



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McVey

Faith for Today

Life to some is full of sorrow—
Half is real; half they borrow;
Full of rocks and full of ledges,
Corners sharp and cutting edges;
Though the joy-bells may be ringing,
Not a note you'll hear them singing;
Seeing never makes them wise,
Looking out from downcast eyes.
All in vain the sun is shining,
Waters sparkling, blossoms twining;
They but see the shade of sorrows—
Sad to-days and worse to-morrows;
See the clouds that must pass over;
See the weeds among the clover;
Everything and anything
But the gold the sunbeams bring.
Drinking from the bitter fountain,
Lo! your mole-hill seems a mountain;
Drops of dew and drops of rain
Swell into a mighty main;
All in vain the blessings shower,
And the mercies fall with power;
Gathering chaff, ye tread the wheat,
Rich and royal, 'neath your feet.
Let it not be so, my neighbor;
Look up, as you love and labor;
Not for one alone woe's vials,
Every one has cares and trials;
Joy and pain are linked together,
Like the fair and cloudy weather.
That we have, oh, let us pray,
Faith and patience for each day!
—Anonymous.

Food for Thought

In a conversation recently overheard on a street car, an intelligent-appearing man said: "Yes, the women of today are excellent in every department of life, except that of wives." The speaker appeared to be in earnest, and it occurred to me that, if his statement were true, it was a sad comment on the wisdom of the general husband in the matter of management. If in every other department, women are excellent, who is to blame if she fails in one of the most important of them all? Not one woman in a thousand, if allowed her individual choice, and could feel that she could safely trust in the man she chooses but would gladly go into the home of some good, affectionate man and delight in making a home for him and his children. But the general husband has, to a very great extent, proven himself such a poor staff to lean upon, that the majority of women are afraid to trust to the chances of matrimony, and if they must make the living, they prefer it to be for one, and without the hampering bounds of the house, and because of this, they feel that they must forego the not always certain joys of wifehood. A real woman would rather be the wife of some good man and the mother of his children than to hold any other station in life. Who is to blame?

The Tyranny of Things

It is claimed that women are too terribly overburdened with the "things" of the hour. To the majority of the conscientious housewives the failure of a dinner, the scorching of the roast, the perfidy of the trades-people, the misfit of a gown are affairs of infinitely more sorrowful concern than the fate of either political party. The question of "lines," the style of hair-dressing, the fit of a jacket, keep them forever strained and unsettled. It is not work that crushes women, but drudgery; the doing of things for which they see no good reason, and

for which they have no taste. It is not outside interests which distract them; it is rather the lack of wholesome interests in the outside. It is the worry, the endless taking thought for the morrow, with no broader outlook than the peck-measure round of the material, that brings wrinkles in both face and temper. Into every other department of the world's work have come innovations; but the average housewife will have none of these, because she has not the patience to set her mind to master the details of their use. So, she slaves on, in the same old ruts, never realizing that she has but to lift herself out of them and "come into her own" by laying her drudgery on the shoulders of the machinery that now stands as a suppliant for favor at her hands.

A Hitherto Waste Product

I cannot give you a market for the materials I am about to mention, but I can call your attention to a matter that you may make profitable, if you go about it right. I cannot tell you how you should proceed; that must be an individual matter, and your market must be of your own finding. But if you look into the millinery windows, you will see all sorts of lovely trimmings for hats, etc., as well as some very ordinary but useful and low priced ones. These, upon examination, you will find are made of the plumage and quills of the common, barnyard fowls—turkeys, guineas, ducks, geese, and the various breeds of chickens and pigeons. If you have taste, either natural or acquired, and will use your fingers skillfully, you can make just as lovely trimmings right in your own homes from the feathers of these fowls. There will, of course, be some slight expense, for snool wire, thread, a little paint or dye, a trifle of mucilage, some snool thread, tissue paper, and may be a few more such things—a little sealing wax, in some cases. With one or more of these helps, you can make pompons, long plumes, aigrettes, fluffs, wings, and many lovely things from the feathers stripped from the fowls now being marketed or used on the tables. The feathers are now ripe, and well-seasoned, no pin-feathers among them, and they can be laid away for later use as needed. Nice white feathers can be dyed with tube paint dissolved in gasoline, and the spotted feathers, barred feathers, and those of the beautiful combinations of coloring to be found on the neck and hackles of many breeds are as beautiful as they can be made. There are long feathers, from the tails of the various fowls, short, stiff ones from the tail and wings of others, and there is scarcely anything that cannot be used in some shape. Your milliner may be able to aid you in suitable make-ups, and sales. It is worth thinking about, for the treasure house of the feather sack is practically unlimited. If only the women who want to "make money at home" would study out the possibilities she is overlooking, it would be wise.

Spring Dishes

In many localities, the edible weeds and early spring salad plants are now to be had; if not in one's own garden, the market of every good sized town is offering them for

sale. Many things that live outside over winter, or that are set out as soon as the ground thaws in the spring, are now ready, or will be very soon, for the cook. Green onions, asparagus, spinach, dandelions, spring radishes, all kinds of early wild "greens," and often times the ever-present rhubarb. These "greens" and salad plants are held in the highest esteem because of medicinal effects exercised upon the organs of digestion. The blood is purged of humors, and in addition, the salts contained in the plants possess an appreciable amount of nutriment, and their uses are strongly urged for health's sake. The common dandelion is held in the highest esteem, and grows wild everywhere, but the garden variety should be cultivated in every plat of ground. It is regarded as particularly wholesome when taken as a beverage during the spring months. Dandelion tonic, wine, or cordial, are all easy to make, and especially recommended for family use. Use the salads and old-fashioned greens at every meal.

A beautiful, clear jelly may be made of evaporated apples. Pick over and wash carefully two pounds of the fruit, and put it over the fire with just water enough to well cover it; let cook until done, adding a little boiling water as it boils away; then strain and stir in two-thirds of a cupful of sugar to each cupful of apple juice, having previously heated the sugar; when the sugar is thoroughly dissolved, strain again, and pour into jelly glasses, to harden. This will take the place of jelly when the winter's supply is gone. The cooked apples may be used in various ways, and with seasoning, makes excellent pies or apple custards.

For the Stoves

Nickel-plating on stoves may be kept clean by the use of soda and ammonia as a polish, applying with a woolen cloth and polishing with a chamois skin.

To moisten the blacking, use vinegar instead of water and it will apply better and last much longer. To prevent the grate in the range from warping, on making a fire remove the ashes and hot coals immediately from under the grate, watch the coals and do not let burn to a white heat. When not using the fire, check its burning. Do not fill the fire-box full when replenishing. A little at a time is best.

Washing Windows in Winter

In the first place, don't wash them. Dust them well, using a large painter's brush to brush the dust off the ledges and frame, and wipe off the glass with old, crumpled paper. This will be a good beginning. Then, when the sun is not shining on them, dab over the glass on the inside a thin paste made of whiting and alcohol, though household ammonia will do instead of the alcohol, and either one should be diluted with an equal amount of water. This should be dabbed on thickly and left to dry; then go over the glass with a soft cloth, or crumpled newspaper and rub the whiting off, polishing with clean paper. Then go over the glass on the outside the same. Soap suds will leave the glass filmy and

dim, while the whiting will polish them beautifully.

Sometimes, where there is much smoke and soot in the air, as in cities, the glass gets a spotted, dull look and it is very hard to get them clean or clear. To remove this, use one of the best scouring preparations, which you will find advertised—there are several that will do the work. Use according to the directions on the wrapper, and the film will be cleared away, leaving the glass beautifully polished. Washing the inside wood work with cold tea will give good results; some suggest the use of a cloth dampened with coal oil for the wood.

Skirt Closing at Side

For the skirt-closing in the one-piece house dress, the seam joining the front breadth to the first breadth at the left side is left open to the required depth, and finished as any other placket with a fly closing. The tuck forms the top of the lap, and a fly piece of the material faced with cambric and narrow enough to be hidden under the tuck should have button-holes worked in it; then it is to be basted under the tuck, and one row of stitching made through both will form the tuck and secure the fly. The edge of the side breadth should be faced and buttons sewed on it. The tucks at the centerback should not be made in the ordinary way, but after their fold edges are stitched they should be brought back to the centerback seam and basted there; the tuck width should then be marked on them, and the stitching made through both folded-over portions and the skirt as well. The folds at the back really form an inverted plait, and are much deeper than the tuck.

Washing Silk Underwear

Soak the silk underwear half an hour in warm suds and ammonia water, allowing a tablespoonful of ammonia water to one gallon of the suds. Squeeze and press and slightly rub through the hands, but do not use a rubbing board. Do not use a great deal of soap, and have what you do use in the water; never rub soap on the clothes. When clean, rinse through two clear warm waters of the same temperature of the suds, adding to the last water a few drops of bluing, just enough to slightly tinge the water, and also add a teaspoonful of liquid gum arabic. Smooth out the silk and hang carefully in order to avoid the wrinkles which are so hard to press out of silk without injury to the fabric. When nearly dry, iron under muslin with a moderately hot iron.

For the Hair

Many persons claim that the fine appearance of their hair is due to a persistent and thorough treatment with the corner grocery kerosene, or coal oil. It should be applied regularly once a fortnight in this wise: Pour a little oil in a saucer and rub into the scalp with the tips of the fingers, getting it well into the roots of the hair instead of on the hair itself. Let the application be slow and thorough, the gentle massage with the finger tips being necessary to open the pores for the absorption of the oil. Make this treatment at night, and afterwards tie the head up in an old silk handkerchief, or any old soft square of silk, if silk night-caps are not to be had. There is a virtue in the silk, as it retains the electricity of the hair. By noon the next day, the odor of the oil will have escaped, and the slight oiliness will soon follow. The effect of this treatment on the hair should be quickly noticeable, and as the application is continued, the hair will