

The Home Department

Conducted by *What is What is What*

Somebody's Boy

List to the ring of the midnight song;
'Tis somebody's boy.
The winds give to every wild echo a
tongue,
Yes, somebody's boy.

The witch of the revel has waved
her wand
Over somebody's boy;
And the spirit of evil has clasped the
hand
Of somebody's boy.

Comes now a yell on the midnight
air,
From somebody's boy;
Reckless, defiant and devil-may-care,
Is somebody's boy!

Foul is the bed—madly dark the
dark cell,
Where somebody's boy
Is writhing in torture, the veriest
hell—
Yet, somebody's boy.

Waiting and watching, a mother's
eyes weep
For somebody's boy,
The vigil, dear Father, O help her
to keep!
For somebody's boy.

Throw 'round him, and over, thy
Spirit to save,
This somebody's boy;
Ere fiends for his lost soul shall hol-
low the grave
Of somebody's boy.

Fill with thy Spirit, too, our hearts,
we pray,
That somebody's boy
We may watch for, and snatch from
the death-trodden way—
Yes, somebody's boy!
—Mrs. E. P. Miller, in *Mother
Truth's Melodies.*

The Vegetable Garden

If you did not set out the aspara-
gus plants last spring, do not neglect
it now. If you can not buy the
plants, the seeds germinate readily,
but you will have a longer wait be-
fore you reap results. Every year
the work is neglected puts the fruits
of your labor just so much further
in the future. Fruit, especially small
fruit, can be had nowhere in such
quality and quantity as in the farm
or village garden. A productive, well
kept garden is the best paying spot
on the premises.

Looking Ahead

Remember, if you are hoping to
have success with your window gar-
den, next winter, it is none too early
to begin preparations now. You will
need the right kind of soil, and it is
easier made than found. In some
old corner, where there is plenty of
sunshine, dig a hole, and in this hole
put all your peelings and trimmings
and odd ends that are usually thrown
out in the yard. When you have a
layer of this a few inches deep,
sprinkle dirt over it. A shovel full
of cow manure, or sheep droppings,
or from the hog pen should be added
now and then, and a little horse
manure will help to heat and rot it.
Over this garbage, pour the kitchen
slops, and put in the hole bits of
sod, or grass roots, leaves, or any-
thing that will rot and make food
for the plants. Keep adding to this
all summer, and by fall, when you
want it, you will have the best of

soil for your pots, pans and boxes.
Remember, too, that you must be-
gin to grow your seedlings, espe-
cially such as chrysanthemums, now,
with an eye to their transplantings,
pinching into shapeliness, and shift-
ing from pot to pot. Geraniums, and
many other plants that are wanted
for the window blooming, must be
attended to in May or June, and only
by keeping them in pots through-
out the season can you hope for
brightness and color during the dark
days. Then, too, this compost may
be used in the melon or cucumber
hills, and other vegetables will
thrive wonderfully for a shovel full
occasionally.

"Mother's Day"

A pretty custom is gaining ground
in observing "Mother's Day," which
is set for the second Sunday in May.
It was first observed last year, and
its observance will be more wide-
spread this year. Those who have
a mother living should visit her, or,
if not within visiting distance, write
a letter to her; the letter to be writ-
ten so it will reach her on that day.
Those whose mother has passed out
can decorate her grave with flowers,
or plant something on the mound, or,
if this can not be done personally,
have it done by some one living
where the body is buried. This is a
worthy custom and, while the mother
is living, the patient old friend will
be gladdened by this tribute of af-
fection.

Items of Interest

A writer in an exchange says that
every county town has, or is sup-
posed to have a court house, and if
no other provision is made for a
"rest room" for the country woman
coming to the village to trade, there
might a room be set apart in this
building, equipped with conveniences,
to which the country woman may
retire to get herself in shape for her
shopping after the rough, dusty ride
over the country roads. Country
merchants do not give enough
thought to the comfort of their cus-
tomers, and for this reason, in many
instances, the journey to the store
for most women of the farm is often
looked upon as a disagreeable duty
which can not be shirked.

An eastern state has put upon its
statute book recently a law that pun-
ishes parents who do not care for
their children and do not support
them. The wife must also be sup-
ported, and the fact that she and her
children are not supported shall be
evidence of neglect on the part of the
father. This state has done a great
deal for the children, but now the
law requires that having children
shall bring with it the responsibility
for their care. This, in these high-
priced times, will argue against big
families, in a measure. A house-full
of children means the need of a good
salary.

For the Home Seamstress

One of the very best things a girl
can do is to serve an apprenticeship
to a good dressmaker and seamstress.
A girl or woman who can make her
own garments can be much better
dressed at the same cost, and at the
same time give to her clothes an air
of individuality which no "ready
made" can have. It is not the goods
that make the clothing so expensive,
but the cost of hiring them made, or

of buying the showy "ready-to-
wear" that are only made to sell.

In using paper patterns for the
skirt, be sure to lay the line of per-
forations down the pattern, as indi-
cated on the paper, on a straight
thread of the material. Study the
pattern well before cutting into the
goods, and once the paper is laid
on the goods, cut exactly as the pat-
tern, marking every perforation,
notch, or square. If the material is
not as wide as the pattern, do not
skimp, but change the position on
the cloth, or, if nothing else will do,
do not hesitate to neatly piece the
corners of gores.

It is the business of the owner of
the goods to say if the goods shall
be pieced out, but care should be
taken to need as little piecing as
possible, at the same time cutting
exactly as the pattern demands.
Many a garment is ruined as to fit,
by suiting the pattern to the goods,
rather than the goods to the pattern.

In plaited skirts, be sure to lay
the plaits neatly and evenly. If one
hip is higher than the other—and
one generally is—the skirt should
be slightly raised on the side that is
smallest, until the line of the front
hangs straight. In evening the bot-
tom of a skirt, one should have help
of a second person.

When the long seams are run, they
should be either pressed open, or
with both edges on one side, as the
finish indicates. A material that is
inclined to fray should be bound,
while more substantial goods may be
pinked.

Coffee Drinking

A great deal of advice is being
dealt out to the coffee drinker, and
much of it is well to heed. Drink-
ing with food is no longer recog-
nized as a healthful habit, and if
one would exercise a little self de-
nial, the habit would soon be over-
come. It is acknowledging a weak-
ness to declare that one can not
"quit drinking coffee." On some
people, coffee acts as a stimulant,
and they at once assume that it gives
them strength. We might as well
claim that a lash laid on the back
with a heavy hand gives strength.
It certainly is a "stimulant," but it
is the stimulant of pain. It gives
just as much real strength as the
cup of coffee does. Very many per-
sons drink the coffee "to get
strength," but suffer agonies with
stomach trouble after the stimulant
loses its strength. Many things give
the same energy, but no lasting
strength, without doing half the in-
jury that coffee does. If any one
will drink largely of water, of the
temperature found most agreeable,
between meals, the liking for coffee
or tea can be much more readily
overcome, and once overcome, you
will be delighted with the relief af-
forded. Begin now to be good to
yourself by refusing the coffee.

Rhubarb

This is the season for rhubarb, and
of it *Table Talk* has this to say: This
product of the garden has many uses,
not only for the table but for medi-
cinal purposes. The parts used for
the table are the foot stalks, and
the roots, which are astringent and
purgative, are used dried as medi-
cine. It is the only instance of a
vegetable being used in every re-
spect as fruit. Puddings and pies
made with the stalks are equal in
juice-giving properties, and also to

acidulous power, to any made from
fruits. Used with lemons, oranges,
dates, or other things, it makes ex-
cellent preserves. Remedial, if taken
plainly as a stew, so the acids are
tart in it, the stalk acts as a foe to
gout and rheumatism, neutralizing
the uric acid said to cause such
things. The stalks should not be
stripped until the skin begins to get
tough. It should be sweetened after
stewing, as it calls for less sugar, and
the flavor is richer.

House Cleaning

It is claimed that moths will not
molest woollens that are well wrap-
ped in newspapers, but it must be as-
certained that the moths have not
already molested the garment, lay-
ing her eggs in its meshes. Before
putting away woollens, furs, and hair
goods, they must be well sunned and
well beaten, to free them from pos-
sible eggs. If they are then wrapped
in plenty of newspaper, with no hole
or lapping through which the moth
can make its way into the material,
the article is reasonably safe from its
ravages.

Do not throw heavy rugs over the
line for cleaning, and do not shake
small rugs by the sides. If a grass
plat can be had, spread the rug on
it and beat with a carpet beater. A
better arrangement is to lay the rug
on an old bed spring, and beat it,
as the dust will drop through and
blow away as it falls out.

In hanging heavy material, such as
denims, for screen curtains, instead
of sewing the breadths together, use
the ball and socket skirt fasteners.
The fasteners are cheap, and the
breadths of curtain are not so heavy
to handle. Women must learn to
save their strength.

An exchange says it is no use to
talk bath tub to a man who is not
able to buy a wash basin; but when
the wash basin costs no more than
ten cents, the man and the whole
family may be kept clean by a good
use of the basin and a wash rag. The
trouble is, we are not willing to
make the most of what we have.

When laying the bedding out to
sun, put a layer of newspapers under
it, and thus prevent the dampness
arising from the ground underneath
from penetrating the bedding. For
many things about house cleaning
time, the old newspapers are second
in value only to the old soft linen
so much in demand.

Laying the pillows and old soiled
comforts out on a grass plat during
a heavy shower, and afterwards turn-
ing them often until dried, is a good
way to cleanse them; particularly so
in the case of old comforts.

The Between Season

From now on, until green things
become plentiful, or at least within
the means of the family purse, the
housewife will find herself puzzled
as to how to have variety on her
table, unless she is blessed with a
full assortment of canned and dried
things in her store room. One of
the favorite dishes in our grand-
mother's day was the succotash made
of either dried corn and dried beans,
or of dried beans and canned corn.
The coarsely broken corn known as
"dried hominy" and an equal amount
of dried beans should be put to soak
over night, and in the morning each
should be cooked in a separate ves-
sel until tender, which, in either case,
will call for several hours of slow
cooking. A slice or two of fresh salt
pork may be cooked with them, if
liked. When quite tender, the corn
and beans may be mixed, and let
cook slowly another half hour. If

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 dia-
rrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.