



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts Miller

## "Home-Made" Christmas Gifts

O, Christmas time will soon be here,  
With mirth and merry cheer;  
'Tis time to think of presents now,  
For all our friends so dear.  
What matter though we're poor in  
purse?  
And destitute of pelf?  
Why, don't you know, the nicest gifts  
Are those we make ourself?  
We'll take a broken sewer-pipe  
For an umbrella jar;  
Just put a coat of gilt paint on,  
And there's a gift for Pa!

A quinine pill-box painted blue  
Will make a bonbonniere,  
A picture painted on the top  
Will give a festive air.  
From Uncle's old suspenders  
We'll fix a belt for Kate,  
And mark it "Price two dollars—"  
'Twill please her, sure as fate!  
An empty pickle bottle  
Will make a lovely vase;  
Tie scarlet ribbon round it,  
And mark it "Love to Grace."

A box with Ma's old wrapper  
Upholstered smooth and neat,  
Will make a handsome footstool  
For Grandma's dear old feet!  
We'll rummage through the garret,  
And lug the things about;  
Through musty piles of cast-offs  
We'll turn it inside out;  
We'll tack and paint and polish,  
From gilt to golden brown;  
And broken sofa, chair and couch  
Re-vamp with some old gown.

O, won't our friends be glad to get  
The presents we have made!  
They're sure to put all purchased  
gifts  
Away back in the shade.  
And naught so useless, worn or old,  
But by device or shifts  
Can be made into "home-made"  
things  
To serve as Christmas Gifts!  
—Elsie Duncan Yale, in Housewife.

## "Casting Bread Upon the Waters"

"Give to the world the best that you  
have,  
And the best shall come back to you."

George MacDonald said: "The woman who cares for her own children is a good mother; but the woman who cares for the children of another, giving them room in her heart, is one of God's mothers."

While it is not always best to look for rewards in doing acts of kindness, it is always best to do them, and few fail of having their bread "cast upon the waters," come back to them in some form or other, although it may not reach them in this life. Many times, there will be occasions where there will seem not the slightest return in kind to be expected. But we do not always know. An instance of this has just come to my knowledge. A young mother, grieving over the death of a little child—an only daughter—had her attention directed to a forlorn, homeless little waif whom nobody wanted because of a bad heredity back of her. Pity for this helpless little piece of driftwood caused the defrauded mother to ignore the counsel of her friends, and take into her home the little cast-away, and as time passed, the tenderest love sprang up between them.

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 the pain, cures  
wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.  
Twenty-five cents a bottle.

As the years went by, bringing the child to the verge of womanhood, the cruel "leavening" began to work, and despite the tenderest watch-care, she proved a terrible weight upon the aching heart of her foster mother, who followed her through all her wild ways, pitying, guarding, loving, and seeking to lift her; but in vain. Bye and bye, in a mad frolic, the girl disappeared, and for several years, was not heard of. But the poor, grieving mother-heart sought her everywhere, calling her always to come home.

One day, in a crowded street, the mother, grown feeble with sorrow more than years, was knocked down and terribly mangled under an automobile filled with a gayly dressed crowd of merry-makers. When the poor bleeding body was pulled from under the wheels, and her face turned up for identification, one of the women of the party, the most dissolute looking one of them all, sprang from the vehicle, and knelt in the mud of the street, pulling the poor, blood-stained head upon her breast and crying, "Oh, my more than mother! My more than mother!" The girl followed the broken form to the hospital, refusing to leave her until she had nursed her back to a condition to be removed to her own home, and, in the meantime, she had investigated matters and found that the old lady was but a wage-worker, living on the pittance her feeble hands could earn. "Her working days are over," she said, "if I can find anybody to trust me with work. All I ask is a chance to prove myself." That was five years ago, the coming Christmas week, and the redeemed one has proven herself to be true gold. The poor old lady never fully recovered from the hurt, but she has never known sorrow since. As tenderly as though she were a little child, the reclaimed foster child has ministered to her every want, working so conscientiously and determinedly that she now holds a good position in a large manufacturing plant, self-respecting and respected, and to the woman who, despite all discouragements, gave the best of herself, the best is being returned, full measure, pressed down, and running over. Offers of marriage have come to this girl, from honorable and pure-hearted men; but she says she has but one love to give, and that love belongs to mother. While tenderly caring for her invalid, she finds much time and means through which to do mission work among the fallen girls of a great city, and more than one of these give the credit of their reform to the kindly lifting and sustaining given by this once "sinful and fair."

## "Mid-Winter" Sales

The coming month, January, of the New Year, is usually given over to shopping and the sewing machine, and in cities and the larger towns the importance of the January, or mid-winter, sales has become a recognized fact. As our real winter weather seldom comes before the latter part of January, many people delay buying their woolens and winter wear until these sales. If one is a judge of values and materials, many things may be picked up at the "bargain" counters at greatly reduced prices; many bits of choice fabrics in lengths suitable for children's clothing, or for combinations and trimmings, are to be had for a much

less price than at the regular counters, and knit-wear, muslins, wraps, and suits, as well as threads, laces, braids, and "notions" in general, can often be had at a great saving of money. On special sales day, the reduction in prices on some specialties are very alluring.

But not everything offered is a "bargain," and unless one is a judge of values and materials, one is apt to pay dear for the purchase and the article snatched or dragged from the "bargain" counter may cost more than a better article over the regular counter would have done. Many of these goods are very deceiving, made to sell, not to serve, and in the excitement of shopping, the hasty examination under dim light, and the anxiety to get out of the pushing, struggling crowds, one can not always choose wisely. The better values are usually taken by the early shopper, who is generally experienced in such matters, but, if one "learns wisdom by practice," and can control her "bargain counter" craze, it is a good thing to "go with the crowd." But be sure you know what you want, and how much you can afford to spend, before you venture into the stream of shoppers.

If you can wait for your purchases, remember that just after the Christmas sales, merchandise will be a great deal cheaper than just before, and many things—even for Christmas presents—can be just as well bought a few days after as a few days before.

## For Baby

For the baby's first clothes, the essentials are softness and warmth, as the delicate flesh of the newly-born is so very easily irritated by the least harshness, and the little body too frail to withstand a chill. Lightweight materials are necessary so that the garments may not be pulled about by their own weight. French and English nainsook are the prettiest and most desirable materials for the little dresses, but are quite expensive, and Persian lawns, swiss and dimities are next in desirableness and quite reasonable in price. Plain little slips should be worn at first until the baby is to be put into dresses, and these may be used later for night gowns. Two yards of material will make the slip. A yard and three-quarters will be needed for the little petticoats, finished with a hem and tucks. Laces or embroideries may be full on as a ruffle in place of the hem. The woolens should be of the softest and finest. Remember that a healthy baby, or one to be healthy, needs nothing so much as rest, warmth and proper feeding.

## Flannellette

Flannellette, however suitable for underwear and night garments, should not be used for children's dresses where there are open fires, or where children are allowed to play with fire, as the nap on the goods ignites very easily, and burns rapidly. For the little folks that must go to school, a good quality of flannellette makes much more comfortable drawers and knickerbockers than smooth cottons, and will largely take the place of woolens with children who can not stand woolen garments next to the flesh. To prevent flannellette or other doubtful cottons from fading, dissolve two teaspoonfuls of sugar of lead in an ordinary-

sized pailful of water, just warm. Put in the cottons and let stand an hour or two, then wash in the usual way. Be sure to rinse all soap out of the fabric before drying.

## Using Rye Flour

"A Reader" asks for directions for making rye bread that will neither "come up soggy, nor go down boggy." Unfortunately, successful bread-making is dependent upon more than mere measures and directions for mixing. The quality of the flour, the "liveness" of the yeast, the process of mixing ingredients, the temperature in which the mixture is allowed to stand for rising, the reliability of the oven and, more than all else, the practical judgment and experience of the maker, are all to be considered. Such things can not be done "by rule," without experience, but if the "reader" fails with her first batch, would recommend that she "try, try again," as practice will certainly make perfect, if only she makes stepping stones of the failures. Here are the recipes, with hope that she will have "good luck."

Rye Bread (with two-thirds whole wheat flour to one-third rye flour, and compressed yeast)—One cake of compressed yeast dissolved in one pint of lukewarm water, or equal parts milk and water, one teaspoonful of sugar and one of salt. Stir into this mixed flour enough to make a rather thick batter, as, if too thin, it will not rise good, but it must not be too thick—about like "sponge" for other bread. Let this batter get nice and light, then work enough flour into it to make a good, stiff dough, adding as it is worked, a tablespoonful of soft lard, same of sugar, salt and, if liked, caraway seed, with a half teacupful of lukewarm water. Let rise again, then work out into long loaves, put into long, narrow, well greased pans, let rise again, then bake. Rye flour must have considerable kneading. Where compressed yeast can not be had, one half pint of good potato yeast, or its equivalent of dry, will make four loaves.

Rye Bread—To one quart of warm water add one teacupful of good yeast, and thicken with rye flour; put in a warm place to rise over night; scald one pint of corn meal, and when lukewarm add it to the sponge in the morning, adding rye flour enough to knead well, but knead the dough only enough to mix the ingredients well, then set to rise; when again light, mold into loaves, put into deep pans—long, narrow ones preferred—and bake. Or the sponge may be thickened with rye flour alone, leaving out the corn meal; or whole wheat sponge may be used instead of rye. The dough should not be so stiff as for wheat bread.

"Rye and Injun"—One quart of rye meal or rye flour, and two quarts of Indian meal; place the corn meal in a pan and pour over it, stirring constantly with a spoon, just enough boiling water to merely wet it, but not make batter; add to the corn meal and rye one-half teacupful of molasses, one tablespoonful of salt (level), one teaspoonful of soda, and one teacupful of good, live yeast. Make this as stiff as it can be stirred with a spoon, mixing with warm water, and set to rise overnight. Then, put into a pan large enough to hold it, smooth the top nicely with the hand dipped in cold water, let it stand until it begins to rise, then



Free from harmful drugs.  
Cure coughs and hoarseness. Relieve Asthma.