



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Through Death to Life.

Have you heard the tale of the aloe plant,

Away in the sunny clime?
By humble growth of a hundred years
It reaches its blooming time,
And then a wondrous bud at its crown
Breaks into a thousand flowers:
This floral queen, in its blooming seen,
Is the pride of the tropical bowers,
But the plant to the flower is a sacrifice,
For it blooms but once, and in blooming dies.

Have you heard of this aloe plant
That grows in the sunny clime,
How every one of its thousand flowers,

As they drop in the blooming time,
Is an infant plant that fastens its roots

In the place where it falls on the ground,

And fast as they drop from the dying stem,

Grow lively and lovely around?
By dying, it liveth a thousand-fold
In the new that spring from the death of the old.

Have you heard this tale—the best of them all—

The tale of the holy and true?
He died, but his life, in untold souls,
Lives on in the world anew.
His seed prevails, and is sowing the earth

As the stars fill the sky above;
He taught us to yield up the love of life

For the sake of the life of love.
His death is our life; his loss is our gain;

The joy for the tear, the peace for the pain.
—Selected.

Home Chats.

Owing to circumstances and interruptions, I have not been able to answer all the kind letters that have come to me, but I hope soon to be able to give a great deal more time and thought to the work before me than I have been in a position to do during the past. I have remembered all your kind words, however, and have diligently thought of the suggestions you have sent me, and I hope you will not weary in well-doing, and that I shall have more of the same kindly messages.

The few beautiful days that now and then come to us, even amid the storms of our darkest month, make us think of the possibilities of the garden and border, and we should improve the long evenings in deciding just what we may have in the flower-world the coming springtime. Do not undertake more than you are able to do well, a neglected flower garden is as sad a sight as a neglected child, to me, for it tells a story of one who wants to gather about her the beautiful yet from overburdening, fails even to do the little she could.

Sow your sweet peas as soon as the ground may be well worked; this plant does not object to cold weather or icy mud, and many sow the peas in the autumn—too late, however, for sprouting before winter is over.

Hardy herbaceous plants are beautiful, and do not require much care, and a collection of them, once well established, lasts for a long term of years.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle. It is the best.

It pays richly to give them care and cultivation, and unless you are willing to "put up with any old thing," in the way of a flower, I should advise you to cultivate hardy weeds instead, for a neglected weed will scarcely reapproach you, while a starved flowering plant will.

It is hardly worth while to start annuals in the house, for, unless you can give them proper care, their later-planted outdoor sisters will out-thrive them. A busy housewife can scarcely give to her "window-boxes" the proper heat, moisture, air and light that must be given them in order to insure their well-doing. These plants generally are weak and spindling, and bear transplanting but indifferently.

Harmony.

Emerson says: "Do not bark against evil, but chant the beauties of the good." To recognize the good in all things is to gradually outgrow in consciousness that which we are wont to call evil. Mental discord has the same effect on the body that a discord in music has upon the piece rendered; it destroys its harmonious effect and symmetry; it grates upon the ear of the listener and arouses feelings of repulsion. If you allow your lives to become filled with jangling mental discords, you will repel people and things. The discords of your life should not be due to outside influences. The kingdom of your soul belongs to you alone, and no outside power can invade that kingdom except by your permission; therefore, if your daily life manifests discords it is because you entertain them in the kingdom of the mind.

If you allow the inharmonies of life to poison your soul, if you give room to greed, envy, resentment, hatred, jealousies and discontent, then you must hold yourself responsible for the consequences of entertaining such a foul brood. There is within every one of us a real self which dwells in a perfect harmony which nothing can disturb, unless with our consent. He who is at peace within will soon find his environment changing to correspond. The practice of "resisting not evil" will convert your enemies into friends, because it "takes two to make a quarrel," and if you agree with your environments, they must agree with you. We are assured that "all things work together for good," in fulfilling the divine purpose, and, though we may not always recognize the good in the plan about us, we should strive not to recognize the bad. At least, we should not search for it. Rather let us think the beautiful thoughts, and strive to live the beautiful life.

The Divine plan is not based in time, but in eternity; the troubles and sorrows of today are the lessons of the moment, and when we have learned to look forward to a perfect recital of the lessons of the hour, we shall be ready to respond to the leadings of the soul rather than the voice of the senses. This will be harmony in perfection.—Selected.

Query Box.

Hattie S.—To take off the "sticky" spot made by contact with sticky fly-plaster, use turpentine.

Frankie.—I do not see why gasoline may not be used to cleanse velvet goods; you might experiment with pieces of the goods, if in doubt.

Tessie.—To bleach the faded muslin, mix three tablespoonfuls of chloride of lime and three quarts of water, and stir the cloth about in this solution until all color has disappeared.

Mrs. J. D. R.—For information as to what nut trees are adapted to your region and how to grow them, write to Division of Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

F. R. L.—For cleaning chamois skin garments, rub a lather of soap into the skin and put to soak in a weak solution of warm water and soda for a couple of hours; then rinse well in a weak solution of yellow soap, soda and warm water. When nearly dry, rub until dry and soft. If rinsed in clear water, the skin will become hard when dry.

Housewife.—Any reliable paintshop will be able to furnish you with the weathered-oak finish, and directions for using. Many persons prefer it to the bright varnish of golden oak, and it is becoming quite popular.

Mrs. J. M.—Sent you addresses by mail. Very few high-class literary magazines are published at less than 50 cents per year, but there are quite a few publications devoted to home-work and housekeeping published at from 10 to 40 cents per year, which are very helpful, and many of them contain good literature.

Mrs. L. M. N.—Very few papers, periodicals or magazines find the money paid in for subscriptions at all adequate to meet the expenses of publication, but by selling at a low subscription price a large circulation is obtained, and the publishers are thus enabled to ask paying returns for their advertising space.

Babbette.—A proper set of carving tools comprise a solid, three-pronged fork, a light, sharp-bladed knife of a convenient size for handling, and a pair of carving scissors for clipping the joints of poultry and game. The meat must be cut across the grain, a few firm strokes being made from end to end of the joint. Slices of roast meats should be thin, smooth and neat.

Flossie.—Hospitality does not call for elaborate feasts and fine surroundings, but it is well to provide our best, and show our guests by cordial treatment and a desire to please them, that we are glad to have them with us. Be your own dear willing self, and do not strain to imitate those whose means are far beyond your own; remember the "dinner of herbs where love is."

Sister Alice.—When your bead chains, etc., have to be restrung, use dentist's floss, waxing one end to make it needle-like. The floss will stand a great deal of hard usage without snapping. For loops by which to hang up the heavy overcoats and winter wraps, try making them of an old kid glove; cut a strip from it about one inch by four in size, double it lengthwise, folding in the inside a bit of strong string; machine-stitch close to the cord with silk thread matching the color of the kid and sew the ends securely to the garment.

L. R.—There is no better cleanser or renovator than gasoline; but on no account must it be used where there is a possibility of fire or flame reaching the vapor arising from it. It should never be used indoors, and even the most careful must exercise great care. If after any article has been cleansed with gasoline and thoroughly dried there should remain an odor of the fluid, it may be thoroughly freed from any smell by placing the article over a radiator, or before a

moderately hot fire, but be sure the garment has been thoroughly dried out of doors before subjecting to heat indoors.

Bernice.—To cleanse a silk waist without removing trimmings of ribbon, silk or lace, put into a jar one gallon of gasoline and immerse the waist in this. There must be sufficient gasoline to completely cover the waist which is to be cleaned, and the jar must be tightly closed so as to prevent evaporation. If the cover is not tight-fitting it must be made so by using a cover of cloth, flannel, or some like close firm weave, well tied on between the lid and the jar. Allow the waist to remain in the jar overnight; in the morning it will be found perfectly clean, and the dirt which has been removed will be settled in the bottom of the jar. Rinse quickly in clean gasoline, shake out well in the open air and hang out to dry. The gasoline so used may be kept for cleaning of colored goods. Do not overlook the deadly nature of gasoline if used indoors.

Some Good Recipes.

Frosting Without Eggs.—Put one cup and a half of sugar and half a cup of milk over the fire to cook. Do not stir it after it begins to boil. Let boil ten minutes, then add a teaspoonful of flavoring and stir over cold water until the frosting is of a consistency to spread. If one likes, a half cup of nuts, dates, or figs chopped fine may be added to the frosting with satisfactory results.

Creamed Lobster.—Take one can of lobster and cut the meat into small pieces; then take one pint of cream, to which add a generous dash of cayenne pepper and salt to taste. Place cream in a saucepan and allow to cook slowly until small bubbles appear around the edges of the pan; then add the well-beaten yolks of three eggs; the moment the small bubbles appear around the edge, add the beaten eggs, whisking both together briskly for a few minutes. Add a little good sherry and the lobster, stir until the boiling point is reached and then serve hot.

Beef Loaf.—Three and a half pounds of beef chopped fine, one cup of bread crumbs, one teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of pepper, one of onion juice, half pound of ham, chopped fine, two eggs, half teaspoonful of sage, half teaspoonful of cloves, half tea-

TIMELY CALLING

How the Pastor Saved a Life

A man near Fort Gay, W. Va., made an entire failure of getting strength from the kind of food he ate and not knowing that the trouble was with the food kept on losing health until the doctors gave him up to die.

It was supposed to be consumption because he was wasting away steadily and slowly dying. His minister called from time to time and one day brought along a package of Grape-Nuts thinking from what he knew of the famous food that perhaps it might help him. The sick man took to it at once and from that day began to get well. In writing he says:

"I walked to town today 3 miles. Have gained over 40 pounds in about 2 months and my neighbors don't know what to say. I frequently am told it was as if I am raised from the dead. Everybody here knows of my case, you can tell people to write to the Postmaster or Rev. L. D. Bryan. I will make a sworn statement that Grape-Nuts saved my life." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

This is another illustration that where all other food fails one can be brought back to health and strength on Grape-Nuts. "There's a reason."

Look in each pkg. for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."