



The Home Department

Conducted by
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The Man Without the Hoe

Duped by false hope, he lags and looks about,
Expecting still to find some royal road
To wealth and honor till the lust of pride
Steals like a deadly poison through his veins
And stunts his soul; then ruthlessly he treads
The corpse of Virtue in the dust; and, though
Remorse may cut him like a sword, the wound
Soon heals; and desperate he stands, With bitter curses burning in his heart.
He looks at humble labor with a sneer;
Disdains to touch the work he finds to do,
Pursuing airy phantoms of dead dreams,
Incompetent to do the thing he would.
"There is no shape more terrible than this,"
The first fruit of false social sentiment,
Doomed in the bud to perish of dry rot.
"Oh masters, lords and rulers in all lands,"
Send forth a teacher of the truth to guide
Our youth to sturdy manhood, filled with love
Of honest labor, bearing with true pride
Some portion of the burden of the world.
We have been smitten on Damascus road,
And now must turn and holier pathways tread;
The world's soul is in travail, bringing forth
An epoch new, in which head, heart and hand
In unison shall solve its problems grave.
Man must work out his own salvation; use
The talent God endows him with; a law divine
Is labor, not a punishment for sin.
Ambition, like a bubble, vanishes
When industry engulfs her hands and waits.
The other man, who digs without the hoe
And grasps the earnings of his brother's toil,
A god in grace and stature, yet may be
A meaner dwarf in soul than any slave
That serves him. Vain is our rebuke, since wrong
Outlives its victim and strikes down at last
Its guilty doer with relentless hand.
"How will the future reckon with this man?"
This man without or with the hoe who halts
And downward looks, a brother to the ox;
This being, in the brotherhood of man,
Made what he is by errors manifold
And ancient as the race—he shall reply
Who may discern and choose his path aright.
There is no haste in time's economy;
The perfect statue of a man leaps not
To life at any single chisel blow.
Some day in God's own time, the self-poised man
The poet sang, "the king of glory shall

Come in," with tidings glad; and earth
Shall justify herself and answer give
"After the silence of the centuries."
—J. V. H. Koons.

Looking Ahead

Now is a good time to start your plants for the winter window garden. If care is taken in the selection of plants suitable for the situation to be given them, one can avoid disappointment. Many things will not grow in a house heated by gas, or even lighted by gas, unless certain precautions are taken, and these precautions vary with the kind of plants selected, and the light given them.

For a west window, geraniums, and more geraniums, are the very best for ordinary culture. All heat-loving plants possess some powers of resistance to the obstacles to growth presented by the average west window. If one can have an east window, many more things may be tried, the variety being larger. For a south window, about all sunshine loving plants may be chosen, according to taste. For a north window, the choice is more limited, but many beautiful things will grow in a north window where a good light can be had. Many plants will defy disaster if given the proper degree of moisture in the air, but few plants will grow and flourish with wet feet, or in water-soured soil. All these things must be given attention when choosing for the window garden, and it is well to remember that plants are like children, and require individual care—even plants of the same kind needing different care, at times. Be sure to take a good floral magazine—one not too much devoted to the nursery interests of the editor and publisher. Unless you know something of plant culture, you will make a bad job of even the fewest and hardest; but a little knowledge and a determination to learn, coupled with a real love for your plants, will go a long way toward success.

Many pot shrubs may be started from seeds, and the plants be well along by time for removal to the house. Many plants must be potted and the pots sunk in the soil under conditions as to sunlight most agreeable to them. Some do best in entire shade—that is, freedom from the glare of the sunshine, though in strong light. Others require the hottest spot in the garden; but every one of them must be given care and attention as to moisture, if growth is desired.

Women and Money

In their relation to the care of money, women are judged rather superficially by men. Some will hold that all women are naturally extravagant, while others think they are invariably stingy. And each opinion represents a hasty generalization. It is easy to make out a case on either side. Until women began to go into business and to support themselves and manage their own incomes, there was no particular reason why they should be good economists. If they had rich fathers or husbands they spent their allowances lavishly. If they had only small sums at their disposal, they pinched and saved and exhibited the instincts of a miser. But in neither case did they have a real sense of what money is. They either under-

valued it, in their plenty, or overvalued it in their want. No one can be a wise economist and do either of those things. As a matter of fact, it is probable that the oddities or inconsistencies which are quoted about women in their management of money, are characteristic only of those women who have never had to give money a thought. The new generation of women, trained to sensible business ways, are nearly as prudent, as rational, and as matter-of-fact as most of the men who theorize about them.—Home Magazine.

Eczema Cure

Answering a recent call for known remedies for eczematous affections, a reader tells us that a wash, made by dissolving one-half ounce of powdered blood root in one-half pint of good, strong vinegar, shaking well before applying, has been known to cure a troublesome eczema. Another says the blood root is to be gently steeped in the vinegar for a couple of hours, and strained before using, then applied to the affected surface plentifully once or twice a day. This will not very greatly discolor the skin, and it does stop the itching and burning at once. We are also told that some alternative medication must be persevered in, and the organs of elimination, such as the skin, lungs, kidneys and bowels, must be kept active by gentle means. The affection may be brought on by derangement of the nutritive, assimilative, or nervous system, and is often an exceedingly troublesome condition to cure. There are many cures advertised, but what will benefit one case will have no curative effect on another. Keeping the skin clean by regular bathing is recommended, but soap and water must not be applied to the affected part. Cleaning by the use of a good cold cream, or fine almond oil, rather than water, is recommended. It is recommended to protect the affected surface from friction by the clothing by covering with a soft, dry cloth.

Costly Handkerchiefs

It is claimed that recently, five million handkerchiefs have been sent to the United States in a single year, from St. Gall, Switzerland, and half as many more from Belfast and other great centers of embroidery. Embroidered handkerchiefs have become the fashion, and they range in price from a few cents to hundreds of dollars; but the real hand embroidery seldom sells for less than \$50 each, and from that up. Light, dry air is disastrous to the threads, making them brittle and quick to break, so the workers are confined in damp, half dark cellars while doing the work, and the lives and health of the Swiss peasants are sacrificed in the work. Sometimes it takes a year, or even two years, to embroider a single handkerchief, for which, when completed, the worker receives but a few dollars, but in the world's market, these handkerchiefs bring from fifty to a thousand dollars. Some intricate patterns require years of constant sewing. One of the most expensive designs is owned in New York, and is valued at \$1,500. It required the work of seven years to make it. A handkerchief which belonged to Marie Antoinette is valued at \$2,000. It is about two and one-half times as large as those in

fashion for ladies today. In the time of Marie Antoinette handkerchiefs were much larger than those in use at present, but they were made almost entirely of lace.

Query Box

Mrs. J. L.—A satisfactory dish can never be made from poor, stale or decaying fruits or vegetables. It is not only necessary to cook well, but to buy well.

Sallie S.—Soap and water and sunshine are the best disinfectants, and a clean house, where the corners are watched, is generally a sweet-smelling one. Don't stint the sunshine.

"Uncle Tobe"—The fumes of carbon bisulphide are explosive, just as the fumes of gasoline are, and it should be kept away from any flame or fire. The vapor also is poisonous, and care should be taken not to breathe it.

E. C. M.—Mushrooms, or dishes containing mushrooms should not be re-heated; the process of cooking is all right, but after getting cold, cooked mushrooms are apt to develop injurious properties and to become dangerous food; for this reason, mushrooms should be eaten at once when cooked, and any left-overs thrown away.

"In Distress"—Whale oil solution is made by dissolving one pound of whale oil soap in six gallons of water. Or you may use a solution of two pounds of soft, home-made soap, or common yellow laundry sap to four gallons of water. Plant lice must be killed by a contact insecticide, as they suck the juices of the plant instead of eating it.

Inexperience—The blossom-end of the pineapple should be cut off, with a bit of the outer rind and set in a vessel of water. Set the vessel in a sunny location, replenishing as it evaporates, and by fall you will have a thrifty pot-plant which will stand abuse; but in order to keep it growing right along, you should pot it in soil as soon as the roots appear, keeping it moist, (not sloppy) and warm.

The Tomato

The tomato is accredited with having a high dietetic value, and is especially recommended for use in cases of blood impoverishment, as it is said to contain a large amount of iron. The presence of the iron may easily be detected by applying to the cut surface of a tomato the ordinary tests for this reagent. As a food for supplying iron, the tomato is far superior to any of the combinations of iron so commonly used as a means of enriching the blood. Although it is asserted by medical men that these inorganic compounds can not enter into the composition of the blood, it is possible that they may be sometimes useful, for while they do not enter into the composition of the blood, they serve to neutralize acid substances which form insoluble salts with the iron of food, and thus prevent its absorption and assimilation. In other words, they act as protectives of the nutritive iron compounds of food. The tomato may serve a similar purpose, not only by supplying the iron, but by the introduction of a larger amount than is needed, providing for the conservation of the amount actually required.

Woman's Status

We are told that if women vote, they must fight. "Behind every vote must be a bayonet," or some such proverb. But the blind, crippled, sick and incompetent men vote, and thousands of men apparently sound are rejected by the war department, and especially after their forty-fifth year; yet all these men vote without a question. The mothers of men face death every time a soldier is