



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McVey

A Song of Trust.

I cannot always see the way that leads
To heights above;
I sometimes quite forget He leads me on
With hand of love;
But still I know the path must lead me to
Immanuel's land,
And when I reach the summit, I shall know
And understand.

I cannot always trace the onward course
My ship must take;
But, looking backward, I behold afar
Its shining wake
Illumined with God's light of love;
and so
I onward go,
In perfect trust that he who holds
the helm
The course must know.

I cannot always see the plan on which
He builds my life;
For oft the sound of hammers, blow
on blow,
The noise of strife,
Confuse me till I quite forget he knows
And oversees,
And that in all details with his good
plan
My life agrees.

I cannot always know and understand
The Master's rule;
I cannot always do the tasks he gives
In life's hard school;
But I am learning with his help to solve
Them one by one;
And when I cannot understand I say
"Thy will be done."
—Selected.

Home Chats.

When the warm May sunshine awakens the earth and brings out the flowers and foliage, after the long, cold winter and the tardy spring, one hardly knows what not to talk about, for there is always something of interest to claim one's time and attention, and the flower-beds and borders distract our attention from all indoor duties.

I think there is nothing so blessed or so beautiful as the sunshine, and for "nerves" and all other distresses, the best of tonics is to get out into the open, and deal with Nature in her surprises. Not far from my window is a peach tree, covered with a veiling of pink, and the air is sweet with its fragrance. A week ago, it was bare of bud or blossom, and its naked limbs swung disconsolately in the raw east winds. I think it was getting discouraged, for the April showers were so near to being snow-storms, and the earth was sodden and cold. But one morning the sun rose out of its brown bed, and smiled, and the peach tree tossed its naked branches and shook out its beautiful blossoms, and we know now that the long-delayed spring time is surely with us. Is the age of miracles past? Let the blossoming borders answer.

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One of our flower-loving sisters writes: "My neighbor's house is in perfect order from attic to cellar; her children never seem to have a speck of dirt on them; her meals are never late, and there is absolutely no fault to be found with her housekeeping; but I doubt, after all, if she gets the real enjoyment from life that we do, who can calmly pile our dishes in

the sink and go out to dig in our flower-beds, or swap plants across the fences, utterly unmindful of the "they-says" of uncharitable persons who may think we were better employed indoors; and in our enthusiasm we forget all about our dishes, and even the kitchen itself, until the daily visits of the grocer's boy reminds us that we are the housekeepers upon whom the responsibility of the dinner-getting depends, and we make a mad rush for the house, only to find the fire out, the dishwater cold, and in less minutes than we like to think of, "the family" will be at home, hungry enough to eat up the house. And the worst of the business is, that we go right straight and do the same thing again, the very next day—if the sun shines."

For the Laundry.

For successfully laundering many of the wash materials now used, especial care must be taken to insure the best results. In cotton and linens, the dye does not combine with the fibre of the material as it does in silk and wool, but attaches itself mechanically, as it were, to the threads. For this reason some cotton goods part readily with the coloring matter—fade—when brought in contact with soap and water. When the cloth is woven and dyed, different manufacturers use different substances with which to set the dye or color; in some cases the dye is made insoluble by the use of an alkali, and in others it is an acid with which the material is treated. When the former substance is used, the color will not be neutralized, or "fade" by the use of soap, the alkali in the soap having no effect whatever upon the alkali used in the dye. Such colors are known as "fast" colors. If the dye has been treated with an acid, the dye will be neutralized by any free alkali in the soap, and the colors are said to "fade" or "run," as soon as put into soapy water.

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It is always wise to wash colored goods carefully; and to test the color before wetting the garment, take a small piece and wash it in cool, soapy water; if the color does not change or weaken, it is presumable that the goods will retain the color if carefully washed. If the color is affected, soak the goods for five minutes in a solution of common salt, or white vinegar and water, allowing one teaspoonful of salt or vinegar to one gallon of water; it is always safe to use salt, because it never fails to set an acid color, and will not injure an alkaline dye. After setting the color, all colored materials should be washed in the following manner: Make a liberal suds, using lukewarm water and a good white soap—never use any of the ordinary kitchen soaps; cut the soap into small pieces and dissolve it in a small amount of boiling water; when cool, add this solution to a tub of tepid water and stir until a good lather is produced; wash the garment quickly through this water, gently rubbing the soiled parts with the hands—not rubbing on the board unless much soiled, which should not be allowed to be the case. When clean, rinse in several waters until the soap is all washed out. Colored clothing should not be put through a "blue" water; greens, yellows, pink or lavender colors will be ruined if rinsed in "bluing" water.

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After carefully rinsing, turn the garment wrong side out and starch at once in a thin, cooked starch, allowed

to cool before using, shake it in shape and hang to dry in a shady place. Bright sunlight is liable to fade even the fastest colors when damp. When dry, take the garment immediately from the line, dampen, roll up tightly, and let lie until ready to iron. In ironing colored muslins, prints and gingham, do not have the iron too hot, ironing the material on the wrong side whenever possible. In making starch for colored, or black goods, add a little strong coffee to the starch before using, and be careful to turn the garments wrong-side out before starching them. Remember—always set the color, if need be, first; never rub the soap directly on the material; never use hot water or poor soap; use a separate water for different colors, and never hang to dry in strong sunlight.

Salad.

Wash perfectly, dry, chill and separate the head of lettuce into single leaves. The lettuce must be perfectly dry, or the oil will not adhere, but will run to the bottom of the dish, not coating the leaves properly. Set the lettuce, or chicory in a bowl looking as if the head were still entire, but with each leaf separated. Hold the salad spoon over the bowl; into it shake some pepper and salt then fill the spoon with oil. Allow this to sprinkle over the lettuce, toss the leaves lightly till they shine; add two more tablespoonfuls of oil, tossing again with gentle handling; run the spoon and fork down the sides of the dish and lift the salad with an upward movement, letting it mix as it falls back; afterwards, sprinkle with two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, then serve. A large glass bowl adds to the beauty of a salad. The proportions of oil and vinegar may be varied to suit the taste. Four parts of oil to one of vinegar is liked by lovers of oil.

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A very delicate flavor may be imparted to a plain green salad by rubbing the inside of the salad bowl with half of a cut onion, or sprinkling the lettuce with finely chopped chives. The proper accompaniment for a green salad is very thin sandwiches of bread and butter, or sandwiches made from a filling of mild cheese flavored with mustard and herb vinegar. Use nothing but the very best olive oil for salads, and store it, tightly corked, in a cold, dark place. The refrigerator is the place for the oil can in summer. White wine vinegar, which is colorless, is the best for salads.

Javelle Water.

The preparation commonly known as "javelle" water is a combination of soda and chloride of lime, and is a very powerful bleaching agent. When carefully and intelligently used, it is of excellent value for all cleaning and bleaching purposes, but if the clothes are not thoroughly rinsed after using there is danger of destroying the fabric. In some cities it can be purchased at very small cost already prepared and bottled; but it can be made at home by taking one cupful of washing soda and one-fourth cupful of chloride of lime; add to this one quart of boiling water, and cook over the fire until the soda is dissolved. When cool, strain carefully, taking care not to disturb the sediment which remains in the bottom of the vessel. A tablespoonful of the solution to the usual amount of wash water (suds)

is about the right quantity. Do not forget that the clothes so washed must be thoroughly rinsed.

For the Hair.

Too much cannot be said against the practice of dyeing one's hair. It is never satisfactory, and, once begun, it must be kept up, as the hair lengthens from the roots, and the natural color will inevitably show itself there. Then, too, the dye will fade more or less, and generally the hair will be rendered stiff and harsh-feeling from its use, to say nothing of the disagreeable odor which many dyes carry with them.

It is much better to give the hair good care in the matter of dressing, brushing and massaging the scalp, and let it color to suit itself. No one in bad health can have as nice hair as the one who has no ailment. Some diseases affect the hair more disastrously than others, and when trying to improve the hair, one must also try to improve the general health.

The use of hard water is also to be avoided, and care must be taken in the use of the various drugs recommended for shampooing. It is not necessary to wash the hair every day, or ordinarily oftener than once a week, while, in some cases, once a month is too often. When washing is done, the hair should be thoroughly dried before being "done up," and in many cases, the scalp alone should be shampooed, wetting the hair itself as little as possible. There are dry shampoos, as well as wet ones, and their tonic effect is quite as valuable. One of the best is to rub fine table salt into the hair close to the scalp, and then brush it out.

A simple tonic which has been used with good effect to retard the coming of gray hair, arrest the falling and stimulate the new growth, is made of green tea and fresh dried sage, two ounces each, put into an iron pot and three quarts of boiling water is to be poured onto it; cover closely and let simmer until reduced one-third; take off the fire and let stand in the iron pot for twenty-four hours; strain and bottle for use. Wet the scalp thoroughly with this lotion every night, applying early enough so as to allow of drying before going to bed, as the liquid will stain the pillow-slip. Thorough brushing with a good brush will benefit.

Making Soap.

In answer to several inquiries, the following directions are submitted.

Buy a can of potash and dissolve it in one quart of cold water; the potash will cause the water to boil like lime; when the mixture cools, and just before it is cold, stir in five pounds of melted grease. Stir the soap for ten minutes over the fire and then pour it into an old dripping pan or similar square-cornered vessel—an old wooden box with tight joints is good; let it harden. While still soft, cut it into suitable-sized bars and leave it until cold, when it will be hard. It may be used the next day, but will be better if allowed a month for ripening. Or,

Dissolve six pounds of common washing soda and three pounds of unslacked lime in four gallons of boiling water. Let the mixture stand until the water above is perfectly clear. Drain this off, not stirring the sediment in the bottom; pour into the sediment two gallons of cold water and let settle again; drain the second water off into a pan. Put six pounds of clean grease with the first water

BETTER THAN SPANKING.

Spanking does not cure children of urine difficulties. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 118, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it