

The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Noyes

The Divine Weaver

See the mystic Weaver sitting
High in heaven, His loom below;
Up and down the treadles go:
Takes for web the world's dark ages,
Takes for woof the kings and sages;
Takes the nobles and their pages;
Takes all stations and all stages.
Thrones are bobbins in His shuttle,
Armies make them scud and scuttle;
Woof into the web must flow;
Up and down the nations go!
At the Weaver's will they go!

Calmly see the mystic weaver
Throw His shuttle to and fro;
Mid the noise and wild confusion,
Well the weaver seems to know
What each motion and commotion,
What each fusion and confusion
In the grand result will show!

Glorious wonder! What a weaving!
To the dull, beyond believing;
Such no fabled ages know.
Only faith can see the mystery,
How, along the aisles of history,
Where the feet of sages go,
Loveliest to the fairest eyes,
Grand the mystic tapet lies!
Soft and smooth and ever spreading,
As if made for angels' treading—
Tufted circles touching ever;
Every figure has its plaidings,
Brighter forms and softer shadings,
Each illumined—what a riddle!
From a cross that gems the middle.

'Tis a saying—some reject it—
That its light is all reflected;
That the tapet's lines are given
By a sun that shines in heaven.
'Tis believed—by all believing—
That great God, Himself, is weaving,
Bringing out the world's dark mys-
tery
In the light of faith and history;
As web and woof diminish,
Come the grand and glorious finish,
When begin the Golden Ages
Long foretold by seers and sages.

(The above poem was kindly sent us in reply to a request from a reader for the poem, "The Tapestry Weaver." Neither the name of the author, nor of the paper from which the copy sent us was clipped is given, and it may not be the poem wanted; but, as our friend says, it is worthy of a place here.)

Ill-Fitting Shoes

Among the causes of unhappy marriages enumerated by a writer in Health Culture is the wearing of ill-fitting shoes, by both men and women. He says: "Tight shoes spoil families and peace as well as the feet. That woman who sacrifices her feet risks her domestic success. Cramped feet will not rouse a man to his best. A crushed, squeezed foot can not walk. A woman who wears a tight shoe is unsafe to risk in the long run as a wife." You know how it is—you, and you, and you! Many men and women suffer untold tortures while "breaking in" a pair of new shoes, and many shoes never do get so thoroughly broken in that they can be worn with comfort. Tired, bruised feet is a sure cause of irritability and in the very desperation of suffering one can scarcely do else than lose control of the temper. A

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.

shoe should be proportioned to suit the foot, giving plenty of room for the toes to spread when pressed upon in walking. Yet the "fashion" for shoes resembles in form nothing like the natural foot. Physicians tell us that high heels ruin the health, and high heels and narrow pointed toes are responsible for many painful deformities. Yet the stores are full of them, and nearly every man or woman one meets is wearing just that kind. One may talk until the voice gives out against the monstrosities, but they are "the fashion," and when corns, bunions, broken arches, and other deformities of the foot are produced beyond remedy, the tortured victim will spend any amount of money on "bunion cures," corn removers, arch supporters, and other much advertised devices that are absolutely worthless to undo what the ill-fitting shoe has so thoroughly done. A review of these torments makes one envy the little barefooted children of the gutter, so far as feet are concerned. It is not impossible to find well-fitting shoes, if one will determine to decide for herself; there are many of them on the market, and if men and women would exercise common sense, there would be more. When selecting shoes this fall, especially for the children, who must wear what is given them, try to get a well-proportioned, comfortable shoe, no matter what the "shoe clerk" insists upon. Think for yourself.

A Cause for Thanksgiving

One of our readers has remembered me with a long, chatty letter, telling me she has just settled on a farm in Oklahoma which as yet is all landscape and promise. The tiny one-room cottage is supplemented by the covered wagon, but as soon as possible another room will be added, and they hope to be very comfortable when they get the wind barred out. In enumerating her "causes for Thanksgiving," she says one of the greatest is the fact that she has plenty of room for a big door yard, front and back, and she is going to make the most of her blessings. She tells me, also, that the post of honor in the cottage is given to a typewriter machine, and this useful "servant" is to be the source of many comforts. This friend is an elderly lady, and has had large experience in household matters and caring for invalids, and she can tell what she knows in a plain, practical way which publishers appreciate, and from this work, she derives a nice little income which is to be used strictly for the home and home grounds. Her home has been, much of the time, in the city, and she says she "never did have yard enough," and what she did have was not what she wanted, but that, in the new home, she intends to "strive after perfection." Let us hope she will realize all her bright anticipations. I have another friend, an elderly lady, who once had the good will of publishers to such an extent that she readily disposed of all she could get written—not always for a large sum, but always for something. She, too, went onto a farm; but she was persuaded to sell the type machine, and she never could get her writing done by hand, so she gave it up. Today, she is drudging beyond her strength, indoors and out, for a mere living. To her, such work is indeed drudgery, because she dislikes it so much;

but she is conscientious about doing all she does well. Had she kept her machine, and continued her contributing, she could have hired the drudgery done, and still been conscientious. She is very discontented, of course, and blames all her hardships onto "her luck." What do you think of it?

The Thanksgiving Pie

No Thanksgiving dinner or supper party is complete without its "pie." It is infinitely jollier than a grab-bag and far more decorative. As a rule this feature is brought on the last thing before dessert, when the table is cleared and there is plenty of room for the voluminous crinkly paper skirts of the old witch who presides over the pie or for the basket which contains the "goodies." These pies are made to order and the foundation is usually a deep basket or bowl filled with cotton, in which downy nest the four and twenty-four blackbirds, or presents—if there are that many guests—are concealed. The bowl is then covered with puffings and deep frills of pumpkin colored crepe paper and in the center is stuck a good sized papier mache witch with her body showing only from the waist up.

Yellow or red ribbons attached to the favors are run through the fluffy and ample skirt of the witch, and then the ends are festooned so as to look like trimming. It is the ends of these loops that the dinner guests seize, each in turn, to pull out their plums. Jeweled nuts, vanity cases hidden in tiny gold almonds, walnuts and apples, enameled fruits and blossoms, horns of plenty or anything that savors of the bounteous feasts when food was simpler and not less appetizing than it is today are appropriate.—Gentlewoman.

For the Toilet

Sometime ago, a formula for the cure of dandruff was given in which a misprint occurred. The correct formula is: Ten grains of corrosive sublimate to five ounces of distilled witch hazel. The solution is to be applied twice a day to the scalp alone (not the hair), and this can be most successfully done by the use of a glass medicine dropper, or a small sewing machine oil can, as by this means the solution will reach the scalp through the hair without wetting the hair or wasting. It can be applied, however, by a bit of old linen, or absorbent cotton. The solution is poisonous, and is for external use only, for which it is harmless, and a sure cure. It should be used twice a day for a week, then once a week until a cure is effected. Shampoo the hair once a week. The solution should not cost more than twenty-five to forty cents, according to prices charged in different localities. The glass medicine dropper will cost five cents. It should be used for nothing else. To effect a cure, one to several fillings of the formula may be required.

Enlarged pores of the face are not always due to careless washing, as indigestion, and several other disorders induce a lack of tone in the skin, and the pores fail to contract. The pores readily fill with the dust and dirt which, like the poor, we have always with us, and in order to remove this accumulation, the skin must be softened, even as we soak our laundry to loosen the dirt. The softening process may be done

by the application of cloths wrung out of quite warm water, until the skin is soft and pink and the largest of the "black heads" may be gently pressed out with the fingers, or a watch key; after the skin is cleared and the pores emptied, apply an astringent made of one dram of boric acid dissolved in four ounces of witch hazel. This does not dry the skin. No change may be perceptible for several months, but persistence will win in the end. Wash the face with a little good soap at night, using warm, but not hot water, and rinsing well, then apply a little of the astringent. The skin must be perfectly clean before the application of the astringent.

Floor Dressing

Here is a good way to finish your floor which you do not care to have carpeted, and do not like to scrub: Take two ounces of glue and one quart of rainwater; set this on the back of the stove until the glue dissolves; when cool (not cold) add yellow ochre, or any desired color, until it will spread smoothly. Do not make the mistake of choosing dark colors, as clear shades of red or brown, tan or gray, are all clean-looking and cool. When you have painted your floor with this, give it a coat of boiled linseed oil, and let dry. A second coat of the oil improves it. This will dry the same day it is put on, and will wear like iron. Any housewife, or the gude mon can apply this floor dressing. The oil should be well rubbed into the boards, and not too much applied. Apply both dressings warm.

This is a good time to dress floors, and an oiled floor is the best for kitchen, or dining room, where there is much wear. When dirt is tracked in, the oiled floor can be wiped up, and no hard scrubbing to get out stains is required. The boards will not wear away so fast as when undressed. A few strips of carpet should be laid where there is much walking, for comfort's sake, and this will also deaden the noise of stepping.

If a floor is new, and it is wanted to saturate it with oil, have the oil rather warm, which may be done by setting the can or vessel containing it into a larger vessel containing very hot water, and if care is taken, this may be set on the back of the stove where it may be kept hot while using. Have the boards perfectly clean, and with a broad paint brush, apply the oil as if painting, not putting on too much at once, but rubbing it in, just as you would paint. Let stand for a few hours, then cover a level "heavy-weight" with woolen cloth, and go over the floor with this, rubbing lengthwise of the boards, polishing it so until the floor looks smooth, and not oily. Another way is to mix two parts of boiled linseed oil with one part turpentine, wet a woolen cloth in the mixture and rub it into the boards, following this up with a vigorous rubbing with a clean woolen cloth by hand. Always let the oil stand an hour or two, then polish until the oil is all absorbed into the wood. It is time for women to realize that there are more ways of keeping clean than by hard physical labor.

A Christmas Cake

Cream until very light one pound of butter; add one pound of sugar and beat well together; separate the

