



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
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## The Lonely Little Fellows

The lonely little fellow sits among his idle toys  
And finds no charm about what once he thought his greatest joys;  
He does not run and laugh and play; he will but sit and wait  
And listen for a footfall or the rattle of the gate,  
And watch to see somebody coming through the open door—  
Somebody who will clasp him and will sing to him no more.

He is too young, they tell us, far too young to know at all  
The truth about the sorrow that the hand of fate let fall—  
And yet he sits and watches with his hope told in his eyes  
And oft with lips a-quiver he will stifle little sighs;  
He gazes from the window in the sunshine and the rain  
And none of us may fathom how his heart is wrung with pain.

And nights he bravely clammers in his little bed alone  
And whispers little prayers that his trusting soul has known  
Since first he lisped them slowly, kneeling at somebody's knee—  
And should we tiptoe lightly to his bedside we should see  
Dim tear stains on his eyelids, for, the same as you or I  
The little boy has stumbled on the barring question "Why?"

He can not understand it? Ah, we try hard to believe  
That lonely little fellows know not what it is to grieve,  
But they waken in the morning and they look about to find  
The arms that once would hold them in embraces warm and kind,  
And they, too, have their sorrow, and they dumbly hold and keep  
A memory that mocks them of the grief that will not sleep.

The lonely little fellows! Do you know of one somewhere?  
Then go take him up and soothe him while you smooth his sunny hair,  
And sing to him and whisper little stories all the while  
Until his eyes are laughing and his lips will wear a smile,  
For life is scant of gladness, and the shadows dull the day  
When the lonely little fellows do not sing and laugh and play.  
—W. D. Nesbit in St. Louis Republic.

## Postal Card Greeting

Many Christmas and New Year's cards came to me from our friends, and their coming was in effect like sunbeams breaking through clouds. For the pleasing remembrances, I am most grateful. The custom of greeting by picture card is a pleasant one, and should never go out of fashion. Few things so inexpensive carry with them such an atmosphere of good will and thoughtful remembrance as these cards, and one seldom has too many of them, or fails to welcome their coming.

But there are picture cards and picture cards. Many of the first class are not only lovely, but educational, as they portray the customs and architecture of many lands and people, giving one a better idea of places

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.

and nations than any printed word can do. Others are more or less tasteful designs and bright colors which please the eye, while still others are merely the expression of friendly good will.

Of the so-called "comic" class, some are really mirth-provoking without leaving "a bad taste in one's mouth," while still others are, as one writer has said, "a disgrace to the firm issuing them, a discredit to the one sending them out, and an insult to the one to whom they are sent." These are the kind that should go out of fashion, and the sooner it is done, the better. While many may be sent merely in a spirit of unthinking fun, others are mailed with malicious intent, purposely to hurt and annoy.

In St. Louis alone, for the three days prior to and including Christmas, there were 6,500 pounds—950,000 cards—passed through the hands of the postal employees.

## The Farm Work Shop

It is not always best, or necessary, to try to "keep the boys on the farm." Sometimes, the very best thing that can be done is to let him get out in the world and see for himself what it is made of. But while we do keep him, let us make the life worth living. One of the most useful investments the father can make is a well-equipped work shop. The boys should be encouraged to use the tools, and to try their hand at making or mending, as the case may be. A blacksmith shop, though the outfit of tools may be but the most necessary for even rough work, will more than save its cost in time and attention to the rougher machinery which can be mended even by the unskilled. Carpenter's tools may be many or few, but there should be enough of them, and of the kind to admit of little jobs of repairing, or construction, and the boys should be encouraged to try their hands at such work. There should be a shoe and harness repairing outfit, and the harness, like the family clothing, should be kept in repair. We often see otherwise good harness tied together with strings, straps, pieces of wire, chain, or rope, that, with the proper use of harness needles, awls, waxed threads, etc., would serve for a long while and look neat. There should be paint brushes and paint for preserving the wood work of implements, and any handy boy would take a pride in keeping things neat, if he were only enlisted in the good work by example. If the boy sees nothing but disorder, and is taught nothing about the necessity of keeping things in repair, how can one expect him to do it? We read everywhere that the mother should see that the daughter learns how to patch and darn and mend, but how seldom do we hear or read that the patching, darning, mending in the father's province of the farm should be attended to? Many a woman would prefer to walk to town, or to the country store rather than be seen riding in the old, ram-shackle, rickety vehicle, with a horse or horses wearing a ragged, tied-together, and altogether disreputable as well as unsafe harness, which a few hours' work some stormy day, or odd time could make neat and serviceable.

## The Weekly Wash

In the long-gone days of our forebears, the pounder and the barrel

vied with the tub and the rubbing board as a cleanser; but the invention of the washing machine, which does the work on the same principles (the forcing of water of various degrees of heat through the meshes of the cloth to expel the dirt) has made the work far less laborious, with less wear on either the woman or the "wash."

In the make of the machines, there are good, better, best; but there are few makes, even of the poorest, that, if properly managed, will not save the strength of the laundress, if only by dividing the labor among several hands. At best, washing is hard work, and when the millenium is fully established, this, in common with other hard tasks will be taken out of the hands of weak women, and the whole laundering business be better done by machinery. But until that time does come, we must do the best we can, by employing the mechanical devices which take away much of the heavy lifting of tubs, the shifting of waters, and the steaming of the woman. The woman who works over hot water until the pores of the skin are fully open, then goes out into the wintry air to empty water or hang out clothing, is unwise. If nothing else can be done, before going out, plunge the hands and arms and wash the face with cold water, and thus reduce the liability to take cold from this cause. Hands, arms, and head should be covered, with a thicker garment thrown about the shoulders. The feet, too should be protected, as one's shoes get damp, and if the water is carelessly handled, even wet, and at all events, the ordinary shoe-sole is seldom thick enough to prevent the chill from cold, wet or frozen ground while hanging the clothes on the line.

Tubs should be fitted with a faucet near the bottom, to avoid the lifting of the tub for emptying, and there are several ingenious ways of getting the water to the boiler and tub without lifting. Economy of strength should be looked after at every turn, and there should be no exposure of the laundress, saturated with steam as she invariably is, that can be avoided.

## Little Comforts

There is little that can be done about the garden, these short, mid-winter days, but "where there's a will there's a way" to make many little comforts, both for the inside and the outside of the home. Instead of sitting about the house, drowsing over the fire, or going to the corner store to gossip with other idlers, it would be a good thing if the gude mon would look around and see how many little jobs he can find, the doing of which will result in much comfort for the family during the days to come. Benches and seats can be made of poles, or slabs, with very little labor and absolutely no expense, where there is timber, and these, placed in the shade in the garden, or about the yard, will be very acceptable when one has a moment to rest while working about the premises with only the wet ground underfoot. Walks can be made from the house to other buildings, if only of stones, or a ridge of earth that will drain the water and afford a strip of dry ground to walk on; or logs, with one side hewn off, may be stayed so they will not roll. If more expensive material can be had, the work should be done as

quickly as possible; but anything is better than nothing.

There should be at least a door step, if not a porch floor, and on the side of this should be fastened a piece of iron for a scraper, and the old brooms should be kept at the door for cleaning the manure and mud from the shoes before entering the house. A woman can not keep the house sweet and clean, no matter how hard she may work, if the men and boys do not do their share at it, and few boys will do just as the father does. Hired men are not angels, and perhaps they have grown up with careless, indifferent fathers, too; so, they will not be above carrying the clings from the barn lot into the house. It is useless to expect tidy girls if the boys are allowed to be untidy, for girls and women get very much discouraged with the constant picking up and cleaning after. Brothers, just look around a little, before you start off to town, and see what is needed about the premises.

## Sanitation

Now is a good time for the gude mon to look after the "little things" which are still so big that, in the hurry season, when they are most wanted, they can not be attended to. One of these is the carrying away from the house of the waste water of every sort. Where this water can be run into the garden, it is excellent for the plants, and it can be so used if the garden is below the house, by the use of drain pipes, or trenches of sufficient depth and "fall" to insure the water being carried away. If this can not be done, there is still the old "cess-pool" underground, to which the water may be guided, and from which the water will all drain away into the soil surrounding it. It is now claimed that the cess-pool is not a menace to health, but a real sanitary measure, and if the soil is sandy or porous, will not require any attention for years at a time. Into this pool guide the waste water from the home and kitchen through pipes which are easily laid. The pool should be loosely walled up—not cemented. House slops should never be thrown about the doors or yards winter or summer.

## Concerning Yeast

The method by which yeast makes bread light is easily understood. In the flour along with the starch is a small amount of material known as diastase. By the action of this diastase in dough, part of the starch is changed to sugar. The yeast plants feed upon the materials in the dough, and ferment the sugar, producing the gas, carbon, dioxide and alcohol. The bubbles of carbon dioxide collect in the dough, causing it to swell and this is the so-called raising of bread. The heat in baking drives out the alcohol and the carbon dioxide, but at the same time the heat hardens the dough, and the spaces formerly filled with the carbon dioxide are left as pores in the bread.—Good Housekeeping.

## For Making Shirt Waists

Do not bring the fulness of the shirtwaist into a very narrow space on each side of the center of front and back, as this gives ugly lines to the waist. The fulness should fall in straight lines from the shoulder to the waist-line, whether



Clear the voice. Allay the irritation caused by coughing. Use when required.