



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McVey

## The Woman at the Tub

From east to west their praises ring—

The stalwarts with the hoe,  
The sturdy man behind the plow,  
Who till the earth and sow.  
What would they do, these toil-spent men,  
Who plow and plant and grub,  
Without the patient, plodding hand—  
The woman at the tub?

The soldier's fame, through every age,  
The sweetest bards have sung;  
In trumpet tones, their daring deeds  
From sea to sea have rung.

In minor note, with clarion horn,  
You hear the gentle "rub"  
That makes him neat for dress parade—  
The woman at the tub!

Honor the stalwart with the hoe,  
The patriot at the gun,  
With laurels deck the noble brow  
For victories well won;  
But if you've more bouquets to throw,  
Deem it not poor or mean

To toss a few to that poor soul  
Who keeps the whole world clean.  
—C. L. Spalding in American Motherhood.

## Neglected Education

We are constantly reminded that the girls must be trained so as to be good wives, mothers and house-keepers, but how very seldom do we read or hear that the boys should be trained for husbands, fathers and home-providers. There is one thing which is almost universally overlooked in their training. How very few young men know anything about the care of the sick. They are anxious and willing to do, but they know nothing of the ways and means of making the sickroom comfortable, or of meeting emergencies. Young men marry, and assume the guardianship of the girls they love without giving the least thought to the fact that in thus assuming the relationship, they are indeed the guardian of the health of the prospective family. They consider nursing as the woman's business, and do not realize that there will be many times when the wife must needs be nursed, and that in many cases, there will be no one but the husband to look after the comfort of the sick, even where money is not in question. A woman, if she can not do anything else, can wait upon the sick in some fashion, and does so, to the best of her ability; but when the wife is the afflicted one, she usually fares badly if left to the tender mercies of the average young husband.

It is not that men are unsympathetic, or indifferent, but simply that they are ignorant and untrained, and when an emergency arises, they are usually so embarrassed by the unusual demands, or so ill at ease from ignorance of the simplest duties of the sick room, that they are worse than useless. Fathers should insist that their sons become acquainted with the simpler duties, at least, of caring for the sick, and see that the boy is taught the sacredness of the sickroom, and to prepare little dishes, or perform little duties which may be demanded of him in almost any emergency. Mothers and sisters should not be the only nurses. Train

the boy for the intelligent care of his future family.

## For the Young Mother

The young mother usually has all the advice she can listen to, but the mass of it is so confusing and inapplicable to her own case, that she hardly knows where to turn. Answering several inquiries, we give a few general rules, but the inexperienced nurse must use every bit of common sense she can get hold of, and the baby's needs and wants must be studied closely. Try to teach the little one to be as regular in habits as possible, beginning from the first day, else the little creature will become a perfect tyrant to the worried, working mother. A young child should be kept warm and clean and comfortable, and it should sleep at least three-fourths of its time during the first month of existence, but its food should be given it regularly, and it should then as regularly be laid down in its bed. It is well to give it bottle food if the mother fails to supply it with enough nourishment, and these days many mothers fail to satisfy the baby's appetite, or the mother's milk does not agree with the child. Get the best advice possible on this point, and then carefully watch results, as no two babies thrive alike. Even the experienced mother has trouble, and one can only do the best possible, and try to learn better. Give just as little medicine as may be—not any, if you can help it, and try good nursing and careful feeding; but above all things, keep the little feet warm, and the baby's body clean. At night, if the baby is restless, on putting it into its night clothes, rub the entire body with the warm, mother-hand, using a very little olive oil to prevent friction, until the skin is warm and glowing. If the little one is feverish, a quick sponging of cool (not cold) water may precede the rubbing. If the baby is "bottle fed," be sure to keep the bottle and nipple clean, and when not in use, keep the bottle and the nipple in a medium solution of baking soda and water, as this will keep them sweet. Use only plain, smooth bottles and a plain, fitted nipple, and it is well to have several sets of these. Many babies are over-fed and suffer from indigestion. The stomach of a six-weeks-old baby will hold only about three tablespoonfuls, increasing in holding capacity as it gets older.

## House Cleaning

Before attempting to put fresh paper on the walls, go over the old paper with plenty of warm water, applied with brush or cloth, and loosen every bit of the old paper, pull, or scrape it off. After the paper is removed, if it is not to be repapered, the wall should be thoroughly washed with soap and water, to remove all paste; if new paper is to be put on, the removal of the dried paste will make a better job of it. Oil paint is a good covering for walls, especially of kitchen walls, as the paint can be washed.

If you have a waxed finish on your wood work, do not use water on it, but clean with a cloth moistened with coal oil, as this will remove all soot, finger marks and dirt, and is not so destructive as soap.

Use a small, sharp stick for cleaning out creases and corners, and es-

pecially for cleaning the dirt from corners in window sash and glass in any furniture. Put a soft, wet cloth over the point of the stick and poke out the dirt.

Soft woods, like pine, are usually enameled or painted and varnished, while hard woods—oak, mahogany, walnut, etc., are waxed or varnished. Either kind of wood may be stained and varnished and the grain in many of them is lovely.

Enameled wood work should not be scrubbed with a brush, nor should scouring soaps, or strong ammonia be used on it.

For filling cracks, crevices, or holes in wood work, putty is good, or a pulp made of soaked paper can be used. For filling breaks in plastering, or holes, be sure to pull off all the hanging, and very loose portions, and wet up plaster of paris with vinegar and apply. It does not harden so quickly as when wet with water.

Cement floors for out-door or basement kitchens, are not as easily kept clean as tiling or wood, and are very hard on the feet, unless bits of carpet or rug are scattered about to stand on. They are very excellent however, and can be washed or scrubbed with good effect.

## Bits of Help

Many things are just as well used if not ironed, and in this way much strength and labor may be saved. When taking clothes from the line, fold all knit underwear, kitchen towels, and other rough clothes just as you would if they were ironed, and lay them smoothly in a basket or pile. Sheets and colored table-clothes come out in very good shape if done in this way. An easy way to iron sheets, if they must be ironed, is to bring the two hemmed ends together, then fold from right to left, having the upper hem of the sheet on the outside; then iron the half of the sheet which is uppermost, without refolding, and fold carefully away for the drawer. When the sheet is on the bed, one can not distinguish that the lower half has not been ironed.

Every room that is occupied during the day should be thoroughly aired—flushed with fresh air several times during the day; bed-rooms should be well ventilated all the time, and flushed with fresh air whenever the weather will permit. A kitchen in which much cooking is carried on should have ventilation near the ceiling, and if nothing better can be had, keep the top window sash down as far as can be allowed. A shed room is a good place for cooking, as the openings in the walls admit plenty of clean, fresh air and allow for the escape of the smells of cooking.

Try doing without the "slop-pail" or garbage can at the door. Keep it well away from the house, and empty all refuse where the hogs or chickens can get at it while fresh and clean. Keep the ground about the kitchen door clean and free from scraps of food, and thus give the flies no excuse to gather there. A back yard is as easily kept clean as a front one, if every member of the family is trained to habits of neatness.

See that all wash and laundry waters and house slops are emptied on the manure pile on the farm, or on

the compost heap, if you have but a garden spot. Do not throw dish water out in the back yard to attract flies. Remember that flies and mosquitoes are disease carriers.

## For the Seamstress

In gathering by hand, if a double thread is used, one thread is apt to knot, or one is tighter than the other. Instead, use two lines of gathers an eighth of an inch apart.

For stroking gathers, hold the work between the thumb and fingers of the left hand, the thumb on the gathering threads, and stroke with a coarse needle. For placing the gathers, put the point of the needle under the lower gathering thread and press on the needle.

Always cut the thread from the work, as breaking weakens the fastening. Thread may be cut or broken from the spool.

In cutting a button-hole with a round end, in thick goods, use a punch for the round, then cut the straight of the buttonhole directly on a line with the center of the hole.

Little touches of handwork are seen on all expensive dresses. If one is skilled in needle work many little touches of original ornamentation can be added, giving the garment that chic appearance for which one has to pay so dearly. Many wash dresses are trimmed with rick-rack braid, which is very inexpensive, yet may be used with very satisfying effect.

In making over a last season's skirt, the old skirt may be lifted to the new waist-line, and the bottom lengthened by foot trimming sufficiently irregular on the upper edge not to seem a regulation band. Bolero models are taking on a new lease of life, but instead of a separate bolero, the bodice is composed on the bolero lines.

Drawn work is much used for table linen, children's dresses, ladies' waists, scarfs, doileys, and many other articles either of wear or for ornamentation. If the material is very fine, a large magnifying glass may be used when drawing the threads. Linen or crochet threads matching the texture of the material, but a trifle finer or coarser as desired, are used in drawn work. Many very beautiful patterns are shown in the fancy work and fashion magazines, with explanations for doing the work.

## Query Box

Many inquiries are answered under appropriate headings elsewhere.

In sending in directions for work, or for concocting dishes of eatables, please send name and address of sender—not for publication, but for reference.

In sending poems, in answer to requests for same, please send author's name, and publication from which taken, if possible.

M. B. asks for information without giving address; if address is sent will send information.

D. R.—Recipe for shellac varnish given elsewhere, under directions for renovating old furniture.

N. M.—Nothing will "remove deep scratches from furniture without injuring the finish," but shellac varnish will render them less conspicuous.

Allie S.—Books of complete instructions in needle-craft can be had at almost any book store or fancy-work or art stores. Almost any

**AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY**  
MRS. WINSLOW'S SCORCHING 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.