



Longings

Oh, to be out in the great, free woods,
 Away from the hurry, away from the care,
 Where the boughs of the trees weave a giant hood
 To cover the world, when the world is bare;
 To lie where the shadows fit to and fro,
 As fairies that join in a phantom play;
 To lazily dream through the hours and know
 That care is a mocker that flits away!

There's a place out there 'neath a spreading tree
 That only the squirrels and I have known,
 Except for the birds that come to see
 How fare the seeds by the fairies sown.
 And I want to be there, just loafing, today,
 Through the hours that are happy and peaceful and good;
 I guess that I'm lazy, but, anyhow,
 I want to be out in the great, free wood.

—A. Sylvanus, in *Globe-Democrat*.

The Duties of the Hour

With the coming of cool weather, the house mother finds her hands full to overflowing, for so many things need attending to before the cold days are upon us. We are busy putting away the "1st things," of orchard, field and garden, and in many things, thought must be taken for the early spring time, demanding preparatory work along out-door lines. Where there are little people, the school needs demand attention, and there is always more or less sewing, making over, letting down, and piecing out as well as the making of new garments. The fall house cleaning must not be over-looked, and the stock of bedding must be inspected. It will very soon be time to get the stoves out and ready for light fires on cool evenings, and there may be repairs needed for these. The flues should be inspected, the stove pipes examined, and if there are burnt-out or broken pieces, these should be replaced before the stoves are set up. It pays to keep the stove in repair, and it pays far better if care is taken not to break or burn out the castings. Many women, and nearly all men are wasteful of fuel, cramming the firebox unnecessarily, and thus burning out the linings. Have a talk with your stove man, and if he does not know as much as he should, write to the factories and get their printed matter, which will give you many valuable hints and save you much waste, if you will heed them. Do not close your doors and windows at the first cool spell; keep the house open as long as possible, and remember that the furnace which furnishes the best heat is in the body, not out of it.

Before putting the winter's supply of fruits and vegetables in the cellar, go over the walls with the whitewash brush; sweep up and clean the floor, sprinkling with some disinfectant, removing all trash, old, broken bottles and jars, or other rubbish that has lain over from last spring. Have the bins all cleaned and whitewashed, and whitewash well overhead. Only a thoroughly clean cel-

lar will keep fruits and vegetables in prime condition. Have the dark corner where the canned fruits are stored, perfectly sweet and clean and free from mildew and mold. Give all shelves a good scouring and, if possible, a sunning, and go over them with rinse water in which carbolic acid, or other disinfectant is used. A clean, sweet cellar is the only kind that should be under a dwelling.

Dressing the Children

In getting materials for fall and winter clothing, it is well to remember that nothing is better for keeping the body healthy than pure woolen materials. This is especially true of children's wear, for the little ones do not give as much thought to changes of temperature as the adults have learned to do. Woolens allow the exhalations of the body to pass off, retaining only the heat and electricity, while cotton, linen or jute fabrics allow the heat to pass off rapidly, retaining the exhalations which chill the body and stop up the pores. Those wearing woolen under garments do not take cold as readily as those who wear cottons, as the pure, soft woolens keep the body warm and dry, while other fabrics retain the perspiration and lose the heat. Many people and some children—perhaps more than we know—can not wear woolen garments next to the skin, and for these, there should be an under garment, quite thin, but the woolen should be worn over it. Thick, hard, board-like garments are an abomination, and many materials are made so by unsuitable washing. Many cottons are now made soft and "fuzzy," and readily take the place of woolens, to some extent; but a light-weight, pure wool garment made of fine, soft wool, can be worn by almost any one, and if properly washed, will retain the soft, fleecy quality that is so desirable.

For little skirts, and other underwear, and also for night gowns, the fleecy flannelettes are excellent and warm; but dresses should not be made of them for children or others who are much about the fire, for their fleecy surface is very inflammable. Children should be dressed with as few clothes as will make them comfortable; they should not usually be "bundled," or wrapped up, thus making them dependent upon clothing for warmth. Fresh air, healthy exercise, and a habit of keeping the "furnace inside" in good shape, are better than many folds of clothing. Watch the very small children carefully, for they can not tell you of their discomfort; the very little ones know they are uncomfortable, but they do not know from what cause, while even the older ones neglect to mention it.

Caring for School Property

One of the duties the fathers owe to their sons is to impress upon their understanding the fact that destruction or damage of school property reacts upon themselves, as the property belongs to the property owners, who are responsible for its welfare, and any moneys called for to repair damages or replace destruction must come from their own pockets, either directly, or in the form of taxation. The public schools are spoken of as being "free," but every property owner, whether sending children to the school or not, must pay a certain percentage of his or her holdings in the form of a tax, to meet the ex-

penses of the school's maintenance. Children do not realize this, but if fathers would lay the matter before them in its proper light, it would at least set them to thinking. This should be done now, for within a few weeks at furthest, the schools will be open, and the children, having the proper understanding, will, in a measure, recognize their responsibility, and the tendency will be rather to preserve than to destroy what they would regard as their own. People who are not property owners, but who get the benefit of the schools should teach their children to regard the rights of others, and to refrain from wanton destruction that will do them no good, but others much harm. Girls very rarely destroy or deface property, but seek to improve and beautify, and boys do not care much for the mother's remonstrance against their wantonness. But they will usually listen to the father, and it is his duty to instruct them in such matters. Many mothers do not, themselves, realize that the public property belongs to the people, and must be kept up by the levying of a tax upon their belongings.

If interested in such matters, the boys will be glad to help add to the attractiveness of the grounds, and many an hour or afternoon which would otherwise be spent in learning no good, would willingly be given to "fixing things up," about the school grounds, under competent supervision. And boys are just as proud of fine appearances as are the girls.

"A Plague of Fleas"

Answering a distressed correspondent, we give the following sure method of ridding premises of fleas. An address should have been given by this correspondent, as queries can not be answered through the "box" under two weeks after their receipt at the office.

To rid the house of fleas, there is nothing better than a plentiful use of air-slacked lime, which should be bought by the bushel, and almost any building contractor can tell where it may be obtained. If there are out-houses where animals—especially hogs—are kept, sprinkle all floors liberally with the lime dust, throwing it up against the side of the building for a couple of feet. Do this with all out-houses. If dogs or cats are harbored, sprinkle the kennels and sleeping places with the lime, and rub some of it into the fur of the animal, being careful not to get it into the eyes or ears. Persian insect powder may be used, but is more expensive. Dust all pathways leading to the house with the lime. Inside the house, take up all rugs or carpets, remove clothing and bedding and beat and sun well out of doors. Then dust the lime plentifully over all floors, into crevices about the surbase, and let it remain for a day or two; two days is sufficient. The bedding can be brought in for sleeping. Shingles, or bits of board may be laid about over the floor to walk on while the lime is on the floor. After the second day, sweep up the lime, remove, and give the floors a thorough washing, leaving the lime dust in the cracks, if the floor is loose. The carpets can then be put down, and the furnishings replaced and the family live in peace. This remedy is unpleasant, but it is thoroughly effective. The worst

plague-spots have been cleared of the pests by this method, when everything else has failed. One should be willing to endure temporary discomfort in order to rid the place of the torments. Several bushels of the lime may be required. It is the "air-slacked" lime.

For the Home Seamstress

When making a dress skirt, put on the belt before finishing the bottom; then slip the skirt over the shoulders, fasten the belt and proceed as follows: With a piece of crayon (white is best) thoroughly cover the edge of a table, or bench, and, allowing the skirt to touch the chalked edge, turn slowly around, thus getting a faint mark on the skirt all around the skirt at an equal distance from the bottom. Take the skirt off carefully, and with a measuring line, or yard stick, measure the required number of inches below the marking for the length of the skirt, marking with white crayon. This will give an even length without the help of a second party.

Wool comforts are easily made at home. If one lives on a farm, and keeps sheep, the wool can be carded into sheets at the mills; in nearly all large cities, wool batting, in various widths, from one to two yards wide, and two and one-half yards long, can be had at a cost of from one to two dollars per sheet, while, if you are skilled in the use of the old-fashioned cards, you can card your own wool into "bats," and fill your quilt covers with the wool, tacking, as you would a cotton comfort. The wool-filled comforts are so light and warm, that, once having had them, you will not willingly use the heavy, hard cotton bed clothing again. The wool filling never packs, or gets "solid," and gives warmth without weight.

For the children's bed flannelette or cotton-fleeced blankets are convenient, as they can be washed oftener than woolens, and are quite warm. For night gowns, nothing is better than a good quality of flannelette, but it should not be too close-woven, as heavy goods gets very solid and board-like after a few washings. A thinner weave will shrink into a very comfortable thickness. This, for children, is better than flannel, as it may be boiled in the laundry, and come out of the wash sweet and clean, while even the most carefully washed woolen will retain stains and get hard in time.

Caring for the Aged

Interest is being awakened in many parts of the world in the subject of pensioning the aged. In some countries it is being tried, but the subject is nowhere given the attention which it deserves. After January 1, 1909, the British government will pay a small pension to all deserving persons over seventy years of age. The English old age dole will not equal more than \$5 a month, and may be as low as \$1. New Zealand has been giving pensions to persons of sixty-five years of age for a few years past, and the amount of the dole is eighteen pounds a year, or thirty shillings a month.

There is a compulsory old age insurance in Germany, and for this, an employe is required to contribute a portion of his wages to an insurance fund during his years of able-bodied usefulness, the employer paying an equal amount, and the government also assisting. The English system has the whole amount come from the state. The estimated annual cost of pensions for the British treasury is about \$30,000,000. In England, it is said that one-fourth

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.