



The Home Department

Conducted by
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They Two.

They are left alone in the dear old home,
After so many years
When the house was full of frolic and fun,
Of childhood's laughter and tears.
They are left alone—they two, once more;
Beginning life over again,
Just as they did in the days of yore
Before they were nine or ten.
And the table is set for two, these days;
The children went one by one,
Away from the home on their separate ways,
When the childhood's days were done.
How healthily hungry they used to be!
What romping they used to do!
And mother, for weeping, can hardly see
To set the table for two.
They used to gather around the fire
While some one would read aloud,
But whether at work or whether at play,
'Twas a riotous, merry crowd.
And now they are two that gather there,
At evening to read or sew;
And it seems almost too much to bear
Recalling the long ago.
Ah, well! ah, well! 'tis the way of the world;
They stayed such a little while,
Then out into other scenes they whirled,
Where promises sweet beguile.
Yet, it matters not how far they roam,
To the young hearts fond and true,
There's never a home like the dear old home
Where the table is set for two.
—Youths' Companion.

Home Chats.

Do not forget, these lovely spring days, to keep your doors and windows open a great deal. Especially must you air the bed-chambers and the bedding. Give the bed clothing a sun-bath every day, if you can, but anyway, as often as possible. It is not always necessary to carry them out of doors to air them, and you will find this a good plan: Put two hooks in convenient places on door or window jams, and stretch a line from one to the other across the room; hang the bed-clothes on this line, open the doors and windows so that a good current of air may sweep through, and they will be found much sweeter and lighter than if merely tossed across chairs and over furniture.

O O

Do not commit the mistake of putting underwear or winter garments away unattended. Your time of need for them will come just at your busiest moment perhaps, and anyway, it is better that they should go into summer quarters in good repair. For mending merino underwear, procure some white mosquito netting; tack on the garment a piece sufficiently large to cover the worn place, and darn the edges down neatly through the netting, taking every other mesh, basket fashion, with the usual mending wool and a fine darning needle. Even better than the mosquito net-

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.

ting is a piece of thin-weave white domestic.

O O

The sunshine of spring time brings to light an alarming lot of things that need attention; somehow, things looked well enough through the dark days of winter when the doors were shut and the windows warmly draped, but they show up badly enough, these bright warm days. Rips, scratches, bruises, breaks, gaping joints, faded colors, dinginess, coal smoke and grime, and the whole catalogue of housekeeping terrors, greet us whenever we throw open a door or raise a window sash. There is but one thing to be done: either move out or clean house, and while our sisters further to the southward are settling down to clean comfort, we, who live in higher latitudes must begin to bestir ourselves, for even in the far northland, the summer days will soon dawn.

O O

There is no cheaper or more satisfactory sweetener and disinfectant than the homely old one of our mothers' time. Unslacked lime scattered about the premises freely—especially in cellars and about drainage-ways, will save many a drug bill, and strip life of much of its worries. It was "good" for the bugs, vermin and malarial vapors then, and it is equally as "good" for them, and for us, now. If you cannot get the unslacked, get the freshest you can, and use it freely, in the form of powder and of white-wash. It is better than the best perfumery.

Plants by Mail.

"About these days," many flower-lovers will be receiving packages of plants through the mails, and much of their success with them depends upon the treatment the plants receive upon reaching their hands. All reputable florists take pains to so pack their plants that they shall suffer the least possible injury in transit, and their responsibility naturally ceases when the plants reach the purchaser. There are some general rules which it would be well to put into practice, if one would have their plants to live and do well. In the first place, get your soil ready; if to be set immediately in the border, the ground should be thoroughly worked over, enriched and pulverized, so as to be in readiness when the plants come. When the package reaches you, if in the least wilted, do not unwrap, but set them in shallow pans of water, about luke-warm, and let them remain for half hour, or even a little longer, in order to restore their vigor. Then, in separating, be careful not to break the roots, and if weather and soil are suitable, open a hole in the earth, setting the plant about the same depth as it was in the nursery, spreading out the roots, filling in the soil, firming it down and watering well, shading from sun and wind for a few days until they get "on their feet." The shading can be done by first driving a little stake beside the plant, long enough to keep the weight from resting on the top, and around this draw a little tent of cloth or paper, laying clods or stones on the skirt of it to keep it from blowing over, and pinning it tight enough to shut out the wind.

If intended for potting, have your potting soil, pots or boxes in readiness, using pots small enough to just comfortably hold the roots, shifting into larger ones as they become established. If put into large pots at

first, the soil is apt to sour, and injure, if not kill the plant. If possible to obtain, rotted sod and thoroughly rotted cow manure, three parts sod to one part manure, will answer for nearly every variety of plants. For palms, ferns, begonias, fuchsias and some others, a little sharp sand may be added, but sand is not necessary for roses. Roses like a mixture of clay, but will thrive in any good, rich garden soil. For small plants and roses, nothing is better than a glass jar or tumbler inverted over them, as this will preserve a uniform temperature about the plant and also protect it from the enervating effect of the wind. The plant should not be set in the sunshine while covered with the glass, as the glass will draw heat, and the plant will be injured. A good light will not injure them after the first day or so, but they should be gradually accustomed to the sunshine. The morning sunshine is the best for them.

Gravy for Stews.

In making stews or ragouts of cooked meats, omit the flour as thickening, using instead a sort of potato paste, made by cutting up potatoes into tiny bits and allowing them to come to a boil slowly, after having stood half an hour in cold water. When the stew is nearly finished, add the potato and allow all to simmer gently a few minutes. The taste of the gravy will be found much superior to that prepared with flour or corn starch.

A Recommended Cement.

A hot cement which will resist the action of hot or cold water, and is most useful for mending coarse earthenware and stone jars, stopping cracks and holes in iron and tin pans and kettles, is made by mixing litharge and glycerin to the consistency of cream or putty. It is a cement which will mend a large variety of things, but in using, it must be remembered that the article mended must not be used until the cement is thoroughly dried and hardened. This may take a week, or even longer, according to the quantity of cement used.

What to Wear.

Wide skirts with flounces are among the latest models, but there is no necessity for every woman to wear a wide flounced skirt, and if a plainer skirt, with plaits, is more becoming, then that model may be chosen in preference to the other. Long, close-fitting coats are said to be quite out of style, and all sorts and varieties of short jackets, Etons, boleros, and many other, nameless designs, are now in great demand, a sort of cross between a coat and a cape being the favorite, as it is much newer. Yet the more conservative tailors are turning out, for their most particular customers, coats and skirts to match, the coats not so long as those of last year, but designed on much the same lines, fitting close at the back, but with straight fronts.

Skirts made of veiling material are offered very cheaply, ready made, and it is a good plan to purchase one of these and then have the waist made. A clever woman can, with a good pattern, turn out a most satisfactory waist, even if she does not feel equal to making the skirt. Waists matching the skirts in material and color are much more fashionable this year than are those showing a contrast,

yet, for some occasions, separate waists are very desirable. The amount of lace and embroidery indorsed by fashion is surprising, but too much trimming will spoil the smartest waist, and it is wiser to use too little than too much of it.

All silks will be in style; foulards and pongees will be in great demand, but, because taffeta is the more fashionable, the other silks will be much cheaper than last year. Do not buy poor silk of any kind simply because it is cheap, for it will not wear well, and really does not pay to make up.

For children, the wide-flounced skirt, the full "baby" waists, the fichus, and the poke bonnets or picture hats, are in harmonious keeping with the fresh complexions and soft hair of childhood. White is extremely fashionable in dress materials, and there are many flowered muslins and challies, having either a white ground with bright flowers, or the palest of pink or blue grounds with darker colored flowered designs.

Floral Notes.

Seeds of Phlox Drummondii start in from eight to ten days after sowing, but those of Perennial Phlox require several weeks, and often several months for germination. Many persons sow the seeds in the fall, and the plants appear in the spring. If started early, the plants often bloom the first season. A moist, sunny place suits them, and if the soil is wet and tenacious the plants thrive all the better. They are worthy of general cultivation.

Nothing gives a more brilliant display throughout the autumn months than the scarlet Salvia. Salvias are easily started from seeds, the plant appearing in from two to three weeks after being sown. Salvia patens is a half-hardy, tuberous rooted plant introduced from Mexico over half a century ago; the plant grows three feet high, and bears large, charming blue flowers during summer and autumn. It makes a charming effect if planted among shrubbery, its long spikes of bloom pushing up among the leafy branches in a most attractive manner. It may be propagated by cuttings or by divisions, and more rapidly by seeds.

A fine foliage plant for the lawn in summer is the Caladium esculentum. A rich, tenacious soil, well fertilized, suits it best. If the drainage is poor, or if allowed to become too dry at the roots, the leaves are liable to turn brown and die. The bulbous roots can be had very cheaply, according to size.

Many of the remedies used for aphids on rosebushes harm the bush more than the bug. If the leaves are wet and wood ashes sprinkled on, they kill the young shoots and tender leaves. If coal oil emulsion is used, it will cause the buds to blight unless used very weak, but quassia tea and whale-oil soap, or even ordinary soap suds, are just as effective if persisted in, and there is no danger to the bush from their use.

Oleanders are old favorites; they require full sunlight and rich soil. To obtain plenty of bloom from young plants, persist in pinching the branches back from the start. After it begins to flower it will need little pruning, as three shoots always spring from every withered bloom-stalk.

Belts.

While Dame Fashion has always advised the fat woman to wear a very narrow zone of black around her waist, she has come out this season with a different bit of wisdom: "Wear a belt to match your waist," says this wise dame, "in order that your waist may appear a little longer. No matter what may be the color, or the material of your waist, let the belt repeat the tone, if not in kind." This is a lesson for the stout woman to