



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

The Mother

Am I not kin to those high souls, elate,
Who dreamed great dreams too wonderful and great

For any telling? Yea, I too have been

As near to God as poet, seer and saint,

And through glad tears His mysteries have seen,

Seeing I sat as humble women may
And sewed on little garments day by day.

They who have known joy, flawless and complete—

Am I not one of them, whose joy was sweet

Beyond the bliss of lovers? Nay, above

The calm of martyrs crowned, my joy hath been

The perfect crowning of perfected love,

Seeing that one glad day against my breast

The wonder of a little head was pressed.

Am I not sister unto them; whose tears
All men have venerated through the years?

There is no sorrow in a world too wide

I may not know and feel and understand.

Mine, mine the anguish of the Crucified;

The heart of Mary—seeing on a day
I kissed a child's dead face and turned away.

—Theodosia Garrison.

"Taking Thought for Tomorrow"

Are you one of those who never plan out the work for the days to come? Do you act upon the impulse of the moment, with no thought of how the work will stand the test of time, or what the outcome, under unforeseen conditions may be? If so, I pity you, for few people can do this without making mistakes for which, when too late, they are sorry. Besides, there is a great deal of pleasure in planning ahead—"making believe," as the children say. You can thus have your dream, though the reality may never be yours, and the grayest life may be made very beautiful by dreams of beautiful things.

These dark days, when the family is kept indoors because of the cold and storm, is a good time to lay out and plant the garden (on paper). By this means, you will know just what you want to do, and get your seed order off and the seeds in hand before the "rush season" crowds you. One of the very best preventives against the "blues," house-nerve, stupidity and yawning, is to keep the mind busy—hard at work, as the material business in hand progresses. Most of hand-work will allow the worker time to brood and "think thoughts," and one might as well think good, cheerful, healthy thoughts as to grow discouraged and discontented by giving way to the "doldrums." The most common tasks will never become drudgery if the mind is kept stirring. It is the child that is kept idle indoors that gets into all manner of mischief and mishaps, from

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children's 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.

sheer idleness. The busy child, busy about something he likes, is rarely the saucy, disobedient one.

While plying the needle or running the sewing machine, the home-keeper can look out on her yard and, in imagination, plant her shrubs and perennials, so that when the time comes for the actual work, she knows just what is wanted and where. So, as she busies about the kitchen, she can plan for her back yard. Some of the prettiest things in the way of vines and flowers should be planted in sight of the kitchen window—the most cheerful, and the prettiest, so she can see them instead of the dish-pan when the "three-times-a-day" dishwashing has to be done. If she wishes to shut out some disagreeable view, plan for the screen of vines—and let the vines be beautiful ones—bearing beautiful flowers and fragrance, and, it may be, fruits. But have beautiful, cheerful things. Plan for your dreams, then work for your plans. Live, and grow, into the cheerful, beautiful life.

Forcing Rhubarb

"A Reader" asks how this is done. The roots are dug up after a hard freeze in the fall, which freezing seems to be necessary to make the work a success, and then planted in a dark cellar, kept moist and warm; the stalks thus produced grow rapidly, and are much more desirable than those grown in the open air, being tender and of good flavor. In old fashioned gardens, rhubarb was forced by inverting a box or barrel over the plant very early in the spring and piling fermenting material, such as horse-manure, around the outside. In a few weeks, tender, thin-skinned stalks were produced. The appearance is attenuated stems, distorted and dwarfed leaves. Never having had any experience of the kind, I can not say anything about its value for market purposes.

For the Window Garden

For those desiring to keep house plants in the winter, no more than general rules can be given, as much depends upon the plant, and more upon the condition of the atmosphere of the room. It is better to begin with a few easily-grown plants, study them carefully, and when you have met their mutual needs, you will soon learn to recognize their individual wants. When thrifty growth is established, fertilizer, in the shape of liquid barnyard manure is the best to use. The color of the water should be about like weak table tea, and should be given often.

A good way to get moisture among the plants is to have a kettle of boiling water, pour the water in a shallow pan set under the plant shelf, and let the steam go up among the plants. Another way is to heat hard bricks very hot and put them in the water to cause steam. In addition, always keep a shallow dish full of water on the stove or register.

All dead, yellow or unsightly leaves should be picked off and burned, and the remaining foliage should be kept free from dust. Turn the pots frequently, allowing every side to get its quota of sunshine, and thus assure a shapely plant. Water only on warm days in winter—never at night, or at noon, when the sun is shining on the foliage. A dry plant can stand much more cold than a wet one.

Stir the soil in the pots occasion-

ally with a steel table fork, to admit air to the roots. If the soil becomes sour from too much water, set the pot in a vessel of boiling hot water (the water must not touch the plant, and a newspaper may, if desired, be wrapped about the top of the plant). When the water cools, lay the pot on its side to drain thoroughly.

All manner of insects attack plants in a hot, dry atmosphere. Where do they come from? I do not know. Do not let them get a hold on your plants. Water and moisture on the foliage are good protectives. A fine sprayer, costing fifty to seventy-five cents will last a long time. Give the foliage an early morning sprinkle with this. Do not spray at night, and never at noon when the sun shines on the foliage. Always use tepid water for spraying or watering.

For the Kitchen Floors

Is it too early to talk about renovating the woodwork of our homes? I think not, and if you are in need of formulas for floor-stain, it might be well to clip this one out and put it where you can get it when wanted. The reason why many women detest kitchen work is because the kitchen, itself, is usually the most uninviting place in the house, and only to be kept presentable by hard, drudging work which might just as well not be required. No dainty woman likes to spend the greater part of her time scraping and scouring the floors, or washing and cleaning the woodwork. If the floor is an old one, it should be scoured perfectly clean, being particular to remove all grease spots, and let get perfectly dry. Then, for a good stain, take half a pound of burnt umber, half a pound of raw umber, and mix with one pint of Japan varnish and one pint of boiled linseed oil, thinning with turpentine until it will spread evenly on the floor. Apply this mixture with a worn paint-brush, rubbing it across the grain. In about ten minutes after finishing the floor, go over it with a woolen rag and rub off all the surplus stain, rubbing this time with the grain of the wood. When the floor is perfectly dry, which should not be longer than two or three days, at most, apply a coat of boiled linseed oil. Let dry before using. About once in six months, give the floor a coating of boiled linseed oil, and it will always look well.

If the floor is a new one, of either ash or hard pine, two coats of boiled linseed oil makes a pretty floor. Such a floor should not be scrubbed; wiping up with clear, tepid water is all that is necessary.

The pantry should open into both kitchen and dining room, and there should be a closet near the cook stove for holding the cooking pans and skillets, pots, plates, measuring cups, kitchen knives and forks, spoons, bowls, salt, pepper, vinegar jugs, and other things which are constantly used in getting a meal. The cellar stairs should open out of the kitchen, and a dumb waiter going to the cellar is a great convenience.

"Domestic Economy" for Boys

An unsigned clipping reaches us from one of our readers, which is not so huge a joke as it would, on its face, seem to be. Here it is:

"In Girard college the boys are taught to sew, darn, press, clean and cook. This would seem, at first

glance, a training for bachelorhood, making for independence from the 'feminine touch.' But the closer consideration shows that it is really a preparatory training to make model husbands. It is a necessity to meet a demand created by the development of the new woman, who no longer sews, darns, cleans, presses or cooks. Her sphere having been enlarged to 'all out-door,' she must forgo the indoor, domestic economies in favor of her new labors.

"But sewing, darning, cleaning, cooking must be done. There is a limit to which frowsy frumpery may be carried, and the world marks it. Pegs will serve for emergency uses for a while, but not as a permanent substitution for buttons, and a man tied together with strings is a menace to himself and the peace of a modest world. He must, therefore, learn to attend to his own grooming and to be not wholly dependent on canned goods for sustenance, he must know how to cook. Otherwise, he dare not become a Benedict. Bachelorhood, out of a small surplus, may make shift with the services of professional pressers and menders, but matrimony has no surplus to be squandered. It must attend to its own belongings, or go uncared for.

"It is well, therefore, that future husbands be taught to keep themselves in order. It will make them more independent, and the offer of their hands and hearts less like a classified want advertisement. And the woman who marries him will have more time for the world-labors which engross their minds."

For the Laundry

The housewife should avail herself of all the helps possible in doing the family laundering. One of the greatest helps is a good machine and wringer, and there are quite a number of good ones on the market. Many manufacturers will send the machine on trial for thirty days, free of charge, and this will give one the opportunity of thoroughly testing it four times, in the home, with the home help. Many that do excellent work, lasting for years, if given care, can be had for \$3.50 up to \$6. There are higher-priced ones, but the cheaper ones will do excellent work. Neither by hand or by machine can first-class washing be done if one does not have good water and good soap. The water should be rain water, if it can be had, though some springs and wells give soft water. If hard water must be used, it should be "broken" with lye, sal soda or borax. Some excellent washing fluids are easily made and inexpensive, and will save much hard labor and soap.

One of these is made by mixing together one pound of good potash, and one ounce each of sal. ammonia and sal. tartar. Dissolve the potash in boiling water, then add the other ingredients. One gallon of water should be used, and the solution, as soon as made, corked tightly in a jug, labeled, and put away for use. The clothes should be properly sorted the night before and put to soak in clear water, and if the water is hard, break it with borax—directions for using which will be on the package. Next morning soap well the soiled parts, and put them into the boiler in which is as much water as is needed for the clothes, and to which has been added at the rate of half a teacupful of the solution to every three pails of water. They should boil twenty minutes, and when taken out, another kettleful of clothes may be put into the boiler, filling up enough water, while the clothes just taken out may

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