



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

The New and the Old

(By Josephine E. Toal, in Designer.)

Sis does the baking now for us—
She's been to cooking school
And learned the latest fads and fuss,
So things are made by rule.
With cook-book, scales and measuring-
cup
She makes a great parade,
And all the flour is measured up
While all the sugar's weighed.
Now, sometimes when she's started in
She hasn't quite enough
Of raisins, spice or gelatin
Or some new patent stuff;
Then I must chase off to the store
As fast as I can go,
And fetch it very quickly or
The cake will all be dough.
She has a mixer for the bread,
A cooker run by steam,
A chafing dish, a thing to shred,
A beater that's a "dream."
We have for dinner consommes
And fricassees and bisques;
For supper, chips and mayonnaise;
For breakfast, puffs and whisks.
But now and then Sis goes away,
Or takes a little rest,
Then mother has her baking-day—
That's when I eat the best.
Ma doesn't cook by recipe,
She stirs in this and that;
No matter what it's meant to be,
It always turns out pat.
When mother hasn't eggs or spice,
Why, something else will do
To make the pudding just as nice
And just as wholesome, too.
They're on the labor saving plan,
They do the work up soon—
Ma's one old battered mixing-pan
And one old wooden spoon.

Social Chat

Sitting before my desk, this morning, I see my "pigeon-holes" full of unanswered letters, and in every one of them there are kind words that call for at least a "thank you." Above them yawns an empty "copy box" and beside that a "query box" calling for much information. Friends, will you please accept my intense appreciation of your good will, and let me hear from you as often as possible, sure that your visits are always welcome, though I may not be able to return them.

"A Discouraged Sister" writes—"You insist that we have flowering plants and shrubbery and vines about the farm house—yet, you have lived on a farm. Did you have them? If so, how did you do it? Most of the farmers in this region pasture their calves, colts, pigs, sick animals and poultry in the house-yard, from late fall until 'grass time' in the spring. Instead of a flower border, we have a wagon yard, and the whole space supposedly allotted to the wife and children is covered with broken and neglected machinery, wood piles and places for sharpening posts and splitting logs into palings and shingles. There is not even a stepping stone from the door-sill to an out house, yet nothing is more plentiful here than timber and rocks. Tell us how you would manage it."

And as I read, my heart goes out in sorrowful sympathy, born of experience, to these discouraged sisters (for there are many of them). Hours of time and precious strength have I devoted to digging, raking, seed-sow-

ing, setting roots and shrubbery, in order to satisfy my love of beauty about the home, only to see my dreams all trampled down, my work destroyed by a like invasion. And it is all so useless! So senseless! Do you wonder, looking at this picture—which is not so rare as some would have us believe—that women go crazy, or break down, becoming old and disheartened while still young in years? That the young folks, as soon as they are old enough to think for themselves, hurry to leave the farm, eager to brave the unknown rather than to starve for the beauty their young souls crave? Do you wonder that the men, themselves, grow into the wretched caricatures which some of them are, and fly to the corner grocery store to spend their idle time?

These men, many of them, appreciate beauty, and will spend time and strength and money in seeding down their fields to grass, refusing to allow a hoof or a wagon track on the grounds except at certain seasons; they work faithfully to have "good pastures" for their stock and fine stands of clover for the pigs and calves; yet, at certain seasons of the year, when the trampling of the stock would ruin the field pastures, they ruthlessly turn the animals onto the grass-plot about the house which the wife and children have so laboriously nursed for a play-ground, or for a "clothes yard" on which to spread the bedding, clothing and body-linen for its needed sunbath. The result is lamentable. The sod is cut into by the sharp hoofs, or torn up by the pigs; the shrubbery is cropped, the herbaceous plants eaten off, cut to pieces or rooted out of the ground, wagon tracks make trenches, and the dumping of logs, the piling of debris—oh, you know it—do you wonder?

I want the brothers to read this. I know many of them do read the Home pages, for I get many "queries" from them, and some of them write me delightful indorsements of something I have said. So, I want them to look at the picture here presented, and resolve to "wipe it off the map" of the farm. Don't begrudge the gude wife and children their grass-plot—they are your most profitable possessions. You can not buy back the children when the little feet have crossed to other pastures; money will not restore the brightness to the worn-out, discouraged wife when she has "given up." The word "home" means more than a shelter and a feeding place. It should be an all-round educational, developing institution, and it depends largely upon you, what the education and development shall be. Stay at home, instead of going to town for your recreations. Give Saturdays to the yard, and to the family. An errand to town need not take the whole day. Remember, it is such a little while, and make the home beautiful for the sake of those whose happiness is dependent on you.

The Divorce Question

It is an old adage that an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure, and it is as well, now and then, to discuss the causes as well as to lament the effects. The discussion of the divorce question has been nearly all confined to the "anti" side, and clergymen and other supposed leaders are violently denouncing the matter of divorce in no gentle language. As one writer expresses it, the intention of these learned objectors is to force a man and wife, no matter how mismatched or mismated they may be,

to live together so that "out of martyrdom and bitterness and suffering in each other's society should be bred up a race of sweet and lovely children." The discussion, however, is beginning to awaken the other side. Women have felt a delicacy about expressing themselves, as they have always been told that it was their place to "suffer and be still" at whatever cost, rather than to expose their matrimonial grievances. The "new element," while deploring the causes which create a demand for the untying of the matrimonial knot, arraign the ministers, themselves, who broaden the field by "joining together" any couple who comes before them, properly licensed by the law, no matter how unfitted they may be for sustaining the sacred relationship, or to bring into the world children who, because of the unfitness of the parents, should better never be born. It is a rare thing that any question is raised, when the candidates for matrimony present themselves either for license or for the ceremony of marriage, as to the health, mental, moral or physical, of the applicants, or as to their ability to keep a home and care for children. In this way, many pure, innocent women become the victims of moral lepers, and their children, as well as themselves and society, must pay the penalty. Neither men nor women are all angels; there must be something besides the so-called love in order to hold them to their vows, and to make their marriage a blessing to the community. There should be a "clean bill of health," mental, moral and physical, to accompany the license, and there should also be some evidence that the uniting couple had an understanding as to the meaning of the bonds they were assuming. From the highest to the lowest, in the mental or social scale, there is a lamentable ignorance in regard to what the marriage relation obligates, in the majority of cases, and the law of selfishness rules to ruination without regard to sex. Only a broader knowledge and a deeper understanding of many things will make a marriage what it really should be, and until some discrimination as to fitness of the individuals for the parts they each would assume, and a greater regard for the welfare and happiness of each other as individuals, be demanded, law or no law, the divorce courts will still be found doing business. Boys, as well as girls, have much to learn—more probably than they will be taught for a generation or two yet to come, and until these lessons are learned, there will still continue to be unhappy marriages and wretched separations. Meantime, the ministers may as well be brushing the dust from their own garments.

Relief for Deafness

Since the article on "Deafness" appeared in our department, I have had a great many letters of inquiry regarding the remedy suggested for trial. Such as enclosed stamped, addressed envelopes I have turned over to the physician mentioned; the others I have answered myself; but there are still others who did not even give address, and asked that the names and addresses be given in the Query Box. This we can not do, as it would be giving away very valuable advertising space. In such matters, you must send stamped, addressed envelope for reply. The article did not promise a "cure" for deafness; it was but a recommendation of a home remedy which the physician had seen

tried with good effect. The letter was not intended for publication, nor as an advertisement of any proprietary medicine. It was simply a kindly answer to my call for information about certain preparations on the market which promised a cure.

I most sincerely sympathize with all whose hearing is defective. Being myself severely afflicted in this manner, and having tried many things, I have become somewhat skeptical as to cure, or even very great relief. What will help one will harm another. I do not know of any country or climate where people are free from catarrhal troubles, though some are probably freer than others. The advice, or prescribed remedies of a physician can not cure any disease unless the patient co-operates with the adviser. Even the persistent taking of the remedies "according to directions" is of little avail unless the cause is removed and the laws of hygienic living and sanitation are observed. Many people are so situated that this can not be done, fully; but we can all use common sense in the matter of eating, dressing, exercising, cleanliness, keeping out of bad company and correcting unhealthy habits of body and mind. In fighting diseases and ailments of any kind, it is well to remember that many of our weaknesses and predispositions come to us "down the line" from an unwise ancestry, "the fathers having eaten sour grapes, the children's teeth are set on edge." Broken health laws of any kind are "sour grapes."

Spring Cleaning

If you have not time to do it yourself, interest the children in the cleaning up of the back yard. Nothing works more for the "good of the home" than creating an interest in flowers and flower gardening, and beautifying the waste places in and about the farm or village houses. Many front and back yards may be redeemed from barrenness and neglect and from being a dumping ground for the refuse of the family and farm. If no better can be done with these unsightly places, the gude mon might sow them down to rye or oats, or plant corn in them. Anything is better than briars, bushes, old lumber, broken vehicles, tin cans, and the thousand things it is found most convenient to throw down in such places. Don't allow the calves, or the hens, or the colts, or the pigs to use the yards as a pasture, and then wonder why the girls and boys want to leave home as soon as they are big enough to feel ashamed of "the looks of things." The flower garden, or, rather, the work in one, is one of the best nerve-restorers in the world; better than any pills or powders or "teaspoonfuls." Did you ever see a woman scowling over her flower-bed? Did you ever see a morbid flower-garden? One who has a nice looking yard, with plenty of shrubbery and blooming plants, dotting the green sward, is rarely a gloomy person, and never a pessimist. It is seldom the owner of a really "cosy corner" who wants to leave home, and now-a-days, if the girls and boys can be proud of their homes, they find them infinitely more attractive than the life in the dirty town. It is seldom the woman's fault that the yards are full of litter or overgrown with bushes, briars, burdock, cockleburs, jimson weed, nightshade, etc., but she gets discouraged when, year after year, her plant beds and shrub borders are used for a browsing place for stock, and a dumping place for worn out and broken down vehicles, and small wonder if she gets cross and nagging, slipshod and "run-down at the heels." Why should she

BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bad 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.

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.