



Old Time Winter Nights

I wish that Father Time, some day,
Would leave unlocked his kitchen
door
And let me find the backward way,
By withered year-leaves drifted
o'er,
Just touched with dim, uncertain
lights,
That leads to old-time winter
nights.

When woodlands, frozen stiff and
still,
Stand numb within the winter-
gloom,
I'd like to peep across the sill
Into my own great-grandma's
home,
As through the dusky, low-
celled room,
The candles twinkled into
bloom.

With velvety, enchanted shoes,
Into the chimney's warmth I'd
steal,
And back and forth, with lissom
Prue
I'd turn the singing spinning
wheel;
Or on the cosy settle sit,
By Grandma's side, and primly
knit.

I'd revel in the splendid flash
Of tawny flames that played
around
The ample girth of oak and ash,
With supple grace and purring
sound,
Or trailed a copper-yellow chain
About the kettle on the crane.

With feasts of greenings, round and
fair,
With essences and savors born
Of home-brewed nectars in the air,
With snowy dance of popping corn,
I'd find a hundred fresh de-
lights
In jolly old-time winter nights.
—Hattie Whitney Durbin in Ladies
World.

The Helpless and Homeless

Notwithstanding the wonderful
"prosperity" so confidently prom-
ised, there are thousands of people
who are out of work. Many of them
are facing the storms of winter after
months of idleness, with no pros-
pect of work or means by which to
keep their families from suffering.
Others, driven to desperation by their
inability to get employment of any
kind, are filling the news columns
of the daily press with "suicide"
items. The benevolent associations
are pleading for increased funds in
order to meet the unusual and heavy
demands made upon them, and many
private and personal charities are
trying to help meet the pitiful con-
ditions. Among the most difficult
questions to deal with is that of
furnishing work for old people, or
even those past middle age, men, as
well as women. Nobody, apparent-
ly, wants them, and in many cases,
those having grown children are
forced to seek support for them-
selves because the younger people
are out of work, or earning so little
that they cannot undertake the care
of the elders. Many of these elderly
people are able to do good work,
though not strong enough for the
heavier duties of the home, offices, or
shops or factories; others are in-
competent, mentally and physically,
to in any way pay for their keep.
The homes for old people are crowd-

ed, with a long list of waiting appli-
cants for admission, and many ben-
evolent associations are paying the
expenses of individuals until they
can get them into the institutions.
It is a pity that some of our philan-
thropists who are seeking ways and
means of disposing of their "sur-
plus," do not endow homes where
these poor old men and women could
go, sure of a refuge for the few
years remaining to them.

Women and the Country Life Com- mission

The question is being asked by
many papers and magazines, why, in
appointing the commissioners on
country life, no women were men-
tioned. In this connection, Mrs. Gil-
man, in *Good Housekeeping*, says:
"The sense of individual citizenship
in women is far too strong today to
relish being lumped together as mere
feminine connections of men, and
must be appealed to direct, as re-
sponsible citizens; not studied into
and recommended about as if they
were part of the live stock. We may
appoint experts to tell the farmer
what to do with his cows and pigs,
and even enforce right conditions by
law; but when it comes to the 'moth-
ers, wives and daughters,'—they are
the ones to be consulted. What we
need in this case is a commission
largely of women; experts in domes-
tic architecture, decoration, land-
scape gardening, household indus-
tries, sanitation, hygiene and physi-
cal culture, food preparations, asep-
tic cleaning, education and amuse-
ment—nine distinguished authori-
ties. They should have sufficient
time for thorough study; be amply
supplied with means, and command
the intelligent interest of the whole
country."

Mrs. Gilman further says: "Pres-
ently we should find out that the
women of our country who work on
farms are the hardest worked and
least paid of any class we have.
There is no sweat-shop that fails to
pay something to its hard-driven
slaves; but the sweat-shop called a
kitchen gives no wages. The work
of the farmer's wife begins earlier
than his, for she has to get his
breakfast; lasts longer than his, for
she has the supper dishes to clean
up and mending to do in the even-
ing; is more wearing than his, be-
cause it is carried on together with
the cares and labors of child-rear-
ing; and is far more dangerous than
his, as shown by the death-rate. The
man works out of doors, the woman
in the house—a great disadvantage
to her health; the man's work has
some social outlook; he markets his
crops, he has his political interests,
he gossips with his friends at the
store or postoffice; he is in some
touch with the world's life. The
woman has nothing beyond her
house and family, except the
church; that is why she so often
becomes insane, and usually with re-
ligious mania. Isolation is the key
to the whole trouble."

Some Reminders

Do not neglect to visit the schools.
Go as often as you can, and study
the conditions into which you send
your little folks every day. The par-
ents will send the children "to
school," knowing nothing of what is
being done, from day to day. No
business man would turn his stock
of goods over to a stranger, to be
housed, or cared for without his su-

pervision, and no farmer would treat
his stock with the indifference as to
its comfort that he shows toward
his children's mental and physical
comfort. Many will tell you that
the child should not be allowed to
complain of the teacher, or of the
school; but no man or woman can
be trusted so implicitly as that. Let
the children talk, even though you
say nothing; but listen quietly to all
that is said, and then investigate the
matter in a business spirit. Get ac-
quainted with both teacher and the
school house.

Another "Sign of the Times"

The St. Louis court of appeals has
given progressive matrimony an-
other blow by deciding that a man
can not evade the payment of ali-
mony by assuming the responsibili-
ties of caring for a second or third
wife. The learned judges say that
even the clothes on the man's back
may be taken—a "pay up or go
naked," verdict; for the judges hold
that alimony is a preferred claim,
and that an ex-husband's clothing
may be seized to enforce payment.
The fact that a man's salary is not
large enough to support two fami-
lies, the court declares, has nothing
to do with the case; his first wife
must first be satisfied, even if he
loves the second wife best. The sec-
ond wife knew, or should have
known about the alimony, and she
must get along with what her pre-
decessor leaves. This decision looks
like a good law, and good
sense. It is in line, too, with the
time-honored maxim, "Be sure you
are off with the old love before you
are on with the new."—St. Louis
Post-Dispatch.

For Baby's Buggy

Make the pad for the baby's buggy
of white linen, perfectly plain, with
a border of insertion sewed on about
three inches from the edge. Bead-
ing can be used, and ribbon run
through, making a flat border, if pre-
ferred. Leave one end of the cover
open, and close with buttons and
button-holes.

A very pretty pillow for the buggy
is made of wide insertion and ribbon
the same width; or the insertion may
be of lace, and for the ribbon, em-
broidery may be used, of the same
width as the insertion. Tie in bol-
ster style at both ends, the frilled
portion being finished with narrow
lace and ribbon.

When a house mother feels her-
self growing irritable and easily
fretted, it means over-doing, fatigue
and physical exhaustion, and she
should simply "let loose" of every-
thing and lie down. One day in bed
at such times will save a dozen that
ought to be spent in bed later.

For the Young Baby

Mothers all know how difficult it
is to keep the baby's hands and feet
covered and warm, as the little one
is constantly tossing them about
and displacing all covering. Here is
a garment, the making of which is
not difficult, and for the little one
that has not yet learned to crawl,
it is very comfortable: Buy a couple
of yards of elder-down flannel,
double it, and sew the selvages on
each side together, making a sort
of bag of it. Find the center of the
widths at the mouth of the bag and
round out the middle to fit the neck,

back and front; then stitch up the
remaining opening for the shoulder
seams; cut an opening down the
back for a placket hole, large enough
to allow the garment to be slipped
over the baby's head. Finish the
placket and the neck with a soft
ribbon binding, and close the neck
and placket with several buttons and
button holes. When you lay the
baby down, or take it out into the
air, put it into this bag, feet fore-
most, and button and band about its
neck. The baby can exercise all it
will, as its hands and feet are free,
and they will keep warm and com-
fortable.

Little blankets for the baby's bed
can be made of a good quality of
outing flannel—about ten cents a
yard, and these blankets are quite
warm and comfortable, and have the
advantage over woolen that they can
be washed and scalded, and even
boiled, without injury. Crib quilts,
and little robes for the buggy can
be made of the outing flannel, used
as lining, while the cover may be
made of any suitable stuffs. Very
serviceable, as well as inexpensive
little cloaks, capes, or coats can be
made of bleached turkish toweling,
and these can be washed without in-
jury.

Embroidered garments should be
ironed on flannel. Lay the right
side of the embroidery on the flan-
nel and press the wrong side quite
firmly with the iron, continuing the
process until the garment is perfect-
ly dry. Ironed in this way, every
line and curve of the embroidery
will be brought out, and the gar-
ment will have an entirely different
appearance than when pressed on the
right side on the ordinary ironing
board. The thicker the flannel, the
better the work will show up.

Treatment of the Amaryllis John- sonii

This beautiful bulb usually blooms
in March, and should be started into
growth in early January. Bring the
pot into the light, and treat as you
would any other winter blooming
bulb. A good sized bulb will have
several stalks, and each stalk will
bear two to four, and sometimes even
more, beautiful red lilies, which will
keep perfect for quite a long time.
This bulb is very easily cared for,
and if given any kind of reasonable
treatment will not fail to bloom.
When the last flower fades, the stem
should be removed, cutting it off
near the surface of the soil, and the
development of the foliage should be
encouraged by shifting the bulb into
a larger pot as soon as the flower
scape has been removed. This will
tend to enlarge the bulb and bring
on vigorous growth of foliage. In
some cases, the bulb will use up its
energy in growth instead of forming
bud-germs, and may not bloom the
next year. Give this bulb a sunny
situation, and after the foliage has
fully developed, and begins to fade
(become yellow), water sparingly,
letting the plant gradually become
dry and the foliage lifeless, after
which give it barely water enough
to keep it from drying entirely out.
The bulb has large, fleshy roots
which dust-dryness will ruin. In the
summer, the bulb may be bedded out
in the border, and it will often bloom
in the autumn under this treatment.

Mending Knit Underwear

Many times the neck and bottom
of the sleeves of underwear give way
while the rest of the garment is
good. To remedy this, cut off the
frayed portion and knit or crochet

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-
rhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.