



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Wanted—A "Knack"

O, I am a woman whose house is a sight!
From garret to cellar there's nothing that's right;
Though day after day I am striving and straining
To reach perfect neatness, I'm never attaining.
While I'm washing the windows, the carpets get dusty;
While I'm cleaning the pantry, the parlor gets musty;
My meals are behind time, and always have been;
And I just get my beds made in time to get in;
The neighbors make comment, "Alas! and Alack!
Poor thing! She works hard and don't want to be slack;
But, somehow or other, she hasn't the knack."
What a fine thing 'twould be, if I only had knack!

Now, I have a neighbor whose house is just right
Whenever you enter, from morning till night;
She gives a touch here, and she give a pat there,
And all is in order, from cellar to stair.
When I ask for the reason, her friends all can tell—
"Oh, she just has the knack of doing things well.
It is not that she works any more than her neighbors,
But she knows how to get good results from her labors."
It is plain she is blessed with the gift of great knack—
That coveted blessing which most of us lack.

O, is there no merchant who traffics in knack
By retail or wholesale, in bundle or sack?
Or is there no ship that sails over the sea
That will bring in its cargo this great knack for me?
There's many a peddler, out tramping the road—
Is there one with a remnant of knacks in his load?
O'er mountain, through valleys, I'll follow his track,
I'll seize him by force and I'll rifle his pack,
For I am determined, what e'er else I lack,
To somehow get hold of this great thing—a knack.

—New York Sun.

Home Chats

I am going to let a sister editor entertain you, today, as she says what I might say so much better than I could. Here is what she has to say: "One can not succeed in having a good complexion unless she applies the various remedies with patience and perseverance. Months are often required to effect an improvement, and if a remedy is used spasmodically and occasionally dropped altogether, one need not be surprised if it fails of the desired result. One of the most important conditions of a good complexion is perfect cleanliness of person and clothing. A woman who changes her underclothing but once a week in warm weather, and who sleeps in the undergarments worn during the day, will find that the clothing worn next the skin soon becomes charged with the waste of the body, and this will

be absorbed into the system again, if the garments are worn too long. Another requisite for a good complexion is wholesome food. Proper foods are not rich foods, but are within the reach of the very poor.

Refreshing sleep is another necessity, and this is not always to be obtained, owing to many causes quite impossible to overcome at all times. Plenty of fresh air by day and thorough ventilation of the bedroom at night are necessary, and the best cosmetic known is a bright, cheerful, optimistic frame of mind. This may be cultivated, and will become a habit, if we will but exercise our wills and resolve to think only of pleasant things. There is a great deal of happiness in this world, if we only try to find it, and, if one really wishes to be beautiful, one must cultivate a beautiful spirit. Beauty must come from within."

These days, plant-lovers will find that window plants are just like children, and need much the same care. They will get hungry and thirsty and dirty and lousy, and they must be washed, fed, watered, "toniced," and otherwise waited upon, and then, even with the best of care, there will be complaints, colds, and all manner of plant ailments. Many of them must be taken to the plant doctor and left in the greenhouse for treatment, while others will linger along until they could be put out into the ground, and then die just as their salvation comes. Others still will live, but their existence, even out in the border, will be a perpetual reproach to us, and their stunted lives will bear testimony throughout all the summertime, of our neglect of them during the winter days just gone. To be successful with the winter garden, one must begin the study of plant life in the spring, and follow the lessons all through the summer course. The time to begin your next year's window garden is, for many things, right now.

Soft, relaxed muscles of the face may be improved by bathing the face and neck twice a week with equal parts of milk and whisky, well mixed. First wash the face thoroughly, then apply the lotion with a soft cloth; afterwards massage the face well for five minutes. Like all other complexion remedies, this should be used perseveringly for months, if good results are to be attained.

For Early Spring Dishes

To use up the remnants of winter vegetables, try these recipes:

To cook beets: If wilted, lay in water to freshen, then cook until tender, chop into dice; make a clear cream dressing just thick enough to coat the beets, season with pepper and salt and serve. Another way is to chop them, season with pepper, salt and vinegar, butter and, if liked, sugar, and serve hot.

For rutabagas or turnips, cook in a good deal of water, changing the water once or twice; when very tender, cut into dice, cover with hot vinegar, season with butter, pepper and salt and serve hot. Or mash well, season with butter, pepper, salt and, if liked, sugar.

For carrots, freshen them in water, clean, cut into pieces about three inches long, cook until very tender, cover with a cream dressing just thick enough to coat each piece, season with salt, pepper, and, if liked, a little sugar. Carrots may be made into sweet

or sour pickles. Carrots, beets and turnips may all be chopped together and seasoned with horseradish—one half-cupful of grated horseradish to two quarts of vegetables, with sweetened vinegar to cover.

Old potatoes should be freshened by letting stand in water, then cut into small lengthwise pieces, cook a few minutes, pour off the water in which they are boiled and cover with a cream that has been thickened and well seasoned. The potatoes should be well crisped by standing in cold water before cooking, or they are apt to go to pieces—especially if cooked too much. Or, cut into lengthwise pieces, after being crisped and pared, and fry in smoking hot lard until brown, and serve hot.

Cabbage and onions cooked together is a southern dish—about one-third onions to two-thirds cabbage cooking the onions an hour and the chopped cabbage about half as long. When tender, combine, season with salt, pepper and butter and serve. Parsnips may be dug and used freely. They make fine spring dishes for those who like them.

Fashion Notes

A narrow vest will make any woman appear slighter, and so will upright plaits or decorations on a bodice; but these accessories must be of a color to harmonize with the wearer's complexion. Everybody can wear warm brown tones, of which cinnamon, seal, and a yellow russet are the friendliest, and these colors are always steadfast in fabrics of good quality.

Light colored gloves apparently increase the dimensions of large hands; black suedes are most charitable to hands that are not small and shapely. Only women with small feet should wear colored shoes or slippers. All ornaments, save, perhaps, black bows or rosettes, call attention to the feet, and should, therefore, be avoided by women with unattractive pedal extremities. Fabrics showing large printed or brocaded figures apparently increase the size of the wearer, while small-figured materials have the opposite effect. Vertical stripes of weave or color, if not too broad, seem to lessen the breadth and increase the height of the form; cross stripes accentuate breadth.

Very slender women should select glossy material rather than dead colors. Broken lines in drapery become tall, willowy figures, while straight classic lines are best for their opposites.

It is a curiously prevalent blunder for elderly women to wear very somber raiment. The ripened year is rich in coloring, and the sunsets we most admire are splendid with purple and gold, rose and amber, violet and pink; but women of mature years have, until recently, mistakenly chosen the saddest colors and the least becoming modes of fashioning their attire. At present, the more intelligent of daughters insist on revolutionizing their mothers' attire. Elderly women should by all means wear pretty colors, if for no other reason than to assure their young friends that the decline of life can be cheery and full of happiness.

The Habit of Lying

I wonder how many of our boys know what a small, disreputable thing it is to be a habitual liar. I hope not many of them do, by their own experience; but I am sure some of them

have seen other boys who are so ruled by the habit of untruthfulness that they are in no wise desirable associates. Indeed, everyone avoids a liar, whether young or old, and as to trusting one—bless me! it can not be done. The boy who is not truthful will get all the hard knocks, all through life, unless he reforms, and even then, the reputation he has made for himself during youth will never quite leave him. The habit of lying will make its mark on the face and show itself in the eyes, and even when he is telling the truth—which every one sometimes does—he will be treated with suspicion. Very few of the better class of boys will want to associate with him, and he will be a marked boy on the playground; only those like him will care to have anything to do with him.

When he gets out into the world, honest men will avoid him, and he will not get the help and favor shown him which, at some time in their life, most young men sorely need. Nobody will feel like trusting, or vouching for his character. He may make money—thieves and gamblers can do that; but making money is not the best to be made in life, though money, if honestly acquired is a good thing to have. But there are other things, so much better than money, which he can never have, if he persists in dishonesty. One does not have to use words in order to lie: "actions speak louder than words," at times, and the most dishonest of men do not do much talking. Then, too, one gets to be dishonorable, as well as dishonest, through the lying habit, and the better class of people are always against such men.

I don't think any of our boys want to get such a reputation, and the only way for one to get a good reputation is to build up a good character by truthfulness, honesty and honoring himself while he is a boy.

Query Box

Tessie.—The old, worn linen is almost invaluable for polishing furniture. You are fortunate in possessing it.

M. S.—Scratches may be removed from highly polished wood by rubbing with woolen cloth saturated with boiled linseed oil.

S. L. Shellac dissolved in alcohol may be used as a varnish. Your dealer will give you proper proportions.

Housewife.—Clean the wire clothes line with a cloth saturated with gasoline. It is much better than soap-suds.

Amasa.—For the stains on bird's-eye maple and oak, if they have penetrated very deeply, it will be necessary to have the wood scraped and re-finished.

F. M.—For the removal of the finger marks on polished furniture, rub with a chamois leather moistened with vinegar and water, equal parts, and rub well with a soft dry cloth or chamois skin.

Harriet M.—It is claimed that celery, eaten freely, raw or cooked, produces alkaline blood, and will thus route the uric acid which causes rheumatism and kindred diseases. I can not say, from experience.

L. S.—For the white stains on mahogany, left by the hot water jug, rub in a little oil, then pour a little spirits of wine on the spot and rub well; polish with a soft, dry cloth.

Mrs. J. B.—If the white paint is much soiled, it may be cleaned by rubbing with whitening wet to the consistency of cream with tepid water. Polish with a dry cloth.

Agness.—Clean the light-colored cloth coat with Fuller's earth. Sprinkle the powder on every part of the cloth and rub it well in with a clean, stiff brush; then brush out carefully. For the grease spot, before going over the whole garment, spread the pow-

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.