



The Home Department

Condensed by Helen Watts Moore

A Grecian Legend

Children, here's a little story
Told of Bacchus yet a boy
When he started on a journey
Vigorous and full of joy.
Growing weary, on a wayside
Stone, he found a pleasant seat
And while resting, watched a tiny
Plant spring up between his feet.
"Oh!" cried he, "I'll take the beauty
Root and branch." He had no pot
And was anxious lest it wither
For the sun was very hot;
Looking out for something, soon he
Found a songbird's skeleton
Into which recess he placed it
Tenderly and hurried on.
For the little vine was twining
Round the bones on every side,
And he sought the fragile tendrils
From the scorching beams to hide.
Finding there a lion's carcass
In it he arranged the mass;
But the plant grew fast and faster
Green and thrifty as the grass;
Than the lion's now a larger
Structure of an ass was found
Into which once more his treasure
Was transplanted safe and sound.
Having reached his destination
And about his vine to set,
Saw he round the bird, ass, lion,
Roots had twined a living net.
Carefully the whole was buried
Lest he hurt a single shoot,
Rapidly it grew and blessed him
With the most delicious fruit.
So he took the grapes and pressed
them
Giving men the wine to drink—
Lo! a miracle he witnessed,
From the picture you will shrink;
First they sipped, then sang a chorus
Happy as a wildbird's song;
When a second draught was swal-
lowed
Like a lion they were strong
When they drank once more, ah!
broken
Was the charm, now stupid grown,
They could only bray like asses,
All their song and strength had
flown.
—J. V. H. Koons in Muncie (Ind.)
Star.

Our Chat

Every month brings new duties, and the time runs so fast as to be bewildering. But a few days ago, it seems, we were telling you how to guard against the snow and frost; now, every mail brings me a handful of letters, asking for information for pickling, preserving and "putting up" fruits, vegetables, and for keeping the house cool and clean, and methods of guarding against or exterminating the summer's horde of insects. These will be given in season, as fast as we can find space; but those wishing immediate information would better send stamped, addressed envelope for immediate reply. We are glad to have you do this, and we would also appreciate any information as to your success or failure with these recipes, or methods, and, if you know a better way, we shall appreciate your kindness in sending it to us to pass on to others.

New discoveries are being made every day by our housewives, and many of those who have had the patience to test new labor-saving machinery for the home are enthusiastic in its praise. We are frequently asked to endorse this or that invention in the Home Department, but this we can not do. The advertising columns are open to manu-

facturers of really good things, and these should be taken advantage of by those having inventions to sell. There are many small things, costing but ten cents to twenty-five cents, the possession of which would be a great help to the housewife, but we can not recommend them here by name. Our advice is, however, that when anything really worth having is discovered, that the lucky "finder" should tell her neighbor, or tell us, and the information shall reach others if occasion arises.

Many of these "small things," however, are not worth having; so we must "pick and choose," and hold fast that which is good. If one is near a department, or house-furnishing, or a ten cent store, many things can be gathered up, and for those living too far from market, the mail order houses will supply their catalogue for the asking, and if one is careful to deal only with a reliable firm, there is little or no risk.

Wage-Earning Women

The call from the women of the country who would become a wage earner is insistent, and a large part of the domestic columns devoted to women's interests are filled with suggestions and instructions hoping to be helpful to this class. But it is not so much what women can do as what she will do, or is fitted to do, in competition with men, machinery and other women. Here is an item which such women should study closely: "Until women who seek work make themselves equal in working capacity, tact, understanding, to their male competitors, they will receive less wages. A woman seeking work should not presume on her sex, or her needs, or conditions; but upon her qualifications, for favors readily granted the industrious, capable man. The few women who seek, and succeed in getting work in this attitude generally hold important and well paid positions, while those who ask for work through sympathy, if they get it, are of the underpaid class. When a woman is the equal of a man in application and capacity, and is found to be reliable, and with a sense of responsibility, she is usually the preferred employe; but there is not enough of her. The test of any applicant for work must be capacity. A woman can not be exempt from this test, and if she realizes that, and fits herself to meet the demands of the close competition of the times, she will have little in the way of remuneration to complain of. To succeed in any business, a woman must study to understand and apply business methods."—Washington News.

Reading the Lips

One thing which should be early taught to the child of defective hearing, and which the adult similarly affected should cultivate closely, is the ability to read words from the motion of the lips and the expression of the features of the speaker. This is not very difficult to do, and where a heavy moustache is not worn, the voice may not be heard at all, yet the listener will know readily what is being said. Many partially or wholly deaf people insist on having the speaker sit where the light will shine on his or her face, that the words used may be plainly seen, and they learn to "hear through sight." A strange face or voice may puzzle

them for a few moments but the closest observation is given, and the difficulty overcome. Then the unthinking one says, "You seem to hear better than you did—or were you only inattentive?" Many deaf people prefer a speaker to sit on just a little lower chair than they, themselves occupy, as the voice, ranging upward, is easier caught than when one "talks down."

"Keeping the Boy on the Farm"

If you want to interest the boy in the farm, give him something that will be his very own, and in which he will take an interest. Let him have a few hens and a rooster, or a pig, or a calf, and be honest with him in your dealings. Let the stock be his own, and if he has anything to sell, pay him, as you would any one else, or see that he is paid for it.

Prickly Heat

With the coming of the hot days, comes also the discomfort of prickly heat, and physicians tell us this is due to unclean skin pores. Before bathing at night or in the morning, take a handful of corn meal and rub it into your skin from the chin to the feet, and over the face and neck. Rub the meal in well over the chest, hips and stomach, using the meal plentifully. Then rub the meal off with a rough towel, wash or bathe in hot water with a pure vegetable soap, and enjoy the comfort of cleanliness.

"In Fly-Time"

Dr. Walter M. Cross, city chemist of Kansas City, gives the following methods of exterminating the house fly: The first remedy advocated is plenty of soap and hot water well supplied with a scrub rag, wherever the flies may congregate, and especially in the kitchen. A thorough application of this, aided by a sharp stick, to the cracks, crevices and corners, moldings and isolated places about the rooms, will kill many eggs deposited therein last fall and early winter before fly-time ended. For the new crop, the advance guards of which are just now appearing, he recommends the following, which he has tried and found successful. He says the flies are not prohibitionists, and like the taste of beer. At night place an ounce (two tablespoonfuls) of beer in a saucer and drop into it a pinch—about two grains—of arsenic of soda; as soon as daylight comes, the flies wake up with a horrible thirst, and swoop down on the saucer of beer and take long draughts of the brew. Presently they get the stomach-ache bad, and a few minutes later they are dead. The saucer should be removed before the daily routine of the housework begins; otherwise, the dead flies may be dropping in the cookery preparations. Where there are little children, the saucer of poison should be put out of their reach.

Another way recommended is by hanging. Flies can not resist the desire to roost on a pendant cord or string. Take equal parts of rosin and sorghum molasses and boil them until the rosin is in solution; then dip twine strings in the mixture, and hang the strings so as to make them inviting to flies. They will go for these strings like a hungry dog to a hunk of beef; the combination of roosting place and molasses to eat is so attractive they can not resist it.

The mixture in which the strings were dipped is the same as that used on commercial sticky fly paper.—Kansas City Star.

Of course, the string with its load of flies should be taken down and burned every morning and new ones strung up in their place. The methods are inexpensive, and should be tried. Flies are worse than a nuisance—they are disease carriers.

Query Box

Several requests for recipes are answered under other heads.

L. L.—Too late for the information you wanted. Allow two weeks' time for an answer.

"Manda"—A very good dressing for salads may be had of your grocer. Ask for a good quality, and take no other.

M. W.—Pickle recipes will be given very soon. If recipe is wanted at once, send stamped, self-addressed envelope for reply.

Poultry-Lover.—The proportions are one dram of copperas to one quart of water, for the chickens' drink. Ask your druggist how much a dram of copperas is.

Housewife.—There are several commercial "floor-fillers" that will answer every purpose, filling cracks, and smoothing rough places. Ask your "paint-man" about them.

L. B.—I can not answer questions of law satisfactorily. The best thing is to consult one of your best local lawyers. Laws are not alike in all states.

Susie.—The recipe for nasturtium salads is two-thirds blossoms and one-third leaves, cleaned of possible insects, and laid between nicely buttered slices of bread. Lettuce sandwiches are made in the same way, but with a little spread of mayonnaise on the leaves.

"Discouraged"—I know of no home for the aged that is prepared to admit applicants on application. Most of them are crowded, with a long list of waiting applicants. The time of waiting varies from a few months to several years. It is pitiful. The helpless aged are the most neglected of any class, and philanthropists do not contribute liberally for their support.

Frances.—For frying salt pork in batter, soak the pork until sufficiently freshened, or parboil a few minutes. Make a batter with four eggs, three heaping tablespoonfuls of flour, and a cupful of sweet milk; blend perfectly smooth, and dip the slices of pork in the batter, drop into smoking hot fat and cook until a nice brown. It is best to cook the pork first, as slow cooking will soak the batter with grease, and otherwise the meat may not be cooked done.

Spring Work

For removing scratches from mahogany, use a mixture of three parts linseed oil and one part of turpentine; after thoroughly mixing, apply with a woolen cloth, with brisk rubbing, then rub with a clean woolen cloth and follow with a chamois skin.

White picture frames may be cleaned by rubbing with a soft cloth that has been wet with ammonia and water, equal parts, then dipped in whiting. White frames should be varnished with colorless varnish when first hung.

For gilt frames, this is recommended: Mix together one ounce of common salt, one ounce of alum, and two ounces of purified niter, and dissolve all in half a pint of warm water; take a soft cloth and wash the frames carefully with this; every

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 dis-
tention. Twenty-five cents a bottle.