



The Home Department

The Tapestry Weaver

Through many a sad and tollsome hour

The patient weaver sits,
While to his beck, obedient,
The eager shuttle flits—
A conscious, earnest, life-like thing
With will and purpose fraught,
As on its measured round it speeds,
To work the Master's thought.

And now a thread of somber gray,
Enmixed with color bright,
A tangled yarn of motley hue
Offends the curious sight.
"Thy labor is but fret and fray,
With naught of plan," I cried.
The patient weaver smiled and said:
"Look on the other side!"

"But sure, some mark of fair design—
Some show of beauty's trace—
Some form, beneath thy cunning hand,
The practiced eye may trace!"
"Nay, nay! Thou dost each thread misread,"
The weaver quick replied;
"The rare design can only shine
Upon the other side."

My longing gaze I turned, and lo!
The ever shifting loom
Unfolded with each stroke and stride
A wealth of gorgeous bloom—
Where mesh and web of warp and woof
In radiance, Tyrian-dyed,
Shone forth in beauteous form complete—
Upon the other side.

O weary soul! O fainting heart!
How fares it with this dear emprise?
Dost thou behold nor grace, nor bloom
As life's swift shuttle flies?
Stay not thy hand, but weave thy stint,
Though beauty seems denied;
Sweet flower and fruit, thou yet shall see
Upon the other side!

—Zitella Cooke.

(The above poem was furnished us by Katie C. Zeller of Tiffin, Ohio, who has our thanks for same.)

The New Year

Once more we stand upon the threshold of a New Year. The doors of the past are closed; we can never open them again. Good or bad, the work we have wrought must stand. There is doubtless much we would wish were blotted off the page; many a careless deed; many an idle word; many a thoughtless act that brought pain to the hearts we would gladly have pleased. But there are many sunny pages, too. Many little, unnoticed kindnesses, many gentle, sympathetic words or acts; many things that have lifted the load or lightened the labor; and the balance may be on the right side. When the pattern is finished, our work may shine up brighter than we can now ever know. Let us deal kindly and justly with ourselves; as with others. Let us seek to make the future atone for the past. It will be well to face our souls, and judge ourselves. And when the evidence is all in, let us forgive ourselves, as we forgive others, and obey the Saviour's injunction to the cruelly accused one, and "go and sin no more." This year should be so beautiful with good deeds that we shall feel that it is

good to live, and that the world is better because of us. We wish you a happy, prosperous New Year.

Cleaning Up

This is just to remind you that now is the time, while the wood is dormant, to trim your trees into good health and shapeliness. The sap begins to rise early, and the work should not be delayed. Many of the trees and shrubs will have dead, or decaying limbs, crooked or deformed, or out-of-proportion limbs, and water sprouts which sap the life out of the trees, and all these must be removed. The dead and dying branches harbor insects and their eggs, and they should be burned, either from the top of the wood pile, or in a bonfire outside. For trimming, use a small, sharp saw, or a regular pruning knife or hook. For small twigs, a sharp pocket knife will answer. But let it be done, and be careful not to mutilate the tree. Study the symmetry of the plant, and do not deform by careless cutting or slashing. Keep the home grounds cleared of all litter, and do not neglect unsightly shrubs. Remember the yard fence, to keep it wholly.

If you like early vegetables, now is a good time to start the hot beds, or at least to begin gathering materials for them. If you do not know how to manage a hot bed, send to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for literature on the subject. When the literature comes, read it carefully, and supplement the knowledge thus gained by gathering all the information possible from your farm papers and from successful gardeners; but above all, use a little common sense and cultivate your own judgment. If the beds are started now, they will need close attention during the stormy months next coming; and it may be that little or nothing will be gained by starting growth until a month or two later—assuredly not, if the work is carelessly done or neglected. But the man who hustles and is careful about little things, can supply his table with many luxuries very early in the season. It is largely a matter of the man, himself, whether one succeeds or fails at any undertaking. Do not crowd the space, seeds well sown and plants well grown are "worth while."

Keeping the Cold Out

In many dwellings, the outer doors do not fit closely, and a strong wind will blow more cold into a room in moderate weather than will be likely to penetrate in still weather with the thermometer down to zero. Such doors should have strips of lusting, or thick woolen cloth tacked about them in such a way as to close all cracks, thus fortifying against the admission of very discomforting cold air. A room with such openings will call for a great deal of fuel, and the drafts of air constantly sweeping through will occasion many colds.

A great deal of cold comes in under the doors, and in many homes it is almost impossible to keep the feet warm, no matter how hot the upper air may be. Even from rooms where no fire is kept, the crack under the door adds its quota to the cold. A roll of carpeting, or other thick cloth should be tacked to the door on the side that swings in, for

inner rooms, and for outer doors, the roll should be tacked to the bottom on the outside of the door. The piece of carpet, or other thickness that is simply laid against the door, will always be getting out of place, and needing constant replacing. The coldest air is in the bottom of the room, and many stoves do not throw heat downward. Cold feet are a menace to good health. Many windows admit cold air around the sash, and these should be attended to. Ventilation should be had, in plenty, but it is better to have it at the top, keeping out drafts from all other quarters.

Chinese gloss starch is made of two tablespoonfuls of powdered borax dissolved in one and a half teacupfuls of cold water. Have the cuffs, collars and bosoms of shirts thoroughly dried, and unstarched; dip them in this borax solution, roll them up tightly and let them remain a few hours in a dry cloth, then rub off and iron. Powdered borax can be bought in large groceries in five-pound wooden boxes for forty cents a box. One pound paper cartons usually cost about twelve to fifteen cents.

A Matter of Preference

If a family prefers show to comfort (and some of us do, you know), they should not be censured for indulging the taste, if it inconveniences no one but themselves. Many women will willingly worry along with a worn-out smoky old stove in the kitchen in order to save for a new rug for the parlor, while others still cheerfully endure the discomfort of cheap, out-of-season underwear that they may indulge in up-to-date outer garments. The butcher's account and the fuel bill may be shortened that a pair of new curtains or a fine picture may be purchased, and if the family are agreed upon the subject, it is all right—they are supposed to know what they most want, and how much they are willing to sacrifice to get it. Such people are no more to be condemned than are the women who wear shabby clothes and live in cheap quarters that they may save to give to some one supposed to be in greater need than themselves; or those who live on crackers and coffee for the sake of buying the latest books, or paying for their favorite magazines. We are all working for happiness, and what is intolerable to one is often cheerfully endured by another because of difference in tastes.

Caring for the Baby

Care must be taken to keep the baby's little body and limbs warm; at the same time, the little body must not be kept too warm. Overheating is as bad as getting too cold. The baby grows most when most comfortable. Air the little clothes before putting them on the delicate body, and let the airing be done by a warm stove. Dry the little garments in the open air when possible, but woolens should not freeze. Freezing makes cotton clothes whiter. Have no starch in any garment that touches the child's skin. Keep little thin woolen shirts with long sleeves on the little body. Young babies often suffer seriously from simple colds, which seem to travel downward toward the lungs, causing bronchitis or inflammation

of the lungs. A cold in the head should not be treated lightly, as the stoppage of the nasal passage interferes with the act of nursing, and the nutrition is seriously impaired. Common sources of colds in young babies spring from careless clothing or being left in a draft, and colds often result from over-feeding and over heating. Babies should be clothed according to the temperature of the room, and if taken outside should be protected from sudden chills. The baby should be bathed about the same time every morning, and it should not have its bath immediately after taking food. This applies to nursing infants, as well as older children. At least an hour should elapse after taking nourishment before the bath is given. After nursing, the child should lie quietly for an hour or more. All young animals should have rest, food and warmth with as little disturbance as possible. A baby should not be played with or excited at bed time.

Accessories for the Toilet

Imitation jewelry is not now considered in bad taste, as few persons can afford the expensive kinds because of the constantly changing fashions. Besides, much of the "cheap" imitation jewelry is so well made that only an expert can, in some instances, point out the difference between the real and the imitation. Many pieces are clever imitations of very costly wares.

All sorts of neck chains are worn, especially the rope necklace made of beads with tassel ends. Cream white beads make an inexpensive substitute for seed pearls. Earrings are "coming in," the long, old-fashioned drop ear-ring being the favorite; the longer the drop, the more popular it is. Smoked pearl, imitation turquoise, and pink corals of quaint designs, are most popular. The ears do not need to be pierced, as with the new screw back, they can be securely fastened to the lobe of the ear. Very pretty ones can be bought for fifty cents a pair. Necklace, ear-rings and brooch should match in color.

Collar pins, three in a set, are much in demand. Bar pins and veil pins come in pretty, inexpensive shades and patterns. Jet jewelry is also revived. Jet bracelets, neck chains, bandeaux, hair and hat pins are all to be had in jet, in all sorts of shapes and designs. Many pieces of jewelry are made of cut silver, or amber, studded with rhine stones, and in many colored Russian enamel. Hat pins with one or more tassels, inexpensive as they are lovely, are shown in many artistic designs. Very high dog-collars are in style, and fine gold chains with large pendants are in style. Brooches are particularly handsome.

Many bow ties, stock and ties, girdles and simple ties are crocheted of silk thread. For best effects, silk should be used, not the mercerized threads. Twisted crochet silk is preferred. Irish crochet patterns, daisy pattern, star stitch, or single stitch crochet may be used, and the work must be done with nice even stitches. — Woman's Home Companion.

Helps for the Housewife

For the safe-keeping of foods left from one meal to another requiring to be kept cool or aired, make a frame of suitable size, and put in several shelves, nailing, staying, or screwing them in securely so as to bear the weight of the dishes. The back, top and bottom should be made solid of boards the top and back need

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINKLOW'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.