



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## The Place to Rest

When spurred by tasks unceasing or undone,  
You would seek rest afar,  
And can not, though repose be right-ly won,  
Rest where you are.

Neglect the needless; sanctify the day;  
Move without stress or jar;  
With quiet of a spirit self-possessed,  
Rest where you are.

Not in event, restriction or release—  
Not in scenes near or far—  
But in ourselves are restlessness or peace—  
Rest where you are.

—The Congregationalist.

## Renewing the Bedding

Among other things which claim the attention of the housewife at the approach of autumn weather, the renewal or renovating of the bedding is important. If one has a machine, all quilts and comforts and blankets can be washed, and should be dried in the hot sun, shaking and beating often while drying, to render them soft and fluffy. In the case of old, worn, or badly soiled comforts, the coverings should be ripped off, and replaced with new. Many of last winter's garments will be found useless from various causes, and the best parts of these may be put together in long strips, used for coverings; many women are fond of "piecing quilts," and thus using up many remnants and scraps of cloth, and if the housewife has time for such work, it is very fascinating, as well as economical.

It is a good idea to use on every bed a spread, white, or fast colors, which may be washed the same as the sheet, serving to keep the heavy clothing clean and fresh. A simple cotton spread is better than none, and will give the bed a neat, fresh appearance every time it is laundered.

It is always the part of wisdom to get double-fold muslin for sheets. Taking into consideration its width—eight to ten quarters wide, it is no dearer than the single fold, and has only to be hemmed across the ends. When buying, insist on having your purchase torn off the bolt, instead of cut, as otherwise, there will be waste in "squaring" the ends. Clerks do not cut by the thread. Let the sheet be long enough to admit of a generous tuck- ing in at the ends, else the sheet is apt to get misplaced and "in a wad" in the middle of the bed, if the occupant is at all restless. If your sheet gives out in the middle, it is poor economy to "split it down the middle and sew the outer edges to- gether, leaving the thin edges out- side," as we are so often recommend- ed to do. The part of wisdom is to put a generous-sized patch over the thin middle, taking the patch from the strong part of some other sheet. A thin edge soon gets to be a ragged edge.

## The School Clothing

The opening of the schools in early September starts the little ones out in practically summer weather, and for a time, the summer clothing is all that is needed; but there should be provisions for sudden

chilly mornings and evenings, and occasional whole days when heavier clothing in the shape of light, re- movable wraps are called for. A cold child is an uncomfortable child, and this discomfort will not only interfere with its studies, but with its health. There is a crispness and freshness about little tub dresses and aprons that makes them very attractive while the weather is warm, but with the first real cool days, the thoughts turn to the woollens and warmth. There is nothing prettier than the dark woollens that may be brightened up by little white guimpe, with or without sleeves, or the little lawn collar and cuff sets, the little turned-over cuffs of linen or lawn to be worn with the dark sleeves.

And right here may be impressed a lesson of neatness upon the little maids. These collar and cuff sets are easily made, and laundered, and the little lassie will take pride in making them, if the mother will encourage her, while the washing and ironing of them will be a delightful "kindergarten" exercise in the laundry work which will add not only to the pleasure of the lassie, but to her skill in "doing up" more elaborate affairs later on. Even the very small child can be made responsible in a degree for the condition of its garments, and the child that is trained to caring for its clothing will not like to wear untidy things. In some cases, the training may be a matter of countless repeti- tions, but it will not be lost.

For making over garments, solid or dull colors, if it is not practical to dye the material, may be bright- ened by piping the edges of tucks or folds with some cheerful color. An apron, neatly fitted, is a great help to the unattractive dress, and these aprons may be made of prints with white grounds relieved with small designs. They can be made very attractive with very little trimming, by ruffles and tucking.

## For the Sewing Room

Keep the sewing machine free from lint and well oiled. Allow no careless hands to meddle with it. Insist upon having well sharpened scissors of good steel. Poor grade scissors are always a waste and an extravagance. Do not buy "bargain counter" needles. Every good thing has its price, and can only be bought of reliable dealers.

To remedy the wrinkles in waists across the shoulders just below the collar band, rip the shoulder seams, put on the waist wrong side out, pin the bottom of the back securely to the belt at the waist line, and have a second person pin the shoulders of the back and front together, smooth- ing, but not stretching the material upward toward the neck band, ad- justing it evenly and correctly. There may have to be some trim- ming off done. This is a very com- mon trouble.

Many times, the fine point of the sewing machine needle gets bent or blunted, and to continue sewing with it means either spoilt stitches or a broken needle, in a very short time. One can get from the sewing ma- chine agencies a small emery wheel, that will fit onto the cylinder that holds the bobbin while it is being filled, and which revolves just as the bobbin does. By the use of this little wheel, needles, pins, penknives

and small things can be sharpened by a few turns of the treadle, and given a new lease of life.

## For the Laundry

Have castors on everything possi- ble. Let the wash bench be no exception. For stiffening sheer lawns or muslins when not to be starched, use gum Arabic water. Get one ounce of the best gum Arabic and pour over it half a pint of boiling water, stirring occasion- ally until it is dissolved. Strain this into a bottle. When wanted, take one teaspoonful of the gum wa- ter to one-half pint of cold water, stir well, and dampen the lawn light- ly; do not make it wet; have the irons hot and bright and smooth, and press carefully. Linen or heavy lawns will require more of the gum water.

## Storing Canned or Preserved Fruits

When putting away the fruit jars, arrange them from front to back on the shelves, all the first rows being one kind of fruits or vegetables, the next rows another kind, and so on, so that each kind will be readily got at when wanted, without moving other kinds. Begin at one end of the shelf, storing toward the other end, instead of putting one kind along the back of the shelf, another in front of that, and so on. Brown paper, such as the grocer uses, or even the paper sacks groceries are delivered in, will be suitable to wrap about the jars, thus excluding the light. See that the jellies and jams and preserves are put in a part of the storage room where they will keep dry. A small compartment of the cellar, used only for a fruit room, is the best, but any place the fruit is kept in should be cool, dry and dark. As fast as the jars are emptied, during the winter, they should be washed clean and set away where they will not get broken.

## Good Beds

The old fashioned "straw tick," which could be emptied and refilled as often as liked, was far superior to the cheap, shaving or excelsior mattresses of today. The emptied bed-tick can be washed, and filled with clean, new oat straw, and then tied like the "store" mattress, and they are much cooler and more hygienic than any other. Of all nuisances and insomnia-breeders, nothing is more uncomfortable than one of the cheap, lumpy affairs filled with shavings or poor excelsior. Cot- ton, felt, wool, or hair mattresses are usually very heating during the hot months, and should be aired as often as possible. A protector, or pad, made like a comfort, of cotton batting between covers of sheeting or cotton cloth and tied as a com- fort, should be used over all mat- tresses, as this is much easier handled, and can be washed, either with, or without ripping apart, thus insuring clean, wholesome beds.

## Query Box

Several queries are answered under heading "Requested Recipes."

J. S. H.—See recipe for salt-rising bread in another column.

O. K.—I know of nothing that will remove tattoo marks from the flesh. I doubt if the electric needle would be of any avail.

L. M.—If the cistern water is foul, the best to do would be to

empty the cistern, wash down the walls and clean all accumulated dirt from the bottom, repairing any broken places in the cement, and placing a filter of charcoal where all water must pass through it to enter the cistern. The water might be "sweetened" by putting a half-bushel of charcoal in a clean, coarse bag, with a clean rock to weight it, and sink in the water; but at this season of the year it would be best to clean it thoroughly.

C. L.—See answer to L. M. Rain water does not often become foul, or "sour," but if the cistern is filled with living water—spring or well—it is apt to get foul.

L. B.—For removing ink stains, if fresh, dip the parts in hot sweet milk, gently rubbing, and repeat until the color disappears. Or, dis- solve a little oxalic acid in water and wet the stains with this, and if not too old, the stains will disap- pear; but the fabric must be washed in clear water at once, as the acid will injure it. Or, wet the spot in sweet milk and cover with common salt, laying in the sunshine. This should be done before it is washed. If logwood enters into the composi- tion of the ink, there will often ap- pear a reddish stain after the use of the oxalic acid; in this case, pro- cure a little solution of chloride of lime and apply in the same manner as the oxalic acid. The fresher the stain, the more easy it is to remove. Dipping the stain in hot tallow, al- lowing it to stand for a few minutes, then washing as usual, is sometimes effective.

## Crystalizing Melons

Watermelon rinds and pieces of the garden citron melon may be crystalized and will take the place in cookery of the more expensive citron of commerce. Prepare the melon rind or citron melon as for preserves, cutting into convenient pieces; boil in slightly salted water until tender enough to be pierced with a clean broom straw, then drain and weigh. To each pound of sugar allow two ounces of ginger root (white) cut into thin slices; the grated rind of one and the juice of two lemons; put the sugar in a porcelain-lined kettle, add half a cupful of water for each pound of sugar, and set over the fire; when it comes to the boiling point, add the lemon juice and rind and the ginger, and put into this syrup enough melon to be covered by it. Simmer gently until transparent; drain each piece by lifting with a perforated ladle and lay it on a platter that has been dusted with granulated sugar; cover with a sheet of glass (a window pane will do) and set in the sun to dry. When thoroughly dried, place between sheets of waxed paper (which can be bought ready prepared of the grocer), dust with fine granulated sugar and pack in a tin box. Keep dry.

## To Remove Tomato Stains

Answering L. B.—To remove to- mato stains from cotton or linen fabrics, wet the spots in clear col- l water and lay in the sunshine; have ready equal parts of cream tartar and table salt, well mixed, and sprinkle this mixture on the wet spot until the dampness has ab- sorbed all it will; then cover the spot until hidden, with the mixture and leave in the sunshine, wetting it every half hour for a few hours. If the stain still appears, repeat the process, being sure to keep the arti- cle in the sunshine all the time. If

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 diar- rhea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.