



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## Regrets

True love, remembered always  
Through all Time's changing years,  
Remembered with such vain regrets—  
Such unavailing tears!  
I stand at the open casement,  
In the young year's golden hours,  
And list to the soft rain falling  
On leaflet and bud and flowers.

There comes on the soft, south  
breezes,  
A scent of the woodland's bloom,  
And the whippoorwill's soft calling  
Walls out on the evening's gloom.  
And a memory stirs within me  
Of a land and a life gone by,  
Where a woodland stream went  
singing,  
Year-long, 'neath a northern sky.

The sweep of the purling waters  
Was fringed, in the long ago,  
With the feathery water-willows,  
And the dogwood's bloom of snow,  
And the pungent scent of pine trees,  
The fragrance of elder-bloom,  
The odor of rose and lily,  
And the hawthorne's sweet perfume

Floats over the wreck and darkness  
That lies 'twixt the then and now,  
Till a frantic longing fills me  
To stand by that river's flow.  
That the sound of its lapping waters  
Might dull but one hour of pain!  
That the magic of springing verdure  
Might waken my dead again!

But the dreams of my life have per-  
ished:  
Ambitions and hope have fled;  
And the garlands my fancy braided  
Lie scattered about me, dead.  
I have drunken the bitter waters  
'Till the taste of the wine is tame;  
I have won for my golden fancies  
But shadow and blight and blame.

And the lips for whose sweet com-  
mending  
I strove with a stubborn will,  
Lie dumb in their coffined silence;  
The heart that I loved is still,  
So, here, in the deepening twilight,  
I sit, with my soul's unrest,  
And grieve for my lost life, lying  
Asleep, on a coffined breast.  
H. W.-M.

## Social Chat

The old ways of house-cleaning, like other out-grown methods of doing things, are passing away. The new order of house-furnishing has very much simplified matters, and women are growing more sensible, too. It is found to be far less trouble to keep the house clean than to have a semi-yearly cleaning, and it is much more satisfactory to rub the paint or varnished wood-work with an oiled cloth every few weeks than to wait until the paint gets so dirty that it must be ruined with soap and water. Rugs that can be readily taken up and beaten are better than the old "all-over" carpet that called for a man's strength when there was only a weak woman to handle it.

Most people use oils and polishes too lavishly, with too little rubbing, and in consequence their wood-work and furniture have a smeary, tacky look, as the surplus oils on the surface attracts all the dirt and lint that is stirred up. And it is not alone

## 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.

when one is sweeping that this element is stirred up; every motion in the room, every sweep of the skirts, fanning doors and tossing things about, stir up dust which settles back on the furnishings. In the long run, it is much cheaper to have a skilled finisher to do the work, and, unless one can do this, or has the will and ability to do some pretty hard and persistent rubbing and polishing, it is best to stick to the stains, paints and quick-drying varnishes, of which there are many on the market ready prepared for the successful use of the most inexperienced.

Papering and other finishings of the walls are better done in the spring, but paint that is applied out-doors is better done in cold weather; is much more durable, also, than if done during the hot weather when the oils will be soaked into the pores of the wood, leaving the coloring and other ingredients to crack and look unsightly in the hot sun.

Cleaning carpets by steam is rather hard on the carpets, but easy on the housewife, and house-cleaning by compressed air is not altogether what one would wish. But, of course, these things are all in the experiment stage, comparatively, and our children's children will doubtless have the "perfect way," long after we have passed into the mansions on the other side. Let us, then, do the best, simplest, easiest way we can, and rest content to bear a few unavoidable evils.

## Our Boys

The family magazines are calling attention to the fact that it is becoming a marked feature of our young men to consider it the "right thing" to be, as one writer expresses it, "sporty, even to toughness," in demeanor in the home as well as in society. Too many young men, it is said, carry "the manners of the football field" into the home, where they pride themselves on being "heavy on their feet, noisy in their movements, lumbering in their actions and bordering on boorishness" in their manners. Many of them are decidedly slangy in their choice of language, rough in their speech, and not too careful of the feelings of others. This is to be deplored, and a remedy sought for it. It is well to be athletic; to be sound in body and strong in limb; but respect for the amenities of life should be shown, and politeness, urbanity, gentleness in speech and action, should by no means be despised. Our boys should, above all things, seek to be gentlemen, in the best sense of the word, and to cultivate a habit of courtesy toward their associates, and consideration, deference and respect toward women, either young or old. It will never make a boy think less of himself to treat a girl, whether his sister, or the sister of some other boy, according to the gentler instincts of his better nature, while, to show a deference and a tender respect toward a woman who is "somebody's mother," whether his, or another's, is one of the loveliest things a boy can do.

## Care of Men's Clothing

Clothing that is properly attended to will wear as long again as it otherwise would, and always seem fresh and new. Any sensible man can give his garments the care they need at odd times, and he should do so, unless his business is such as to make his time more valuable than money. This, however, does not apply to the

majority. It is well to teach the boys to look after their own belongings while at home. For the boy's own good, the girls, or mother of the family, should not take this duty upon themselves, for there will always be a time in the young man's life when he must depend on himself for the care of his wardrobe.

Each garment, or suit, should be well brushed, immediately it is taken off, and any spots should be looked for and cleaned off with some reliable cleanser to be kept always at hand. A small piece of white flannel, with a few drops of naphtha, kerosene or gasoline, will work wonders. If the spots are left for a few days, they are hard to remove. Besides, on wanting them, you may not have the time to attend to the needs.

The waist-coat should be hung under the coat on the hanger, and put in the closet. For trousers, some maintain that they should never be folded, but carefully hung in the closet, while others insist that they should be folded and laid in a long drawer. As soon as the suits and odd trousers show signs of wrinkling, they should be sent to the tailor to be pressed; but many young men learn to do this themselves, which is quite a saving. It is easy, when one knows how, and the lesson is not hard to learn.

Each hat should have its box, and be kept therein when not in use. Brush all the dust out of it before putting away, using a soft brush. A soft hat should rest on its rim, and all the creases should be taken out of the crown before putting away. A stiff hat should not rest on the rim, but on the top of the crown. A silk hat should also stand on its crown when not in use; this kind of hat must have especial care, cleaning with a soft cloth. Gloves should be kept in a paper, after being pulled out carefully.

Cravats may be either kept in a flat drawer or hanging.

## Fashion Notes

The general tendency in skirts is toward increased fullness at the front. This fullness is usually arranged in a series of plaits at the center front of the skirt, or, if the material be thin, in small groups of tiny tucks at each side of the front. The sides of the skirt are cut circular and are therefore quite plain-fitting over the hips. One of the latest and best ways to cut a skirt which is to have fullness in the center front, is by a model having a gore in the center-front and back and circular sides. This combination of gores and circular sections control the cloth better than is possible in the entire circular skirt, and makes it less apt to sag; the sides need not be cut on an extremely wide circle.

The circular flounce has returned, with slight changes. The new flounce is somewhat deeper than the old one, in some instances being almost half the depth of the skirt; with this flounce, it is often best to attach it to a gored upper portion, especially if the goods be of wash material, as both flounce and upper portion cut circular make a skirt that soon loses its hang and shape. A new idea is a gored flounce—a wide, flared, gored flounce—looking like a circular flounce, but in reality, being far more practical.

Ruffles are full, but for the most part they form a finish to flat bands of insertion, or of some soft material. This is a favorite way of trimming

organdies and lawns. All the fluffy trimming of a skirt is kept to the lower edge; skirts are smooth-fitting at the top. Many skirts are perfectly flat and smooth in the top back, with a habit fastening. Many of the light-weight woolen materials are trimmed with the sheerest of French Swiss embroideries; sheer embroideries are combined with lace; narrow insertions of embroidery and lace edgings are used to form yokes, coat-collars, and small, inset waistcoats, now so popular as accessory to the short bolero. Elbow and quarter-length sleeves are often seen made entirely of alternate rows of Swiss insertion and ruffles of Valenciennes lace. — Ladies' Home Journal.

## Something About Wool

When the wool fleece is first clipped, the center of every fibre is filled with a greasy yolk, but in the course of a few months this filling dries out, and the wool can then be scoured cleaner, with less work, than when newly clipped, and its working qualities are better. If the new wool is scoured soon after it is clipped, all the grease can not be worked out of it, and it will show up in the wool for a long time, and will not look as white and clean as when scoured later. The best time to wash wool, especially that to be used in quilts or mattresses, is in late October or early November, as by that time it is "seasoned," and the yolk filling of the fibre dried out. When shearing time comes, the housewife should choose the fleeces she wants—the long-wooled fleece is best for this purpose—for her wool-bats, and pack them away, to be washed in the late autumn. If machine carding is wanted, it is better to so wash them and keep them over until the carding machine starts up. Treated thus, it will be comparatively free from the sheep-fat odor which new wool has, and the grease left in the wool all summer will prevent any attack of moths. I have saved fleeces in this manner with no trouble from insect pests.

In making mattresses, the wool, being weighed after washing and carding, should not weigh more than ten pounds, and these can be lifted about by the housekeeper and carried into the open air without too great inconvenience. Tag-ends, well soaked and well washed, will do very well for filling mattresses and quilts.

## Bands and Ruffles

Small bias bands and ruffles are much used to trim both silk and linen clothes. Ruffles are cut very small and more or less on the circular. These tiny circular ruffles are not only used to trim the edges of skirts, but are also put on as a finish to the edges of box plaits and side plaits on shirt waists. They make a very simple, inexpensive and practical trimming for gingham, linens, and all summer wash fabrics, not only for grown-ups, but for children. Bias folds are stitched through the center so that each edge may have a tiny curve and fullness to it; these folds give a much fuller look to the skirt than the ordinary old-fashioned bands put on and sewed down flat.—Ladies' Home Journal.

## Laundering Laces

Soak white laces over night in cold water after carefully soaping them with white or castile soap. Only the best vegetable oil soap should be used. At the end of twelve or fourteen hours, lift them carefully from the first water and drop them into a lukewarm suds; with the tips of the

## 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.