



The Stepchild

When I was little, papa used to tell
Long stories to me every night,
And mamma, 'cause she wasn't very
well,

Would lie by me and hold me—
just as tight!
But mother says I'm most half grown
And ought to go to bed alone,
And making fools of children isn't
right.

When I was little, papa used to be
A growly dog, and then I'd be a
cat,
Or else he'd be a bear a-chasin' me,
Until I'd run to mamma, where
she sat,
But papa doesn't want to play
Since mamma went and went away,
'Cause mother says I'm much too
big for that.

When I was little, papa used to hold
Me on his lap and cuddle me, and
let
Me cuddle him, pretendin' he was
cold,
And mamma never seemed to mind
or fret,
But when I go to kiss him now,
He tells me not to make a row,
'Cause mother hopes I'm not a
baby yet.

Once mother went away, I don't
know where,
And papa was alone, just him
and I,
And so I went and climbed up on his
chair,
And then got on his knee, and by
and by
He cuddled me, and rocked me,
too,
Like him and mamma used to do,
And then I felt so good I had to
cry.
—Edmund Vance Cook, in Apple-
ton's Magazine.

Everblooming Roses

Several of our readers ask for a
list of the "best hardy everblooming
roses." There are so many ever-
blooming roses of the tea, hybrid-
tea and china classes that one is at
a loss to choose. Many of these are
strong, vigorous growers, abundant
bloomers, and almost as hardy as
an oak tree. And these are among
the roses having the most beautiful
blooms. But one should choose
their plants according to climate, as
what might be absolutely hardy in
some climates, might not be able
to stand the rigors of another, more
severe one. The very best thing to
do, then, is to select a good, well-
known, responsible rose-grower,
send for his rose catalog, and, if
you can not make your own selec-
tion, write the florist, telling him
what you think you want, the cli-
mate and conditions in which the
plants are wanted to grow, and ask
him to choose for you. The florist
will do this, willingly, giving prices
per single plant, or for collections,
with advice as to how they should
be sent. If you have had little ex-
perience in handling mailing plants
—which are small, but will grow if
given care—it would be best for you
to order fewer plants of a larger
size, and begin with these. Wherever
my home has been, for many years,
there also have been everblooming
roses. I should not like to try to
live without them. In any of these
rose catalogues, instructions are given
for the care of the plants from
the time they are received until they

bloom and grow large and strong
enough to defy the ordinary winter
weather. Get the catalogues without
delay, make out your order, with or
without the florist's help, and send
for the plants. They are the love-
liest, most cheerful things that
grow, and their beauty and frag-
rance will brighten many a dark
hour for you, and make you a bet-
ter, happier woman through asso-
ciation with them.

Among the Girls

One has but to go among a gath-
ering of girls, or observe those met
on the streets, whether of city or
village, to realize that one of the
"crying needs" of the times is that
girls should be trained to habits of
neatness about care of their cloth-
ing, and the way to wear it. It is
not required that a girl should
"look like she had just come out of
a handbox," but to understand what
is meant, one has but to look at
the girl as she is seen everywhere,
at home, at work, or on dress pa-
rade, intent on pleasure, to see to
what an extent the lax methods per-
taining to toilet matters are carried.
It is a matter of public comment.
This laxity is not, of course, con-
fined to girls; but it is to the girls
we are talking now. Go where you
will, and you may notice the untidy
hair, poorly fastened and requiring
constant attention, the badly and
crookedly pinned collar or neckwear,
the hanging or missing button or
frayed button-hole, the little rips or
loose threads, the space between
belt and skirt-band showing the
ubiquitous safety pin, buttons or
hooks that do not catch; the gaping
placket hole, minus its fastenings;
the sagging lengths of skirt, frayed
skirt-bindings, frizzled edges of un-
derwear, knotted or flowing shoe-
ties, shabby shoes, rundown heels.
Then, too, many girls wash only the
face and hands, neglecting the edges
of the hair, the back of the neck,
the back and folds of the ears, and
the wrists—all showing the "high-
water" mark of careless cleaning;
the uneven, discolored finger nails,
with ragged or tightly fastened
down cuticle at the base—all of
which a few touches with the wash
cloth or nail brush, when washing,
would have remedied.

Too careful attention can not
be given to the teeth, the mouth,
nose, ears and finger nails. Then
there are the run-down heels, the
shoes, polished to a shine in front,
but shabbily rusty on the back and
heels and on the tops of the ankles.
The short skirts now worn leave all
these plainly in sight, as well as, on
some occasions, the wrinkling down
of the carelessly supported stock-
ing. The mendings with pins, safety-
safety-pins, and in some instances,
wire hair pins where the dust-ruffle,
bindings or hems have become loose.
Do you not see them at every turn?

For a Good Complexion

No amount of cosmetics will do
for the complexion what attention
to the general health will do. Look
carefully to the diet; do not starve
yourself, and do not over-eat, and
eat only what you are reasonably
sure will agree with your digestive
organs. Drink plenty of water,
warm, cool or cold, as gives the best
satisfaction. Exercise much, but
breathe more, and fit the exercise
to your vocation. Deep breathing
of the purest air you can get, and

physical exercises which will serve
to set in motion the neglected mus-
cles, should be practiced. In wash-
ing or bathing, use only good olive
or vegetable-oil soaps, and as little
as may be of any. Common wheat
bran, found at the feed stores, is a
good substitute for soap, and gives
a smooth, soft feeling to the skin.
After washing with soap, "kill" the
alkali with a little good vinegar,
wetting the hands and face or even
the body, with it. Vinegar is an ex-
cellent "germicide," as well as heal-
ing. After applying this, use a little
simple emollient to replace the oil
that the washing has removed. Do
not use a sour or unclean wash cloth
or sponge. Let your cleanser be
clean to begin with. A chiffon veil
is a protection against rough winds,
and it is well to avoid washing the
face and hands immediately before
going out into the air. If you lead
a sedentary life, or are confined in-
doors most of the time, stir up the
circulation by plenty of exercise, and
flush the system as much as possible
by drinking plenty of water between
meals and before going to bed.
Think pleasant, cheerful thoughts,
and try to see the good in every-
body about you. Do not grumble;
do not whine; do not bear malice,
and do not envy. Try to be glad
of any good fortune that falls to
others, and make the very most of
any that falls to you. Determine to
do better every day, and let your
soul shine through your body. Be
patient with the living, and do not
mourn the dead. Live in the sun-
shine of kindly good will, and scat-
ter it all about you so that other
lives may not miss it. Cultivate
optimism. Live a clean life, physi-
cal, mental and spiritual.

For House Cleaning

Oiling a floor will darken the
wood; if it is an old floor, it should
be scrubbed clean and let get per-
fectly dry before applying the oil, as
oil will not soak into wet wood.
After the oil is applied to the
boards, quite warm, and spread
evenly with a broad paint brush, it
should stand for at least a half a
day, and should then be gone over
with a woolen cloth, rubbing vigor-
ously to force the oil into the wood
and give it a polish, as well as to
remove any surplus left on the
boards. The reason why oiled
floors sometimes proved unsatisfac-
tory is that too much oil is applied,
or it is applied cold, or the floor was
not dry, or the after rubbing was
omitted or done half-heartedly. Any
of these methods will result in fail-
ure. The advantages of an oiled
floor, especially for the kitchen and
dining room, is that it does not show
grease spots, and may be cleaned
either with coal oil, crude petroleum
or soapy water. The floor must be
new or perfectly clean and dry, and
there must be plenty of rubbing to
bring out the polish.

Answering Several Queries

A very excellent and inexpensive
black ink can be made from a pack-
age of slate color wool dye, to be
had for ten cents. Moisten the dye
with a little cold water, then pour
over it a pint of boiling water, stir
until dissolved; let boil up once,
then strain and bottle for use. Purple
ink may be made of the same
dye by using two quarts of water
to the package. Other colors may
be made of the dyes. Some of the

package dye companies make special
packages for ink. But any of them
will answer.

The cause of goods looking
bronzed or rusty when dyed black
is that too much dye was used, or
the goods not thoroughly boiled so
as to absorb the dye. Try washing
well in soapy water; if this does not
answer, put the goods into clear
boiling water and boil out a portion
of the dye, then re-dye with a weak
dye-bath, following directions on the
package.

Good Flour

The quality of flour depends very
much upon the amount of gluten it
contains. The greater the amount
of gluten, and the stronger it is, the
better the quality of the flour. The
gluten of good flour will swell to
several times its size, while that of
poor flour will "rise" poorly; the
gluten being elastic, will hold the
dough together, confining the gases
in the loaf, causing it to rise. Gluten
is a gray, tough mass of various al-
buminoids that remain after wheat
flour has been washed in water; it
gives toughness and elasticity to
dough, and is a nutritious element
of wheat.

It has been said that the bolting
cloth of the miller will become the
shroud of the American people.
Whole-wheat flour has become a
recognized household necessity, and
where it is well made, it is found
both appetizing and healthful. The
old-time graham flour known to our
mothers is rarely to be had, except
where the country family can pa-
tronize the neighborhood mill, as a
great deal of the so-called graham
flour of the grocery stores is com-
posed of a poor grade of flour with
a plentiful mixing of cheap bran,
and it has little more taste than so
much sawdust when made into bread
loaves.

For the Baby's Bed

It is recommended that, instead
of a mattress for the baby's crib, a
pair of heavy blankets, folded to fit,
should be used. The blanket can
be thoroughly aired, and washed
frequently. Ordinary gray, or horse
blankets, or the kind called "army
blankets," are the kind recommend-
ed, and these should be found at
any large dry-goods stores; the cost
is two or three dollars per pair, and
a pair will last a generation.

Never mail a check drawn to
"bearer;" always make them drawn
"to order." If any loss occurs, the
bank should be notified at once and
payment stopped. Personal checks
are not favored when the party is
unknown.

Odds and Ends

In all recipes calling for boiled
macaroni, be careful not to get too
much salt in when seasoning, as
macaroni should be cooked in salt
water, and thus so much salt will
not be required with other ingre-
dients.

Covering the kitchen table with
oil cloth not only gives it a better
appearance, but saves much scouring
and cleaning while using it. It is a
saving, too, to use oil cloth under
the linen on the dining table.

Macaroni is an economical substi-
tute for either meat or vegetables,
and when properly prepared is sim-
ple and nourishing. It should be
thoroughly cooked, to be palatable
and digestible. About two quarts of
water should be used for cooking
one-fourth pound of macaroni. Boil
until tender, then drain through 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-
rhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.