile courts for stealing, have stolen to buy clothes that drape them in diaphanous dress. The half dressed children grow up without the least idea of the lack of morality in the present dress.

In one city it has been proposed to have a committee of women visit the merchants and ask them to keep in stock styles which modest, comfort-loving women may wear with safety to their bodies and without hurting their morals, or subjecting them to insult on the street. It was declared that a gown less than two yards wide at the hem was outside the pale of

common decency. It is also claimed that the narrowness of the skirts about the feet is the cause of a great many of the accidents taking place every day on the street. A great many modest women, who can not bring themselves to wear the freak fashions of the ready-made clothing, are put to sore straits to get new clothing, and have to turn to the home seamstresses or do without. Many business women would gladly clothe themselves modestly, but find it impossible to get proper clothing at the shops.

## Fall Planting of Bulbs

Do not forget that, if you wish the joy of very early spring blossoms, you must work for them now. This is the month when the spring-flowering bulbs should be put into the ground, and the sooner now, the better. Get your bulb bed in first-class condition before the bulbs come, and then bed them out at once. Bulbs deteriorate if kept out of the ground past their proper season for starting into growth.

The fall catalogues are full of good reading matter, and should be ordered, whether you order the plants at once or not, for if you do read the catalogues, you surely will want the bulbs and plants. If you have no ground outdoors, you can pot the bulbs in almost any receptacle, so you give them good soil, and do not water them too heavily until growth is started at the top, and keep them out of the frost. Many bulbs do not mind the freezing weather, and these are called hardy; hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, jonquils, hardy narcissus, and many other kinds can be planted in boxes outside, or in beds. The tender bulbs must be planted in boxes, pots, tin cans, or other receptacles, and kept from freezing; many of them are very tender, and must be kept in a warm room all the time.

Nothing is more easily grown than the hyacinth. If directions given in the catalogues are followed, you can scarcely fail with them, even if they happen to freeze. Tulips are not so satisfactory, for house plants, as they are attacked by the green fly, or aphid, and rendered unsightly, in a warm room. Better put them outside. The crocus, too, does better in the border. This bulb hardly waits for the snow to go before it pushes its buds out of the soil. Plant plenty of these; they are cheap. One of the loveliest things for the house, and very easy to care for it the Amaryllis Johnsoni. It is a tender bulb, but will repay every care.

## Of Interest

It is told that the members of the General Federation of Women's clubs in a northern city have agreed upon a skirt that is two yards wide, and

will attempt to interest other club women in the skirt. The skirt was designed by an eastern tailor.

A fashion writer tells us that it takes a great deal of art to look fashionably slovenly. Nothing is narrow or fitted to the figure except the foot line of the skirt; above the knees the drapery entirely conceals the figure beneath, and often gives no hint of what it is like until the bare neck is reached.

Everything tends to make the waist and hips look unnaturally wide, and the new belts are worn about the hips instead of around the waist. In order to be strictly in style, it is necessary to make the hips look grotesque, large and strange.

Three men in Paris decide what the fashions shall be—Paquin, Worth and Porret. Men are at the head of all the firms that make women's clothes; her garments are designed by men, and it is little wonder that she looks like a freak in them. Yet men cry out against the fashions.

In a recent address before the state microscopical society, one of the prominent speakers asserts that a pure clothes law was just as necessary as a pure food law. He stated that a great many fabrics will not stand the test of the microscope. "Pure silk" often has little silk in it; pure linen is too often cotton, and some imported articles claimed to be fur are made of wool. The adulteration of goods used in wearing apparel is very large.

Seventeen states have passed widows' pension laws, and a state commission has been authorized in some states to investigate the question of granting relief to dependent widows so as to insure relief for the needy. Like every other good move, there are many trying to take advantage of the law, who are not entitled to its benefits.

## Query Box

S. P.—Statistics tell us that almost invariably the children born of an intemperate father usually develop some mental or physical weakness—often both, and it should be the rule that such men should not marry and become fathers.

Katherine M.—An elderly lady with white hair will find a white cotton crepe dress admirably suited to her needs. She may wear a bright-colored satin girdle with it, if she chooses.

C. M.—For roasting, buy poultry not less than three months, nor more than a year old; old fowls over the year-old age make excellent eating, either braised, or stewed slowly with but little water and served with dumplings.

Mrs. W.—An iron kettle is almost indispensable for pot-roasting or braising meats. The agate or enameled kettles are apt to get cracked or splintered, and shell off. A light iron kettle will last a life time.

Young Cook—Pulled bread is made by removing the crust from fresh bread and tearing or pulling the inside into small pieces, then drying slowly in the oven until brown. The center of fresh biscuit may be served in the same way.

Mrs. L. J.—It is altogether too late to pickle walnuts. The green, or immature nuts should be gathered about July, while still tender enough to allow a long needle to run through

them. The green shell covers the ripe nuts now. Get the recipe next summer and try it.

Mrs. C. L.—Anchovy is a small fish caught in the waters of the Mediterranean sea, and after preparation in paste, or other forms, is used as a flavoring. Hors d'oeuvres is a name given to side dishes designed to create an appetite and stimulate the flow of digestive juices. Garnishes for fish dishes: chopped parsley, sliced lemon, chopped green peppers, potato balls, olives, hard-boiled eggs, or pickles.

## Odds and Ends

Where stains are made on linen, by fruit, iron rust, or other similar causes, they may be removed by applying to the stains a weak solution of chloride of lime, the cloth having been previously well washed; or a solution of soda, or salts of lemon in warm water. Afterwards, rinse the goods well in soft, clean, warm water, using no soap, drying at once in the sun.

Lime, lye, and other alkalies will give way to a weak solution of citric acid, applied drop by drop and spread carefully over the discoloration by the finger. Make the solution extremely weak at first, increasing the strength according to effects. For discolorations from the effects of acids, including sour fruits, use in the same way a solution of hartshorn, or household ammonia. It is impossible to give exact proportions, as the solution affects different materials and colors differently. One must proceed with the utmost caution. Each drop must be immediately rinsed off with a wet rag before allowing another to fall, so as to stop the process just at the right point.

Most of silk goods can be treated in the same cautious way; fats may be treated with benzine, ether, or a

## A FOOD DRINK Which Brings Daily Enjoyment.

A lady doctor writes:

"Though busy hourly with my own affairs, I will not deny myself the pleasure of taking a few minutes to tell of my enjoyment daily obtained from my morning cup of Postum. It is a food beverage, not an irritant like coffee.

"I began to use Postum 8 years ago, not because I wanted to, but because coffee, which I dearly loved, made my nights long, weary periods to be dreaded and unfitting me for business during the day.

"On advice of a friend, I first tried Postum, making it carefully as suggested on the package. As I had always used "cream and no sugar," I mixed my Postum so. It looked good, was clear and fragrant, and it was a pleasure to see the cream color it as my Kentucky friend wanted her coffee to look—like a new saddle."

"Then I tasted it critically, for I had tried many 'substitutes' for coffee. I was pleased, yes, satisfied with my Postum in taste and effect, and am yet, being a constant user of it all these years. I continually assure my friends and acquaintances that they will like it in place of coffee, and receive benefit from its use. I have gained weight, can sleep and am not nervous."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Write for the little book, "The Road to Wellville."

Postum comes in two forms:  
Regular Postum—must be well boiled.

Instant Postum is a soluble powder. A teaspoonful dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. Grocers sell both kinds.

"There's a reason" for Postum.

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