



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

"The Last Survivor"

(Memorial Day Poem)

The last survivor! Ah, who knows
What name shall heir that lonely
fame?
Enough to know he was of those
Who, when the call of country
came,
Went forth, and 'mid war-smoke
and flame,
Followed the flag,
The dear old flag,
The starry emblem of the Free,
And did his part,
With dauntless heart,
To bear it on o'er land and sea.

Ungessed, he mingled with the
throng
Of young and old, of grave and
gay—

His years a vista growing long,
'Til far it seems—how far away!
When grappling hosts of blue and
gray

Surged round the flag,
The dear old flag,
And that proud emblem of the free,
All blood-besprent,
Still forward went
In line that stretched from sea to
sea.

Ah, youth was strong and hope was
high
When first he donned the Union
blue:
Of comrades then, how many lie
On fields which sealed devotion
true,
While grandly o'er the torn ranks
flew
The starry flag,
The dear old flag,
The glorious emblem of the free;
As still it waves
Above their graves,
In peace unvexed from sea to sea.

And year by year, the comrades left—
They count them few and fewer
still;

Yet in the shortening line, bereft
Of more and more who charged
the hill,
Or marched the plain, how high
the thrill

That greets the flag,
The dear old flag,
The starry emblem of the free,
When o'er his head
Its folds outspread,
God's benison on land and sea.

—E. Hannaford, Springfield, Ohio.

Memorial Day

As we lay the flags and flowers on
the graves the coming Memorial day,
we shall note the thinning ranks, and
the feeble steps of "our soldier
boys," who so joyously went to up-
hold the flag over half a century ago,
and very soon they will all be "mus-
tered out." "Their works do follow
them."

Homes for the Feeble-Minded

Mrs. S., asks for information re-
garding schools for the feeble-mind-
ed, and would like to know the
charges, if any, for caring for the
same. If any one can supply the in-
formation, we will gladly pass it on.
The only one I personally know of
seems to be in good repute, and the
full charges, for those able to pay,
is about \$400 a year, which includes
all expenses, I believe. Many are
taken on payment of much smaller
sums, and many are cared for with-
out payment of anything, according
to the ability of their friends or

guardians. Teaching the feeble-
minded is a heavy task, and in most
cases, hopeless; all sorts of devices
to train their vagrant senses, kinder-
garten appliances, and other means
are used with varying success. Un-
fortunately, what is impressed upon
their unformed, undeveloped mental-
ity today is forgotten before the stu-
dent has traversed the corridor
leading from the school room to the
playground beyond. It is the policy
of most such institutions to employ
as much as possible such of the in-
mates as are able to assist with the
housework, to keep them from mop-
ing aimlessly about to their further
injury. It is one of the saddest sights
in the world to look upon these hope-
lessly imprisoned souls that must
forever sit in the darkness of im-
becility.

To Remind You

Don't neglect to put down a good-
ly lot of eggs in the season of plenty.
The water-glass method of preserva-
tion has stood a long test, and been
found of value. To render them
more likely to keep in good condi-
tion, remove the males from the
flocks and use the infertile eggs.

Gather up the scattered fruit jars
and containers, scald and sun them
well; fit the tops to the jars and test
so as to know whether they are really
fitted; then put them where they can
be found at a moment's notice. Get
the new rubber rings, and have them
handy. Many large-mouthed bottles,
or other glasses and bottles and jars
in which the "store" things came to
you, can be used again in putting up
many things, if care is taken of
them. They can be sealed with
squares of cloth dipped in sealing
wax, and tightly bound over the
opening.

It will pay you to look after the
small things, making everything
count, as nearly everything used by
the family is steadily advancing in
price. Wasteful extravagance, of
whatever nature, should be stopped,
and in everything we should "gather
up the fragments that nothing be
lost." It is not what we earn that
counts, so much as what we take care
of, and how wisely we spend the
money that comes to us. One need
not be niggardly; but wastefulness
should be regarded as criminal.

Don't forget to sprinkle a mixture
of powdered borax and sugar—less
sugar than borax—about the shelves
and places where waterbugs and
cockroaches are found. Ten cents
worth of borax will last a year or
two for the purpose.

Common alum, dissolved in boil-
ing water—one pound of alum to
two quarts of water—applied while
boiling hot to pantry shelves, cup-
board shelves, closets or infested
places about the house, will abso-
lutely banish ants, bedbugs, roaches,
spiders and household pests of any
kind. This remedy is simple, cheap
and sure, and non-poisonous. It
should be poured down the cracks
and crevices about the walls and
floors, and may be applied to the
hiding places in furniture, if care is
taken; but it will spoil the paint and
varnish. After the bugs are routed,
the furniture can be re-painted and
varnished.

Floral Notes

Sometimes the Easter lily bulbs
will lie dormant in the soil for a year
after planting, according to florists,

especially if the bulb has been kept
out of the soil too long in the fall.
When this happens, and the bulb
fails to develop roots during the
winter, bed it out in the garden in
the spring, setting the bulb eight
inches below the surface and cover
with chip dirt, leaf mold or sand.

In many localities it is better to
start the perennial seedlings in the
late spring, as, if left until July or
August for planting, the hot, dry
weather is apt to kill the young seed-
lings. If the plants get a good start
during the moist, early months, they
will be able to stand the winter in
much better shape.

For the winter blooming plants,
it is much better to start the growth
in the spring or early summer. Spring
is always the best time to start
young plants of primrose, begonia,
calceolaria, and like plants. The
plants should be started in early
summer at latest, and kept growing
thriftily, potting when well started,
and plunging the pots in the ground
until time to bring them in.

It is recommended to bury one or
two onions in the soil with unthrifty
English ivy plants, and this is said
to start new growth. Ivy foliage
must be kept free from insects by
sponging the leaves in lukewarm
water once a week. Keep a sharp
lookout for scale.

The water hyacinth must have the
hot sunshine if best results are
wanted. Give plenty of water,
changing often enough so it will not
stagnate, and it won't ask anything
further.

The umbrella plant will grow into
a large clump if set in good soil in
the garden and given plenty of
water. It can be taken up in the
fall and treated as a water plant dur-
ing the winter.

If you have plenty of ground, try
and have a wild garden bed; look
after the plants this spring and
transplant those you recognize. Drive
stakes down beside those not recog-
nized until in bloom, and transplant
them this fall.

Mrs. J. L. tells us that if we do
not want our roses or other shrub-
bery to spread into thickets, we
should not dig about the roots. It
is the constant digging and injuring
the young roots that causes the
plants to send up shoots. To keep
the soil open and friable, cover with
lawn clippings or other cut grasses
during the hot months, and when
freezing weather comes, cover with
fresh horse manure and leave it on
all winter. The rains will carry the
fertilizing elements down into the
soil, and when spring comes, the
straw stuff will be pretty well rot-
ted, serving as mulch until the hot
weather.

If you like gladioli, you should not
plant the bulbs singly, but group
them; then, before blooming time
comes, stake them to keep the bloom
stalk from falling from weight of the
flower scape. These summer-bloom-
ing bulbs make a bright spot in the
flower garden, are not expensive, and
are not at all difficult to raise. The
improved kind are very fine.

If you have little children about
you, do not fail to plant a packet of
ornamental gourd seeds; they will
provide many interesting playthings
for the little ones, besides supplying
the grown ones with useful dippers,
dish cloths, nest eggs, and many
other novelties.

Did you ever try planting peppers

among your flowers? Get a packet
of mixed seeds and see what showy
plants you will have when the pods
ripen. Some people like them as pot
plants for the winter. They are not
only ornamental, but useful. The
peppers are fine for chickens, fed in
limited quantities, giving better
health, and increasing the egg pro-
duction.

If you have only a rented home,
plant annuals; they grow beautiful-
ly, and give much beauty to the
place; if you own your home, try pe-
rennials and shrubbery, with proper
restrictions according to space and
the amount of sunshine to be given
them. Many beautiful things grow
well in the shade; others do well in
partial shade; but most like the sun-
shine.

"Curing Catarrh"

We have many letters asking for
treatment for this most unpleasant
disease which is always more or less
prevalent in the early months of the
year—March being the hardest on
the sufferer. The cure depends
largely upon the one seeking a reme-
dy, for there are so many things
which "make a difference," and the
one who has the best physical health
is the one who will rid herself of it
the easiest and quickest. As to over-
coming catarrhal conditions, a food
specialist tells us that "Gastro-in-
testinal, as well as nasal and other
forms of catarrh, are much more
common than is recognized, and that
it is conceded that the condition can
not be cured by local treatment, as
it is a disease of malnutrition; the
best remedy is attention to diet, ex-
ercise, improved breathing, copious
water drinking, vibration and other
hygienic means. In some one or
its many forms, it is the cause of
untold suffering, and leads to most
serious diseases of the various or-
gans of the body." Newspaper doc-
toring will seldom do any good, ex-
cept in recommending simple and ju-
dicially used palliative remedies.

DOCTOR LEARNED

The Power of Pure Food

Sometimes a physician who has
exhausted medical skill on his own
case finds that he has to look to pure
food for help. Such was the experi-
ence of a Southern physician who has
spent a great many years in his pro-
fession.

"The services of my life-time,"
he says, "have been to try to better
mankind—to help them preserve
health, and to regain it when lost.
So it is with great pleasure I recall
my first introduction to Grape-Nuts.

"I had never investigated this food
until I came to use it in my own
case. I had tried to heal myself and
had had the services of other prom-
inent physicians. Then I clutched
at Grape-Nuts as a drowning man
clutches at a straw.

"To my gratification I found that
I had discovered something besides a
broken reed to lean upon, for the
food began to recuperate me imme-
diately, and it helped me to such an
extent that I eat anything that I de-
sire, and do so without distress.

"I have not only found a good
friend in sickness, but a most deli-
cious dish as well. It is the most
nutritious article of diet I have ever
found and I notice its splendid ef-
fects more particularly at night time,
for a saucer of Grape-Nuts and milk
is followed by a most refreshing sleep
and perfect awakening.

"My only regret is that I was so
slow to look into the scientific merits
of this wonderful food." Name given
by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Ever read the above letter? A new
one appears from time to time. They
are genuine, true, and full of human
interest.