



The Home Department

Conducted by
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The Summer Girl's Grievance

The summer is ended. The season was cold at the seaside, you know; The weather perhaps was the reason That none of us captured a beau. The men found it cool in the city, And brokers were blue, it is thought;

So we lost every chance (what a pity!) And no dashing fellow was caught.

And nothing is done in the winter In town, with gay talk and fine clothes;

Despite our most charming endeavors The men just refuse to propose. But when you walk out by the water, And moonlight falls soft on the shore,

The primmest and plainest of daughters Some masculine heart will adore.

But the coats and the hats were all lacking; No possible captive was seen; And some gray-haired old maids were taunting

Us of it. Now, wasn't that mean? Another such year would be awful, For what are fine feathers and clothes,

And moonlight, and starlight and seashore, If girls are not furnished with beaux?

—Harper's Magazine.

Household Cares

The luxuries which, one by one, have come to the family, the multitudinous things that are required to make homes attractive, the modern houses which have their mountainous stairways to worry weak backs, are all things which have combined to make housekeeping a drudgery, and the intelligent minds of American women are rebelling constantly. The remedy lies in simplifying home life; in leaving out of houses the numberless traps that are hard to get, harder still to keep clean, and of no earthly good wherever they are. Women need to know so much that they do not know, and can not learn while they fret and worry over the superfluities and shams that the "fashions" even in housekeeping, demand of them. They try to do their best, working early and late, saving here, spending there—not always doing the wisest in either; they try to emancipate themselves from the thralldom put upon them by "conditions," but they begin at the wrong end of the task. In these days, houses are not adapted to home-making; they are planned by men, not women, and the man's idea of house-building is to get the largest number of houses on the smallest possible space, so more houses can be put upon what is saved. To overcome the inconveniences, women introduce troublesome furnishings, and many things are demanded by "fashion" which the family purse can not afford. If a simpler style of living were the "fashion," how soon the burdens would drop away from the bent shoulders, the complaining and fault-finding cease, and the family purse allow of pleasures undreamed of now! We need not go back to the dug-out, the cave, or the cabin; the old-time fire-place cookery may still be a dream, and first-class cooking arrangements may still be installed; but the time, it is hoped, when the co-operative kitchen, as well as other household manage-

ment, by a regularly organized corp of skilled workers, will yet dawn upon the world, and the individual woman will have time and strength to make a home for her family without killing herself with worry.

The Opening of the Schools

It is claimed by some of our most progressive educators that our children can not read, and many of them can not spell, no matter how heavily they may be "crammed" in other branches. One of the most serious defects in the present conduct of schools is said to be the fact that the children are not taught to read, and that they do not understand what they attempt to read. In many cases, it is said that the teachers, themselves, can not read clearly and interestingly, making the proper pauses and emphasis. It is true, too, that children are not taught the careful shades of meaning of words, or that certain words alone may be used for certain things or ideas, either singly or in connection with other words. In the homes, the practice of reading aloud, by one member of the family, for the entertainment of the others, has fallen into disuse; or, if still continued, the reading is made largely from some popular work of fiction. If the family were supplied with good, instructive books, and the older ones, properly the fathers and mothers, should be able to make the work interesting and instructive to the younger ones by explaining and illustrating, together with the discussion of the topics treated of in the schools, the child would get a clearer idea of what education means, and all would be benefited. As the school season is now opened, it would be well to plan for this during the long evenings soon to follow. Lessons learned under the home lamp are more elevating than those the street lamp shines upon.

Parents would do well to visit the schools and see for themselves whether the children are getting what they are sent for. Many a child is accounted "dull" because he has a dull teacher; there are multitudes of poor teachers, and the fault of dullness is very often but a reflection from the teacher. Not every one who takes up teaching as a profession is fitted for such, either by nature or education.

For the Sewing Room

When insertion of lace or embroidery are used on the shirtwaist between groups of tucks, it will be more economical if the pattern is pinned on the piece, and the fronts and back cut out before the insertion is sewed on. In this way will be avoided the waste of lace or embroidery when the neck and arm-holes are cut out. When basting the insertion on, baste through to the right side of the material and stitch by machine on each side of the embroidery. Then cut the material from under the insertion, leaving about one-eighth of an inch on each side to turn back and stitch down so it will not fray when washed. The sleeves, cuffs and collars of all the lingerie waists should be trimmed in the same way.

When cutting out the waist, the thread of the material at both the center front and center back must run straight; this must be strictly observed when creasing for tucks.

Care must be taken when fitting and putting the pieces together, particularly when using thin materials, as an unlined waist has nothing to hang upon and keep it in position except the collar-band. The waist-band must be depended upon for the rest, so both the collar and waist-band must have careful attention.

A woman who is at all clever with her needle can make much pretty neckwear from a few scraps of fine lawn and lace, or embroidery. The bows, jabots and front ruffles are so easily imitated from the illustrations in the many woman's magazines that one with even ordinary ability can have plenty of them at small cost.

It is full time to begin to fill the "Christmas box," and many dainty pieces of embroidery or fancy-stitching can now be made at odd times and laid away for the holiday season. The ten-cent stores carry many really valuable little things that may be picked up whenever one has a "spare dime," and it will come useful.

Floral Talks

A floral writer says the average woman is like the drinking man: every autumn she swears off from excesses, but each recurring season finds her with broken vows and crowded windows. And crowded windows mean unclean and unhealthy conditions. Now is the time to decide what you are going to try to keep through the dark days, for plants must be potted and gradually accustomed to the artificial conditions of the house before the frost forces them indoors.

Keep all potted plants clean; a dirty plant, like a dirty person, is the first to become infected or attacked with insects. If scale, or mealy bugs are found, set to work at once to free them from the foul pests. Shower the foliage, and scrub the pots; keep all dead leaves picked off, and trim the plant into shapeliness.

Keep a close look out for the early frost—it never sends in its card, but delights in "surprise" parties. More plants are lost in early winter through carelessness than at any other season. Palms, rubber plants, hydrangeas, and nearly all potted shrubs need a rest during the year, and this should begin about October or November. Let them severely alone while resting. Let the intervals between waterings be long.

Remember it is not the cold of winter usually that kills shrubbery and plant life, but the alternate freezing and thawing, which throw the roots out of the soil and expose them to the weather. The best mulch for most hardy plants is coarse barnyard manure, all the better if it is partly rotted. Spread a blanket of this several inches thick over the bulb bed, and over the hardy herbaceous plants.

Some of our vegetables make fine house plants; beets, turnips, carrots, horseradish, parsley, and such things make fine foliage plants, and the foliage may be used as table garnishes.

From the Style Book

Serge, rough or smooth surfaced, either in solid colors or stripes, are the best materials for school dresses, but if warm underclothing is worn, any of the cotton or linen wash goods may be worn. Dresses for the tiny girls up to eight or ten, according to size, are made quite short, just

reaching to the knees; for older girls, from ten to twelve, the skirt just covers the knees; after that age they reach the ankles. Sailor blouses with plaited skirts will be a favorite style for girls and misses.

For boys, nothing has yet displaced the Russian blouse suit, the jacket suit worn with flannel or wash blouse and knee pants. Long trousers are only for boys in their teens.

The slender figure with the narrow skirt is "the fashion" at present. The number of gores differ so that a model can be secured to suit any width of material, and to suit any taste. The "hobble," or girl-in skirt will not appeal to all tastes.

The slightly open neck will be worn throughout the autumn and winter, finished with either a flat band or a frill; it has proved so comfortable that women will not willingly let it go. Over-sleeves are in great favor, and the undersleeve can be terminated at the elbow, or continued to the wrist, as desired.

Yokes, plaits and panels remain the characteristic features of tailor-made garments; the center-front panel is still in vogue. The peasant waist, without seam at the shoulder, the fitting of the waist being done by a single seam under the arm, is much liked. The shirt-waists intended for wear with the long coats are very plainly made. There is little change in the shirtwaist, the only difference being the use of embroidery, of high or low necks and of varied sleeves.

Small foot plaitings are used on tailor-made skirts, headed by bands. Long coats are made of heavy rough, mannish goods, tweeds, homespuns, and the like; they may be worn either high or open at the neck.

Adversity's Lesson

A writer has said, "Poverty to many of us, represents the acme of human misery, because we confuse it with pauperism, which is a condition vastly different. Pauperism means dependence, while poverty may mean merely the doing without various unnecessary articles to which we have grown accustomed, or to which we have aspired, and which we have come to regard as the very 'bread of life.' And you will notice, we never are very grateful for bread until it is taken from us; so that a touch of poverty is one of sweet adversity's sharpest lessons—a sort of mental mustard plaster, which is very beneficial. We may have left us everything else but the one thing we once held so lightly, but now that one thing withheld seems to us more desirable than anything else in the world. Let us learn to take thankfully the good things that fall to our hand, and be grateful for them, and learn through doing without, how very much we should have cherished that which is taken from us."

"The Little Ant"

"A Reader" sends us the following: "Scientists have made a study of the little ant, and the stories they tell of their intelligence and skill belittle human generals in war or modern machinery in peace, and leave us our self-respect only as they incidentally illustrate our ability to comprehend such genius. But these great students fail to give us a few habits of the ant. For one thing, the ant is recklessly fond of being eaten. Before the picnic table can be spread he will be mixing himself freely with the sugar; he will be in the cells of the bread, bathing in the milk, lost in the melting butter and, in fact, whatever we are to eat, he will be a part thereof. He seems bound to get at the inside facts of human nature, but he is equally eager to get on the outside. One day he will go down a man's neck, while another division counter-marches up