



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

**Be What Mother Thinks You Are**  
Whilst walking down a crowded city street the other day, I heard a little urchin to a comrade turn and say,  
"Say, Chimmy, lemme tell youse I'd be happy as a clam  
If I only wuz de feller dat me mud-der t'inks I am."

"She t'inks I am a wonder an' she knows her little lad  
Could never mix wit' nuthin' dat wuz ugly, mean or bad.  
Oh, lots o' times I sit an' t'ink how nice 'twould be, gee whiz!  
If a feller wuz de feller dat his mud-der t'inks he is!"

My friend, be yours a life of toil or undiluted joy,  
You still can learn a lesson from this small unlettered boy.  
Don't aim to be an earthly saint, with eyes fixed on a star,  
Just try to be the fellow that your mother thinks you are.  
—Will S. Adkin.

### Learning to Shirk

Every housewife recognizes the fact that, with the coming of the hot months, the labors for the household are greatly increased. Much of this additional work can not be neglected without very disastrous results; the sweeping, dusting, scrubbing, bed-making, cooking, washing, ironing, making and mending must go on, while the additional care of foods and the keeping of perishable table supplies in good condition is a work in itself. Then, too, the laundry work assumes terrifying proportions, especially where there are several children, as lighter clothes must be worn, changes must be frequent, not only with bodily wear, but with table and bed linen, and every article requires extra care because of possible stains, dampness from perspiration, rips, rents, tears, lost buttons, missing tapes and other fastenings, torn buttonholes, and like happenings ever present during the vacation season. In addition to all this, the heat, confinement, overwork and worry are usually prostrating enough by themselves. What is to be done?

We must cultivate a "fine sense of the relative value of things," and thus decide what things have to be done, and what may safely be left undone. We must cultivate the courage to sort out and handle the work from the standpoint of good sense. Few things are of a life and death consequence, and the things that must be done are the things that are done. But even that is all a matter of thinking. In such matters, every woman must be a law unto herself; she must solve her own problems; must make her own choice; but of one thing she may be assured—that only the things which increase the happiness of the human family as a whole are worth doing. Get all the help possible, and do the imperative, but learn to shirk most vigorously every thing that is not necessary. And when you stop to think of it, half to two-thirds of the things done in this world would serve humanity better if they had been left undone. We have Bible authority for that.

### Hot Weather and Baby

It is a hard matter, in many cases, to make the mother understand that cleanliness is preventive of disease as well as curative. In many homes,

the little one is let go positively too dirty to kiss, and that must be pretty dirty, to the one who is a mother at heart. If one delicately mentions the fact of cleanliness being a necessity for the child, during the hot months especially, the mother will at once assure you that the baby is bathed every morning, or evening, as the case may be. But everywhere, indoors and out, there is temptation for the busy little fingers, if the mother is not over-tidy, or negligent. Of course, this remissness increases the laundry work, but many mothers are not greatly concerned over it, as the baby wears the one garment all day, perhaps sleeps in it, and goes through another twelve or twenty-four hours without a change. If to this neglect, the pest of flies is added—for in such homes, even with screened doors and windows, the exclusion of flies is not rigidly enforced—the little smiling face is covered with the flies drawn to it by its food attractions, and the little one somehow seems to get used to the dirt as well as the flies.

We are told of wonderful endowment for the big educational institutions, and rich men are putting enormous sums into such things; but as yet, except in a few cases, and in the minds of reformers and thinkers, the ignorant mother is allowed to go on in her reckless work, doing, perhaps, as well as she knows, but often knowing better than she does. After seeing such pitiful sights as are on every hand, one is almost tempted to encourage the idea of the state taking hold of the babies, and removing them from the neglect and ignorance of the untaught and unthinking mothers.

### Perspiration Stains

The bane of the summer time, to many girls and women especially, is the stain of perspiration, especially on the silken garment which can not be washed. Many claim that there is nothing that will remove the stain except the careful laundering of which most silken garments will not admit. Others say, if the garment is at once sponged with clean, cold water on removal of the garment, while the stain is still damp, there may be hope for it. A method recommended is to sponge the stain with equal parts of alcohol and ether with five drops of ammonia to each two tablespoonfuls of the mixture, exposing it to the sun immediately after until the odor is gone. If the stain still remains, sponge again with equal parts of ammonia and cold water and expose again to the sunshine.

Some persons find it harder than others to remove the stain, as, if one is not particular about regular bathing, or is afflicted with certain classes of diseases, the perspiration may have not only an ugly color, but a disagreeable smell, as well; with some ailments, this is the case, no matter how often one bathes. The cleanliness must come from within, and only by attending to the general health can one hope for relief. With many persons, perspiration affects the garment little more than a wetting in common water would, and there is practically no odor; but the perspiration will always leave a stiffness to the spot, and the dust in the outer air will settle on it, leaving it soiled. If the garment can be washed at all, it is better to do this. If it can not, try the spot removers

faithfully; but try the use of abundance of water internally as well as externally, and the spots will not be so offensive.

### For the Home Seamstress

Ribbon facing should be used for the top of the hem of heavy goods, instead of turning the edge in; the ribbon will leave a flat finish to the hem which is an improvement over the old style. The ribbon facing comes in rolls, and is not expensive.

The collar for the shirtwaist should be straight, which will make the neck look smaller, and will fit much more neatly.

In making up material for a dressy gown, the yoke and collar must match. If the square or round yoke is used, it need not be stitched to the waist, but may be used as a separate guimpe.

In basting, be generous with the pins and thread, as few women can do good work without. Use fine needles for pinning velvet. Remove the basting threads before pressing the seams or work, or the mark of the thread will remain.

It is expected that during the summer months the very full skirt will be introduced. The princess frock is still worn, but not seen so much as formerly.

The belt line is once again in its natural place, and with all tailored costumes a tailored belt or a belt of patent leather or suede, or kid is one of the demands of the moment; but it must have a handsome buckle.

### Labor Savers

Sheets, towels, every-day pillow-slips, red table cloths, and many other straight articles may be carefully folded as taken off the line, put on a flat surface and a board or other flat surface laid on them, and they will be as good as ironed. If care is taken to have them folded smooth when run through the wringer, and hung straight on the line, they will be free from wrinkles and in good shape.

### Little Helps

For making sticky fly paper, melt two pounds of resin (the yellow kind) with seven ounces each of raw linseed oil and molasses, and mix well together over heat. Get the number of sheets of manila paper wanted and spread with the mixture while hot. Or, melt one pound of resin and eight tablespoonfuls of lard together, mixing thoroughly. Spread thinly on manila paper and put two sheets together, the resin inside; press together to keep moist. When wanted, pull the sheets apart and lay where the flies congregate.

The surest way to keep mosquitoes out is to screen windows and doors, and teach the family how to handle them so as to keep them whole.

### For a Rose Jar

An inexpensive rose jar is made as follows: Gather the rose petals in the morning and let them stand in a cool place to dry for one hour. Toss them lightly, then put them into a large covered dish in layers, with salt sprinkled freely between layers. Add more leaves in the same way for several mornings, or until you have enough. Shake or stir well every morning, and let the whole stand for ten days after the last leaves are added. Transfer to a

glass fruit jar in the bottom of which you have put two ounces of whole allspice, broken, but not ground; two ounces of coarsely-broken stick cinnamon; let stand six weeks covered closely by screwing down the lid loosely, then transfer to the permanent jar. Add to it in this jar one ounce of orris root bruised and shredded, two ounces of lavender flowers, and a small quantity of any other sweet scented, dried leaves, such as lemon verbena, rose geranium. Mix all together and put in the jar in alternate layers with the rose stock, a few drops of oil of roses, and pour over the whole a gill of good cologne. This jar will last for years. Occasionally a little lavender, or orange-flower water, or any nice perfume may be added. The first cost will be the only cost for many years.

### Helps for the Housewife

If you want ink for a fountain pen, this is recommended: Get a worn-out typewriter ribbon from some one, turn over it a pint of very hot water and leave for a few days, stirring occasionally. Turn the ink thus made into bottles and cork tightly. This ink will flow freely from the fountain pen and will not corrode. If the ink is too thick, thin with a little more water poured over the same ribbon until the color is extracted.

For smoothing ribbons, take a smooth quart bottle and fill with boiling water, then wrap a single sheet of paper smoothly about the bottle; wrap the ribbon, after it has been soaked and squeezed and rinsed and dried, around the bottle, smoothly and tightly, and wrap another paper around it and fasten with a pin or a few stitches; set it aside for a day or two, and the ribbon will look fresh and like new.

An excellent cold cream is made as follows: Melt four ounces of fresh, sweet mutton tallow and strain through a double cheese cloth; add four ounces of almond oil, one teaspoonful of spirits of camphor, ten drops of carbolic acid, one ounce of peroxide of hydrogen and a few drops of desired perfume. Beat to a cream, and put into small china jars and cover with paper. Use as any cold cream. A good smoother and whitener.

### Some Don'ts

Don't forget to give the baby a drink often, these hot days. Little children often suffer for water when they can not make their wants known; a teaspoonful is often all the baby wants, but it wants that badly.

Don't leave the screen doors flapping and letting in the flies; keep them well closed with good spring hinges.

Don't leave crumbs and scraps of food lying about either on the table, on the floor, or in the yard. Starve the flies out by keeping the foods all covered and the dishes all clean.

Don't forget to wash the baby's face and hands often, for the sweetness of the baby attracts the flies, even though it is clean. Flies should not crawl over the baby's face.

Don't let the little folks push holes through the screens, and insist on the older ones having a care as to the wire. Teach the family, big and little, how to handle the doors.

Don't neglect the baby as to clothing. If the morning is anyways cool, put on an additional garment, and as the day warms up, take it off, leaving the little one with just enough covering to keep it comfortable then, as the evening cools, add some light garment to keep it from chilling.

Keep a light, loose strip of flannel about the baby's bowels, so as not to invite bowel trouble. Just a