



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts Meyer

## HAYING TIME

Dancing Daisies and waving Grasses,  
Bow your heads, for your death is nigh,  
Ere yet another bright day passes  
Dry and withered and dead you'll lie.  
Under the sun that brought you glad-  
ness,  
Under the skies that beamed with  
love,  
Lowly you'll rest in silent sadness,  
No more a joy to any above.

Buttercup gold and nodding Clover,  
Give the bee of your honied sweet,  
Never again will the saucy rover  
Gather your gold on his restless  
feet,  
Give it all, for you never will need it;  
Tell your friend you must go away;  
Do not mind if he does not heed it,  
Everything has its appointed day.

Nod farewell to your friend, the  
sparrow,  
Throw a kiss toward the robin's  
nest;  
She will look out from her home to-  
morrow,  
And grieve to see you are laid to  
rest.  
Say goodbye when the butterfly  
passes,  
He will die with the summer's  
breath;  
Fragrant Clover and swaying Grasses,  
The way of life is, the way to death.

Farewell, friends, do you mind the  
dying?  
None escapes it by skill or might;  
Ask of the wind why 'tis ever  
sighing—  
Ask of the day why it fades to  
night.  
Little Daisy, is life worth grieving?  
Buttercup, do you fear to go?  
'Tis always the way, in the world  
you're leaving—  
And there is a better beyond, we  
know.

—Marion S. Wanson, in Park's Mag-  
azine.

## Home Chat

The house fly, *musca domestica*, is the product of the manure pile, in which its eggs are deposited to hatch in twenty-four hours, and in from ten to fifteen days to give forth the perfect fly. No sooner does it attain to its final winged stage than it betakes itself to the family dwelling, to which it is doubtless attracted by the food found therein. We are told that it is a scavenger, and that an unusual abundance of flies indicates a healthful season; but these considerations do not lessen the annoyance its detestable presence causes us.

Wire screens at windows and doors practically bar them from the rooms, and it is a very easy matter to drive out the occasional intruder which somehow slips past them, but when there are no screens, and their presence becomes excessive in number, other methods must be tried. Closing the doors and windows, a few puffs of an insect powder gun filled with Persian insect powder may be blown in different parts of the room, directing the bellows toward the ceiling for better distribution; or, the powder may be cast about from the hand. If the perethrum powder is fresh and strong, immediate effect will be seen by the staggering gait of the flies, which will soon fall and die, and may be swept up and burned. It is decidedly preferable to fly-paper, which constantly draws new supplies.

It is claimed that an effectual way of driving flies from a kitchen and adjoining rooms is to burn a small lump of camphor gum on the stove. Screen wire is so cheap and so satisfactory, that it will pay to invest in a set of screens, which, with care, will last several seasons. Or the wire may be tacked directly on the window frames, covering the entire opening and allowing both sash to be raised and lowered as desired, though this method interferes with the washing of the windows.

## Floral Notes

The water hyacinth is one of the most interesting of water plants, and is of the easiest culture. Drop the tiny plant into water where it will not float away—a bucket, tub, or other vessel will do; or it may be dropped into a pool of water. The curious inflated leafstems with their shining leaves looking as though freshly varnished is but one of their attractions. Among these leaves there will, in July or August, appear delicate, lavender-colored flowers, blotched with yellow, and nothing can be more beautiful than a spike of these flowers in perfection. Five plants will stock a pond six or eight feet square, as they increase rapidly. In the north, the winter cold will kill them, but in southern waters they are a nuisance, as they live and spread, becoming a thick mass of roots and stems, and in many streams entirely impeding navigation. For use in restricted places, nothing is more interesting. Florists offer them for about ten cents each. One will supply a neighborhood of plant lovers in a short time, if the vessel containing it is set in the hot sunshine and the water not allowed to become stagnant. The plant may be kept over winter in the house with proper care.

The peony will not bloom for several seasons after being disturbed. They do well planted in any good garden soil in a good situation. Every fall the roots should be covered an inch or two with old manure, which should be left on the ground in the spring. It is a herbaceous perennial, the tops dying down each fall. There are some very beautiful varieties. The roots are best transplanted in the fall.

Seeds of perennials should be planted in June, the soil covering them thinly, and sprinkled over with chopped moss or grass, to keep the soil from drying out. A box may be turned over the bed so as to exclude the light and keep in the moisture. The soil must be kept moist—not wet.

July and August is the time for budding roses, as then the bark will readily separate from the wood. Set the bud on the north side of the stalk, if possible, and wrap closely with raphia, moss, or cloth, which should remain on it until next spring before removal. When buds of different varieties and colors are set upon a strong stalk, the effect is very pleasing.

For rooting roses, break off slips with a heel of half-ripened wood, place in rich soil, turn a tumbler or glass jar over the plants, pressing the mouth well down into the soil, keep the ground moist by pouring water about the jar—which must not be disturbed. At the end of three or four weeks, the slips are generally rooted, and one side of the jar may be slightly raised to admit the air; in a couple of weeks more, the jar may be removed, and the plants should not be disturbed until the spring following.

Hibiscus and other hardwood plants may be propagated in this way. Ivy geraniums and the scented varieties, which are somewhat hard to root, may be "slipped" in this way successfully. Now is a good time to do the work.

## The Woman's Club

In the July Delineator, Helen M. Winslow, one of the best known club women of the country, says: "Women have turned to books for literature and art and ethics, and are now considering in their clubs the art of living. They are studying housekeeping, not only in the modern home, but in the modern municipality. They are taking interest in civic and legislative movements, and are contributing something toward the betterment in the methods of administering the affairs of the town, city and state. They haven't the least idea, at present, these club women, of attempting to rule over city or state, although after ten or twenty years more, it would not surprise me to meet with women in high municipal offices as a result of the experience they are gaining today. In several cities the club women have organized a crusade, at different times, for a clean city, and have not wholly failed. In Oakland, Cal., about two years ago, the women organized such a movement \* \* \* demanding that something be done to raise the standard of cleanliness in that city; they were not easily discouraged, and after a while their work began to tell. Today, not only the women, but the men of Oakland wear the "Clean City Button," and all are alike interested in making the city what it should be. The American Civic Federation has paid a splendid tribute to the work of women's clubs throughout the country in behalf of parks, school gardens, and beautifying of towns and cities. \* \* \* Domestic problems appear on a large proportion of the new club programs, and women everywhere are taking up the servant question in a scientific and rational spirit. Investigation of employment agencies and conditions surrounding domestic service are to be prosecuted more effectively the coming year than ever before. There is an "inter-municipal committee on household research" in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, which has made and passed on to club women an investigation into training schools and their success in improving conditions in the domestic situation. This, and much more, is what the woman's club stands for."

## Query Box

Housewife.—If much pickling is done, the wooden spoons will be most necessary.

F. L.—There is a "Good Sense" shoe manufactured, but I can not give you the maker's address.

E. S.—The child may not be like either of its immediate parents, but may embody the character of an ancestor several generations back.

O. F. T.—A good liquid wood filler can be bought ready-made, much more satisfactory than you could make it. Very few painters make their own fillers nowadays.

Several "Readers."—In another column I give you two recommended methods for the removal of corns. There are a few guaranteed corn plasters on the market, but I know nothing of them, personally.

Frances C.—The newest skirts are less complicated with plaits and straps than formerly; fewer flounces are

used for trimming, and the plain gored styles are gaining in popularity.

Worried.—It is claimed that all traces of the mark sometimes left on garments by cleaning with gasoline may be immediately removed by laying over the place a piece of white tissue paper and pressing with a hot iron.

Home Keeper.—Have your kitchen floor as clean as possible and paint with boiled linseed oil, letting the first coat dry, and then applying a second.

Annie M.—The seeds of perennials should be planted in June or July, to have them bloom the next season. (2). The large flowered platycodon is showy and long blooming, and perfectly hardy; the flowers are blue and white. (3). About two feet high.

Mrs. L. D. H.—The "Consumptive's Companion" might "take well," if you could get it protected and place it before the public. But this would require business ability, if not money and influence, in order to make it successful, financially.

Sarah S.—Order your lillium candidum bulbs now, and they will be sent you in due season. They should be planted in August; plant about eight to ten inches deep, surrounding the bulb with coarse sand. Use no manure about the bulb. It will form a rosette of green leaves this fall and will bloom next year.

S. M.—Tie a twine string around the bottle where you want it to break, and saturate the string with coal oil, then touch a lighted match to it, and as soon as the string is burnt away, pour cold water on the bottle where the string was, and it will break as though cut. With a file rasp off the sharp edges, and it is ready for use.

Ella M.—There is no such thing as a soap without any alkali. A really good, safe soap is made from vegetable oils with just enough alkali to hold it in hardened form. All soaps which contain more than this are said to contain "free alkali," and are destructive to the tissues of the skin.

Mrs. W. W.—For washing the black goods, do not use soap. Make a thin paste by boiling two quarts of wheat bran (to be had at feed stores) in a gallon of soft water (stirring, that it do not scorch) for half an hour; then strain through a coarse cloth, thin with clear water sufficient to wash one dress, and wash the garment in this water as you would in soap suds; when clean, rinse well in clear water and when nearly dry, iron on the wrong side to prevent the "shiny" appearance. No starch will be needed. Thinned flour paste will do if you cannot get the bran.

## Some Corn Cures

Answering several readers: Corns are caused by pressure from ill-fitting shoes—not necessarily tight ones. Those on the parts of the foot next the shoe are called hard corns, while those between the toes are called soft ones. The soft corns are sometimes due to acid in the blood, but generally to the narrow or pointed-toe shoe which forces one toe upon another. The quickest and surest cure is to remove the cause, generally the ill-fitting shoe, not necessarily to larger shoes, as a large shoe often causes callouses or corns through rubbing. For corns between the toes, we usually find the mis-shapen shoe to blame; but we cannot always get a sensibly made shoe, and must therefore expect corns, and even more serious foot-troubles until we demand a better shape.

Physicians advise that the first thing to be done is to relieve the surrounding tissues of the active in-

## BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bed wetting. 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.