



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
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## Hope On

There was never a day so misty and gray  
That the blue was not somewhere above it;  
There is never a mountain top ever so bleak  
That some little flower does not love it.

There was never a night so dreary and dark  
That the stars were not somewhere shining;  
There is never a cloud so heavy and black  
That it has not a silvery lining.

There is never a waiting time, weary and long,  
That will not some time have an ending;  
The most beautiful part of the landscape is where  
The sunshine and shadows are blending.

Into every life some shadows will fall,  
But heaven sends the sunshine to love;  
Through the rifts in the clouds we may if we will  
See the beautiful blue above.

Then let us hope on, though the way be long  
And the darkness be gathering fast;  
For the turn in the road is a little way on,  
Where the home lights will greet us at last.

—Anonymous.

## "The Unemployed"

In an address recently delivered before the Business Men's League, of St. Louis, E. Dana Durand, director of the census, said that housewives never will be regarded by Uncle Sam as being employed. He said, when interviewed by a reporter:

"We are not going to make the census ridiculous to please some housewives who think they are employed, when as a matter of fact they are not. No one is employed who does not earn anything, and a housewife earns nothing.

"A man or a woman is earning just as much as he or she gets in money. If you get \$10,000 a month, then you are earning \$10,000 a month, and it doesn't make a particle of difference how much work you are doing. If you are not paid anything for your work, no matter how hard it is, then you are not earning anything.

"Now, I don't say that the married woman who keeps house is not producing wealth. She is producing millions of dollars of wealth in the United States, but we will continue to put her in the 'unemployed' classification until she gets pay for her work.

"The enumerator could not take the census of his district if he had to ask the lady of the house whether she was a working woman. The rich woman would slam the door in his face for even suspecting that she might be addicted to work, and the poor woman would do the same thing if he insinuated that she might not be employed."

It is one of the unexplained absurdities to class housewives with "the unemployed," which class is largely composed of the voluntarily idle, the vagrant and the tramp, and

it is just such absurdities that make against housework for many women. The housewife's work is no "eight-hour" job, and if any one thinks she is not fully employed, or earning all she gets—generally only what she is not too tired to eat and a few necessary clothes—he should take the job off her hands for a few days. Such tactless admissions should cause the housewife to "sit up and take notice," and if she feels she is not getting what is coming to her, she should find out what is the trouble. Women have been classed with the "undesirable" elements so long, as regards her efficiency, that she has become used to the opprobrium, and takes it as a matter of course. Do you wonder that the new generation of women prefer the paid vocations to the unpaid and too often unappreciated drudgery of housework, which puts her on a level, technically, with the "wandering Willies?"

## Seasonable Decorations

Somehow, the Easter idea is flowers and foods. The new dresses and hats, of course; but the general idea centers in the table decorations. For the breakfast table, there is nothing prettier than a growing plant, or a vase of fresh flowers. Nearly every one can have some green thing growing, if they will only begin in time. Not every one, however, can have the Easter lily abloom in all its glory, because to possess it, one must give days and months of care to the potted bulb. But it is worth all it costs. Fortunately, narcissus, tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, and many other flowers can be had at the Easter date, though the cost of hot-house flowers seems unreasonably high.

A very pretty conceit for the table is a piece of looking glass of any shape best suited to the taste or table, covering the edges with fringed tissue paper, or moss, or any suitable greenery, to form a bank, and on the surface of the glass put the little yellow goslings and baby ducks to be had at almost any store. Two or three should be sitting on the greenery looking on.

Another attractive centerpiece is made of a large platter on which is put a layer of green moss, or other "grassy" looking material, and little souvenirs wrapped in yellow, white, violet and green tissue papers, may be laid. On the market will be found many little baskets, rabbits, eggs, ducks, goslings, and other Easter novelties.

Many foods are molded into egg shapes, some of them colored, and others not, while the chief dishes are those with which eggs may be lavishly used, either in cookery or decoration. Watercress, mint, green parsley, lettuce, and many other greens are at this time on the market, and can be used as garnishes. Green peas, brussel's sprouts, raw or boiled radishes, where one is close to a large market, rhubarb, strawberries, and many other fruits may be had at reasonable prices. Oranges are very decorative, and are cheap.

## Imitating Nature

In house-cleaning time, it is well for the housewife to follow the lead of Nature. Nature never hoards; when a thing has served its purpose it is destroyed, to be used again in another form. Every thing in the vegetable, fruit or forestry depart-

ments undergo the change, and the off-cast materials form manures or fertilizers for the next, or some future years' growth. In animal life it is the same; there is a constant throwing off, eliminating of materials that are of no further use, and this material is returned to the dust from which it was gathered, to be gathered anew when needed. With the human body, the elimination must be carried on, or self-poisoning results. The dead matter must be removed from the system; no "cluttering" for a possible future need. It must be removed. In the mental, whatever is in constant use, or necessary to our well-being is preserved, but what is of use only to a desired end, when the end is reached, is forgotten. If it were not so, what a rubbish room our minds would become. So, in cleaning your homes for the coming season, do not hoard your cast-offs in some garret, or storage, or outhouse. Whatever can be used within a reasonably short time; whatever is sure to be used soon, within the year—as changes of clothing, etc., it is well to give house room to; but things which have only a possibility of being of use in that vague, seldom-reached season known as "sometime," might just as well be sold to the highest bidder, given to anyone who will accept, burned to ashes or buried—any way, to get it off our hands. Thousands of things we cling to would better be laid on the altar of renunciation, or fed to the altar-fires. Do not hoard. There is no surer, or more satisfactory method by which to get rid of an undesired surplus, than to put a match to it.

## House Cleaning Helps

A furniture polish that is recommended which gives a dull finish, is camphorated oil, diluted with one-fourth its bulk of water. Get the oil of the druggist, dilute, shake well, and apply to the furniture with a soft cloth, and rub well with a second cloth. This is recommended for mahogany, or other old furniture. Hot vinegar and an equal part of water will clean and restore furniture, removing all dust and bringing out the color of the wood. White vinegar is preferable for this, and less water may be used, if liked.

Begin saving up the paper boxes right now. They are invaluable for packing picnic lunches in, and for carrying lunches on little excursions. Begin also laying aside a fund for the hoped-for vacation. When sorting over the old clothes, set aside one or two reasonably good old suits for use when taking a day's outing where old clothes will be more comfortable than new.

Oriental rugs should always be laid with the pile toward the light, in order to bring out the coloring. Often merely changing its position as to the light will render a dull, unattractive rug into a thing of beauty and coloring.

When renewing the cookery vessels this spring, add to the list a few earthenware dishes for cooking purposes. Our grandmothers understood the value of this sort of kitchen utensil, and did much of their cooking in earthenware or stoneware dishes, bowls and pots. For them, little heat is required, and they may be used on the range or in the oven; the contents will cook very gently, and they may stand for hours without spoiling the contents. Any cook-

ing that requires slow, gentle heat can be cooked in them, and the flavor will be uninjured. They come in many sizes and patterns, covered or coverless, and are not expensive. They require careful handling, the same as any dishes.

## For the Toilet

It is useless to fight against gray hair, and the best thing to do is to accept the inevitable and make the hair as pretty as possible, and I assure you, it is possible to make it very pretty, indeed. Use a long, soft-bristle brush; even if the hair is inclined to come out during the brushing, no matter; it will come out, anyway, to make room for the new, and the brushing will remove the dust and any deposit made upon the hair. Do not use the brush heavily, drawing it down to the roots of the hair; but as a clothes brush, lifting strands of hair and bringing the bristles through in short, sharp strokes that will take the dust out, the full length. The idea is to dust, rather than to brush the hair. For rendering the hair lustrous and glossy, gently brushing by reaching the bristles well down to the roots, is the best.

The women will shortly abandon the wonderful massing of the hair on the head by the aid of rolls, rats, puffs and pins, returning to more natural styles, to the very great benefit of the scalp. Already the "reformation" has well begun, and the new styled coiffures are generally becoming. The old fashion of bangs is being revived and as this mode of dressing the forehead is usually becoming to every one, in some of its forms, and is undeniably softening to the features, its revival will meet with a warm welcome.

A good bleaching cream is made as follows: Almond oil, six ounces; spermaceti, white wax, paraffin, and oxide of zinc, each one ounce; oil of orange blossoms, twenty drops. Melt the spermaceti, white wax and paraffin in a double boiler, or porcelain set in hot water; add the almond oil and oxide of zinc; let cool a little, then put in the oil of orange blossoms and beat briskly with a silver fork until light, then put in little porcelain jars and cover. Use one or more times every day with a little massage.

## Good Things to Know

Gooseberries contain citric acid, and taken in proper form, are a valuable blood purifier. Ripe gooseberries, cooked or raw, act well on both stomach and liver, being cooling and astringent; they increase appetite and allay thirst. If eaten raw, they should be very ripe.

Despite the objectionable odor, onions are indispensable in cookery. When sliced, the onion absorbs bad odors and disease germs from the atmosphere, removing bad smells. For this reason, a cut onion, left lying about, should not be eaten.

Raw onions eaten are excellent in cases of bronchitis, throat ailments, and colds. Eaten raw, they help food digestion. Its sharp taste is due to a small amount of sulphur, which has to do also with the odor. A cooked onion has not the stimulating effects of the raw.

Lemon juice is valuable in cookery and cosmetics, and also in cleaning. It is often used in place of vinegar, either as a flavoring medium, or to preserve the whiteness of various meats, fish, fruits or vegetables. The juice affords citric acid, which has much medicinal value.

It is claimed that healthy people are, as a rule, more fond of sweets than delicate ones, and that a taste for sweets is indicative of a normal healthful condition of the system. Sweets are more valuable eaten directly after meals, when one is