



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Meyer

Summer Longing

Wouldn't you like to just quit the whole game
Of thinking and planning and working,
With never a care to win wealth or fame,
With no one to chide you for shirking?
Wouldn't you like to just lie in the shade,
On the grass, at the brink of a brook,
Caring naught for the frowns of Fortune, the jade,
With no one to bring you to book?
Wouldn't you like to say, "I don't hear,"
When told that there's work to be done—
Watch the clouds overhead till they drop down so near,
Each freighted with gold from the sun?
You would, you well know, pretend as you please,
Of "effort," of "service," of "duty,"
Love to loll all day long 'neath the trees at your ease,
And dream of a life filled with beauty.

—H. B. W. in National Daily.

March Sunshine

Did you ever notice how glaringly the sunshine of the first spring days lights up the dusty corners and dingy walls and ceilings in the house? There seems no possibility of hiding them, and every dent, scratch, finger-mark or worn place seems especially marshalled to worry and fret you! Meanwhile, your soul is torn between the desire to get at the house cleaning and getting out the garden tools, while the tag-ends at least of the winter in the shape of sharp cold, sleet storms, mud, and general feeling of untimeliness, keeps you from the work of renovating. There are many things that can be done, however, and much preparation made, so that, when the season is right for it, we can go at the work both in-doors and out, decently and in order.

One thing you must not neglect: That is, to have as many beauty spots as possible about the home. If you can have but a few feet of "yard," fight for it, if need be; but have it, for your soul's sake. If only one plant or shrub or vine can be cherished, have the one, and take as much comfort with it as possible. Many florists advertise a package of mixed seeds, containing many hundred kinds of seeds, for ten cents, and I know from my own experience, that the farm wife will get many beautiful things from the sowing of such a package. Seeds of mixed perennials will give dollars worth of hardy shrubs and herbaceous plants that, once given a start, will literally take care of themselves. If you can not start them near the house, hunt out a spot far from the poultry yard and start your garden. Do not let yourself be so overworked that you can not have a little time for the flowers. Such a life leaves one old and ugly and wrinkled and sour before middle age. Try the bright spots as beauty-makers. Get all the sunshine you can, spiritually as well

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.
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as physically. There is nothing which sweetens the disposition and dispels the blues so quickly and thoroughly as the cultivation of beauty spots and flowers.

The Country School House

What are you planning about your school house and grounds?

Would it not be well to make it more attractive by the use of paint, whitewash, or kalsomining inside and a "dressing up" inside? How is the yard, front and back? Would not a bit of plowing, grading and beautifying be a good investment of a little time and money on the part of its patrons? How about the fencing? Will it "turn stock," and thus protect the premises from straying horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and other agents of destruction? Are there not repairs in the way of patching, fastening loose boards, tightening the roof, fixing up the wells or other supply of water, making gravel, or other walks, and seeing that every thing is in good shape for the summer school, or for the gathering place of the neighbors on Sundays, or other social occasions? Would not a lot of soap, disinfectants, and other "beautifiers" be well used on the premises and inside? Are there shades to the windows, lamps for evening lighting, pictures to relieve the bareness of the walls? Would it not be a paying investment for the patrons to have an old-fashioned "bee," some day and make this "alma mater" of their children a little more comfortable, clean and attractive? "Why do the boys leave the farm?" is a question that is answered every day, and the girls are following the boys as fast as they can (they always do that, you know), yet the fathers leave their school buildings so unsightly, unsanitary, and unusable that the children learn readily to look toward the village and city where their comfort is considered. If the school houses were nicely kept, and carefully used as a gathering place for the young and old, the social life being kept alive by the Sunday schools, the church meetings, and the social gatherings during the week, there would be less lure to the charms of the city and village and far less flying to the city for companionship.

Do not fail to clean up and beautify the school grounds and teach the children to take a pride in caring for them, rather than a pleasure in destroying the unsightly barracks.

Cleaning Men's Clothes

Answering several readers: Men's clothing should be hung on a line and well beaten and brushed, in order to remove all dust. The spots and collars should then be cleaned with a cleaning fluid, and all shiny places treated to a good rubbing to raise whatever of "nap" may be left. Some things, however, may be so dirty that only a thorough washing in gasoline or suds will make them presentable. Even if the work be done by a professional, the garment will never look quite as nice as before, and will show soil much quicker after the suds washing. The gasoline cleaning will not shrink or wrinkle the goods as water will.

To remove spots, there are several good fluids, one of which is made as follows: One quart of boiling soft water, with one-fourth pound of good white soap shredded into it, a heap-

ing tablespoonful of borax added, and the mixture stirred constantly until dissolved. Another is, two ounces of hartshorn, one ounce of castile soap, one-fourth ounce of saltpeter, dissolved in one quart of rain-water by heat, adding the hartshorn when taken from the fire. For the collar, lay flat on the table, or a clean board, and dip a small scrub brush into the dissolved soap, scrub all the dirt out, then scrub with clean water and clean cloth. Dry by rubbing with a clean cloth, then, cover with another clean cloth and iron until quite dry.

For the spots, put a thick pad made of old, soft cloth under the spot, saturate the spot with the mixture and rub hard with another piece of soft cloth; hard rubbing should drive the dirt through into the pad. When clean, scour with a little soft, clean water to remove soap and press with a damp cloth between the iron and the garment. The rubbing should be done with a cloth the same color of the garment; never use white on black goods.

Another way to clean coat collars which are very much soiled is to saturate with benzine, having the garment out of doors, and roll up for an hour or more, then clean with the fluid as above.

For the shiny places, after cleaning, the cloth should be rubbed in such a way as to raise what "nap" is left on the places.

Contributed Recipes

Tomato Sauce—One quart of tomatoes, two tablespoonfuls each of flour and butter, eight cloves, one slice of onion, and salt and pepper to taste. Set the tomatoes, onion and cloves over the fire and cook for ten minutes; put the butter in a frying pan, and when hot, add the flour, stir until smooth and cooked brown, then add the tomatoes, cook for three minutes, season with salt and pepper, pass through a strainer fine enough to hold the seeds.

Burre Noir—Two tablespoonfuls of butter, one tablespoonful each of vinegar and chopped parsley, and one teaspoonful of lemon juice, half teaspoonful of salt and one-fourth teaspoonful of pepper. Place the butter in a frying pan, and when hot add the other ingredients and bring to a boil. This sauce is poured over fried or broiled fish just before serving.

Beefsteak Chowder—Cut one slice of nice fat salt pork into small bits with one onion minced fine; cook these until a nice brown, and the pork bits well crisped. Add one quart of boiling water and let simmer for five minutes, then pour it over one pound of round steak which has been previously cut into strips half an inch thick and two inches long. Bring this quickly to a boil; boil five minutes, then simmer until meat is tender. Add four or five potatoes that have been pared and sliced; season with salt and pepper, add more boiling water, and when potatoes are tender, add a cupful and a half of good rich milk or cream. Split six or eight crackers, put them into the soup dish and pour the chowder over them, serving at once.

Gooseberry Soy—Eight pounds of stemmed and burred gooseberries, four pounds of sugar, one pint of vinegar, half teacupful of water. Boil two hours or more until thick. This is good to use with meats.

Sugar Syrup—To keep from hard-

ening or granulating, put into it while boiling a pinch of powdered alum. It will keep liquid longer.

Query Box

Several Readers—See answers under other headings.

Mrs. B.—"Sitting on one's backbone," or slouching in the chair is bad for one's nerves. Try getting out of the habit.

W.—Hygienists tell us that stomachs can be ruined by giving them too little to do about as easily as by giving them too much.

A. W. P.—Parmesan cheese is an Italian cheese, which is sold grated in bottles. Other cheese can be used with macaroni in recipes calling for it.

G. W.—While oranges have no place in the materia medica, the fruit is wholesome and pleasant to the taste, and contains a mild acid that is beneficial to most people.

S. D.—Lime is one of the best and most inexpensive disinfectants and sweeteners, and should be used freely in cellars and out houses, both in the form of dust and as whitewash. Unslacked lime will absorb moisture in cellars.

"Little Cook"—Baking powder is used in place of cream tartar and soda, or buttermilk and soda, and has the same effect. Buttermilk and soda is best for corn bread, as the bread is more moist.

B. R.—A little powdered pumice stone, sifted, will remove finger marks and slight soils from book leaves and light colored covers, by rubbing with a bit of wash leather, then going over the spots with a clean piece of leather to take off the powder.

L.—Grocers' paper and paper bags are made from a mixture of old rags, lime, glue, etc., mixed with chemicals and acids. If dry, no harm results; but anything damp or moist should not be left in the bags or wrappings. Glass jars, earthenware, and tin are good kitchen receptacles.

L. L.—Often, to avoid bulkiness, a narrow binding of bias cambric is used in place of a band on dress skirts, and should show about a quarter of an inch, inside and out. Stitch on the outside, turn over and hem down on the inside. Regular skirt binding can be bought reasonably.

Nellie M.—This is recommended: Put the iron rust spots over a bowl of boiling water, dip a feather in spirits of salt and lightly touch the stain; rinse well by pouring clear water through the spot, and the rust will disappear. It is claimed this can be used on colored cloth without damage to color. Best try it on something not valuable at first.

Ella M.—Taganrok is Russian wheat farina, and can be had in small packages at any first class grocery store. To use, put two cupfuls of milk in a double boiler, and when very hot, stir in two tablespoonfuls of the taganrok and a small salt-spoonful of salt, stirring constantly until blended; then cook half an hour, stirring occasionally; turn into a mold, and when cold eat with sugar and cream.

"Denver"—If one has weak lungs, the inhalation of air by deep breathing will be painful at first, and the patient should cease the exercise each time as soon as the slightest pain gives warning. By continuing the practice and observing the precaution, the painful sensation will gradually give way to comfort and exhilaration. "Breathing spells" should be taken whenever you think of it, but two or three times a day and on retiring is the minimum.

H. W. recommends that in discarding heavy carpets, a good qual-

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