

The Home Department

The Recompense

When the song has gone out of your life
That you thought would last to the end,
The first sweet song of the heart,
That no after-days can lend—
The song of the birds to the trees—
The song of the wind to the flower—
The song that the heart sings low to itself
When it wakes in life's morning hour—

You can start no other song—
Not even a tremulous note
Will falter forth on the empty air—
It dies in your aching throat!
It's all in vain that you try;
For the spirit of song has fled;
The nightingale sings no more to the rose
When the beautiful rose is dead.

So the healing silence falls
On the bruised heart's quivering strings;
Perhaps from the loss of all
You may learn what the Seraph sings—
A grand and glorious psalm
That will tremble, and rise, and thrill,
And fill your breast with its peaceful rest
That will all its yearning still.
—Selected.

Doing One's Best

One of our girls writes me: "You recommend plain sewing and dress-making for girls who have their own way to make, and who have taste in such matters. Well, I am told I have taste, and I can get plenty of work, but the pay is so poor that I really don't care whether I do the work well or not. If my customers want good work they must pay me good wages. As it is, I don't care how I do."

And somehow, as I read the letter, I felt so sorry for our girl! Not that her work brought her poor wages, but that she "did not care how she did it." I wish she had told me that whatever she undertook, no matter what the wage or material, she did the very best she could, striving always to do better; that she valued the commendation of her own inner self above all else, and would do nothing not worthy of her respect of self.

The world is full of the mediocre—the "average," neither good nor bad, and it is always seeking for the better and the best; and it finds it, sometimes, in the lowliest places—where one would hardly think it could be found. It is in the power of many workers to "go up higher," if only they would reach for the upper rung of the ladder; but they "do not care;" they toss off their work in any fashion, so it will hang together until it gets well off their hands, and spend their time grumbling because they are not appreciated. And then, some day, some one comes along who wants the best, and is willing to pay for it. The appearance of excellence in the work attracts the attention, and the one who is seeking honest skill takes it in hand. But some little thing has

been slighted or indifferently done—perhaps this slight is in the very line where excellence is sought! So the work falls away from the seeking hands and the worker is marked "found wanting." The opportunity is gone. Then the worker laments her ill-luck, yet does not seek to know to what it may be attributed. She takes it out in grumbling at her customers for non-appreciation, and becomes discontented and discouraged, and finally, "does not care," and falls back, indifferently, to the crowd at the foot. Oh, the pity of it!

Very few are told frankly why and in what they fail, or by what particular act they are selected or rejected. But the one who makes painstaking—faithfulness in little things—her rule, is the one to whom the call will come. By some unconsidered trifle, the worker's skill will be approved or condemned, and it is the one who makes it a business to do her best, and sees that her best is as good as any, who is going to command the higher prices and be trusted with the finest garments. It may take as much skill to fit the coarsest serge as it does for the silk gown; but it is the fine garment that is paid for, and good work is demanded for the money.

City prices can not be expected to rule the country dress-makers' charges, and, ten to one, the city dress-maker can give her work a "set" and style which the country girl will find it hard to imitate; but there are thousands of women who set good work and honest stitching above the basted "style" of the fashionable costumer, and if the girl forms the habit of giving "good measure"—honest work for honest pay, her services will be in demand with a class who are willing to give her the best prices, and she can gradually work up a trade and reputation that will leave her large margins in her bills. It pays to do one's best, in whatever walk we find ourselves.

Growth Through Suffering

One of the deepest sorrows of parenthood is to realize that no care on their part, no admonition, no self-sacrifice, can keep from their loved ones the necessity of walking their ways alone through the shadow-land of suffering and sorrow; to know that each one must go through life unprofitably by the experiences of those who went before. Yet it is better so. Life's lessons are undoubtedly hard, and oft-times the discipline is cruelly severe; yet these experiences serve as nothing else will to deepen the nature, form the character, sweeten the heart, ripen the mind and develop the soul. All the discipline of sorrow and care tends to these ends, and it is the perfection of these things which makes life worth the living. After the storm of trouble there comes a stage in human growth when one sees—faintly at first, then more fully—that it matters little comparatively whether or not one is happy and successful as the world estimates it, if only we have steadily reached upward after the ideals with which we started out. From failure, losses, sorrows and discouragements there should be developed strength, fortitude and determination, with a peace of mind which is the best gift this life can bestow. On these foundations, the soul may safely build, and once established thereon, it may be

"likened unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock." Once one has attained to this condition of mind, he has become "lord of himself," and master of the hardest of all kingdoms to rule.—Ex.

Bread made of whole wheat ground (not bolted) so that the bran which contains the minute quantities of lime is present, is best for all-round food. Nothing is superior to brown bread for bone and tooth-building. Bread made from rye and corn meal is fine.

"Six Days Shalt Thou Labor"

While laws are made to govern a people, each person is the agent in his own destiny; each conscience its own judge. Each man and woman facing this commandment knows how it has been kept, and no man can say of another whether he has or has not failed. Many keep this law of God whom careless on-lookers brand as non-observers. As each understands this law, in such degree is he responsible; there may seem but one construction, but an infinite God made it, and who shall say what are its limitations?

Indiscriminate labor may be made a curse; the man who would follow the plow as a common tiller of the soil when his heart was far away in the broader fields of the world, and who was obviously fitted for the leadership of men, would fall of his destiny. To every person is allotted a particular task, and he can do no other so well. Thus, not only must we labor, but we must labor in such a manner as to increase our talent or talents. Merely giving back to the Maker "that which is thine own" will not do. We might work at a mathematical problem for days, yet, if we failed to get the right answer, would not our labor have been in vain? True, we might have the discipline of thought; but the labor would be lacking of effect.

"Judge not; the workings of his brain And of his heart thou canst not see; What looks to thy blurred eyes a stain,

In God's pure light may only be A scar, brought from some well-won field Where thou wouldst only faint and yield."

For the Toilet

A safe cold cream that can be made at home is given as follows: Get from your butcher the finest mutton tallow, cut it into bits and place in a small saucepan, set this inside of another vessel containing boiling water; when the fat is tried out—or melted—strain through a sieve, and to every cupful of the fat allow a teaspoonful of camphor and ten drops of carbolic acid, with enough of your favorite perfume to give it an agreeable odor. Beat it well together, and pour before cooling into small jars. This is excellent for a winter cold cream, curing chaps and roughness.

Sage tea is a delightful dressing for the hair, and should be made in small quantities, steeping only a teaspoonful of the dried sage leaves in a cup of boiling water, until very dark colored; strain and use every day, rubbing it well into the scalp. Do not use if at all sour. The scalp should be thoroughly wet and the head and hair be allowed to get quite dry before putting up. At night the hair should be taken down and pre-

pared for sleeping by braiding in two loose braids. Sage tea may be kept sweet for some time by adding alcohol, but that will ruin the hair, and it is best to make it fresh as wanted.

In making cucumber cream, two ounce jars, to be had at the druggists, should be filled, a little rose water poured on top, the lid screwed on tightly and the jar set away in a cool place, opening and using only one jar at a time. Used from large jars, the cream will be apt to spoil before the jar is finished.

To increase the growth of the eyebrows, use vaseline, applying with a little brush—a soft tooth brush will do, rubbing from the nose to the temple.

For Cleansing the Hair

For properly cleansing the hair, the shampoo is better slightly warm. There are many kinds of mixtures used for this purpose, but some are better suited to the particular head of hair to be cleansed than others. One that is perfectly safe, however, is the egg shampoo—one whole egg beaten well into one pint of slightly warm water. This is usually preferred for dark hair, as the egg contains a coloring matter in the form of sulphur and iron which tends to darken the hair.

A fine mixture for brown hair is made by using one cupful each of aromatic vinegar and water, an egg and a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda; beat the egg and soda together and add the diluted vinegar. Another egg shampoo mixture is made by beating one egg, adding a teaspoonful of quite warm water, a small teaspoonful of chlorate of potash and twenty drops of violet water. Another shampoo is made by placing a cake of pure soap in a vessel, pouring over it a pint of boiling water and stirring about until a good lather is made; then take the soap out and use the lather after letting it cool to blood-heat.

For the cleansing, pour the slightly warm shampoo mixture (of any kind) over the scalp just a tiny trifle at a time, rubbing the scalp at the same time with the tips of the fingers; when the scalp is thoroughly clean, pour the balance of the mixture over the long hair, and, commencing near the roots, wash it gently downward toward the end with the palms of the hands, as you would wash a piece of cloth. Thorough rinsing is important, and it can be done by holding the head under a faucet, or using an inexpensive spray, or by having water poured over the scalp and hair, allowing it to wash out every bit of the shampoo mixture. Use soft, warm towels for drying, and finish the process by letting the hair hang loose in the air or sunshine.

Dry, brittle hair requires quite different treatment to that which is oily. Soda, potash, ammonia and salts of tartar are all bad for dry, brittle hair. For this, the egg shampoo is best. The hair does not need a weekly, nor in many cases, a monthly shampooing. Ammonia will bleach the hair, and alcohol is said to kill it. Borax should not be used on dry, rough hair. A teaspoonful of almond oil should be used in the last rinsing water for such hair.—Home Queen.

Pie-Plant Jelly

Usually the pie-plant "patch" is in fine feather about now, and a reader says "Pie-plant jelly is equal to that made of currants, if made right. A porcelain kettle is better than granite, as it is thicker, and the juice,

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.

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.