



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Wat is M. Key

## Wild Roses

O, the wild June rose in the pasture knows,  
Though it hath but little reason,  
That its cousins fair in the town declare  
'Tis the debutante's own season;  
But it smiles no less for the happiness  
Of the rose on gentler highways.  
For it blooms and blooms, and its glad perfumes  
Fling their sweetness to the by-ways.

On a thousand hills, where the wild rose wills,  
In the moorland and the valley,  
There the rose-clans come, and the wild bees hum,  
In their glad June-day rally.  
'Tis the festal day on the pasture-way,  
In the distant dell and hollow,  
And the sunshine brings many offerings  
And the welcome rain-guests follow.

Though a fairer rose in the garden grows,  
There's one that is more contented  
Than the brave, bright flower of the sweet June hour,  
On the green hills, richly scented.  
And it knows as well as the city belle,  
With its city-bred compassion,  
That a June-day hath, in the country path,  
The rose that is all the fashion.  
—F. W. Hutt, in Ladies' World.

## Perils of the Playground

A great deal is said in praise of the public playgrounds which philanthropists are opening up in many of our large cities, and in many ways they are a very great improvement upon the streets and alleys. But there is slowly coming to the surface an under current of complaint, as mothers and guardians are beginning to realize the perils that meet their children there. Those in charge of the grounds can not be everywhere, or see or hear everything, and there are words spoken and actions slyly indulged in that little children, though they may not know the meaning of them, will surely remember and repeat. A mother, whose chief interest in getting a home near one of the best equipped of these grounds was that her children, ranging from twelve years to five, could have the benefit of the playgrounds, told me that, after two months of the playground education, she found her children were learning lessons that she had never dreamed of their learning there, and she had at once secured another home and taken her little ones from the neighborhood. On these play grounds, all sorts and classes of children are to be met, and it is not always the most carefully groomed child that is the safest companion for "our own." Then, too, the exercises are too "strenuous" for many children who are untrained in the uses of their muscles, or are not active enough to indulge in them without harm, and not all children have the wisdom to let hurtful exercises alone. The stronger children often push and crowd the weaker ones, who are too shy, or too brave to make complaint, and in many instances there are hurts that nobody, except the mother, and not always she, hears of. It is not the fault of

the playground, or of its attendants, but it is the natural effect of herding children together. Parents, or guardians should attend their children at such places. But even then, all evil lessons can not be suppressed.

## Caring for Men's Clothing

In folding trousers for traveling or packing purposes, put the waist buttons together, and pull the trousers down quite flat, with the outer seams about an inch in front of the inner; fold them over into half their length, and then put them into whatever receptacle awaits them.

In folding a coat, lay it lining-side down on a table, which allows enough room to lay the coat perfectly flat, and turn up the collar. Next, turn the fronts back, and fold the left half over the right, the back seam acting as the crease-edge on the left hand. Make a fold from the arm-holes downward to the bottom of the coat, being careful not to disturb the sleeves—they have been naturally cared for. Turn the coat to half its length, unless the box or case allows full length.

In hanging up a man's coat, do not hang it by the loop beneath the collar, but hang it on a coat form; the coat hanger will cost but a few cents, will last almost a life time, and the coat will be kept in good shape.

In hanging up a pair of trousers, the average woman buttons the waist band together and hangs them up by the band, or by means of the suspenders. This soon gets them out of shape. Get a hanger of the tailor or department store, or at the ten-cent store—two for a nickel, in most places, and the tailor will show you how to use them.

When trousers are "kneaded" or "bagged" dampen the bulge with a sponge, or lay a damp cloth over and iron with a pressing motion until the bulge is taken up. The dampening may have to be repeated. If too much out of shape for the home repairer, take them to the tailor.

If very dusty, take the clothing out doors and beat with a carpet whip, or flexible cane or switch. Afterwards, lay on a table and brush them downward, from waist to bottom. If clothes are wet, stretch into shape while drying, then press with a heavy iron. As many men are indifferent to their looks, or too busy to attend to their wardrobe, the wife or daughter should make it a part of her education to know how such things should be done. The women of the family generally bear the blame in such things.

## Washing Trousers

A tailor gives this way of washing men's and boys' trousers with satisfactory results: First wash through thoroughly warm (not hot) soap suds, pressing between the hands, rather than rubbing; do not rub soap on the garment, except on the worst spots, but it is best to have these attended to before undertaking the whole garment. After they are cleaned by sousing, squeezing and pressing with the hands, rinse in two cool waters, not wringing, but hanging them so they will drip. After the last rinsing, turn them wrong side out and pin them to the line by the waistband, using plenty of pins to keep them hanging naturally, not sagging. Dry in the shade. As fast as the water collects in the hem, squeeze it out between two cloths;

before they are quite dry press carefully with a hot flat-iron on the wrong side, turn them, and crease down the front of each leg.

A way of cleaning preferred by some is to wash them in gasoline as this will not shrink or wrinkle the goods. This should be done out of doors, and they should be hung in the open air to dry. Do not wring, but let the fluid evaporate. Many times, if the spots are cleaned with a good cleansing fluid or soap, they will not need washing.

## "Cleaning House"

House cleaning should have no especial season. If one or more rooms have a weekly straightening up and cleaning, regularly going over them as one has time, the whole house is easily kept sweet and clean. Bedding should be aired and sunned every day, if possible; but if not, they should get as much fresh air as is practical. No clothing should be allowed to get the "bedroom smell," and if regularly sunned and aired, and the room well ventilated, it is entirely unnecessary that they should. If one has a washing machine, it is a very easy matter to keep things clean. Working men's garments should not be worn more than a day, in hot weather, not only on account of the disagreeable smell, but because the perspiration rots the clothes. Run them through the machine, whether you iron them or not. They will be dry by morning, if washed at night.

## "Squint," or Strabismus

It is generally recognized that, in case where squint—commonly called cross-eye—has existed for many years, the eye affected loses the power of clear vision, from disuse. If the eye turns in or out positively, only the other eye is employed looking at objects, while the eye at rest deteriorates, in time losing the power of vision wholly or completely. In all, or at least the majority of cases of long standing, an operation to straighten the eyes by cutting certain muscles, while it may improve the appearance of the eyes, does not improve the vision, as the idle eye has become incapacitated for practical use. The following is recommended for young children who show a tendency to "squint:" "In cases where the squint is not constant, apparently affecting sometimes one eye and sometimes the other the trouble is due to a want of balance between the muscles of the eyes. Both eyes may be kept in health by taking the precaution to bandage first one eye and then the other, thus forcing the use of the eyes in alteration. This must be done daily so as to keep the eyes active, wearing the bandage over one eye one day and over the other the next. By this means both eyes can be kept in health until the child reaches the age when the difficulty can be corrected. The correction by wearing glasses is likely to be more permanent in results than that obtained by an operation. Properly adjusted lenses relieves the difficulty by removing the cause. An operation often results in a complete disablement of one eye."—Good Health.

## The Coming School Room

The Century Magazine says: "Now we see children carrying only books to school; some day we shall see

them also carrying twigs and potatoes, stones, tools and contrivances other than personal objects." The writer contends that the school building should be more than a place where children may study books and recite from them; that it should be a place where they can use their hands and their thinking powers. A step already taken towards this end is the growing of flowers in the windows, the collecting of curios, of insects, of grains, plants, and other like objects that awaken a spirit of investigation in the young minds.

## For the Sewing Room

White skirts are much used for day-wear with the lingerie dresses. The bottoms of the skirts may be finished with a deep-founce, or ruffle, of embroidery, or with lace and insertion insets, or the ruffle may be of sheer material with clusters of hemstitched tucks and a bottom hem.

Imitation Valenciennes lace—the kind called a "real" pattern—is an excellent trimming for underskirts; that with the round mesh—the German—is said to launder better than the square meshed, or French. For the founce, or ruffle, French lawns, dainty muslins, swisses and dimities are all used, and the dotted or figured swisses are desirable.

For those who want warmer skirts than the cotton, albatross offers a wool of exceeding light weight. For these skirts a fitted yoke is desirable, and a ruffle of the same finishes the lower portion. Under the bottom of this ruffle may be a frill of white lace.

The old method of fastening the petticoat, with draw-strings, or bands with the backs gathered, should not be used. The top of the skirt should be fitted to the figure carefully, and thus give a neat set to the over dress.

In many of the new lingerie waists a touch of color is introduced. For the simple tailored waists, the color may be in the form of piping, cording, bands, edging of plaits and cravat frills. The colors are a matter of taste, but they should be such as will wash. Floral designs of embroidery, with lace insertion are much seen.

A new style of corset cover is cut in circular form, having gathers at the top, but none at the waist-line, with no seams except at the shoulders. These are attached to the fitted underskirt, thus doing away with belts, bands and gathers, which are all so objectionable with the new style of lingerie dresses.

White skirts should be cut gored and finished with French seams. The skirt should be an inch shorter than the dress-skirt, and under no circumstances should it be allowed to "sag," and hang below the dress.

## A Safe Bonfire Contrivance

At every home there are times when an accumulation of waste paper, trash and small rubbish becomes an eye-sore, if not a positive inconvenience. At this season, the gas or gasoline stove has taken the place of the coal range, and there seems no place for burning the waste except out of doors. There is always more or less danger of the flying scraps setting fire to something of value, or causing a destructive conflagration, especially if there is a strong breeze blowing, and the fire itself often creates a breeze. To accomplish the burning, here is a safe plan, and it may be tried on a larger or smaller scale: Get a piece of close-meshed wire fencing—poultry fencing will do for ordinary—of suitable length; five feet long by four wide is a good size, though for the

## 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.