



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Song of the Scythe

One after the other the mowers pass,
With song of scythe through swaying grass.

Hush, ah, hush! 'tis the over word,
Which all the July day is heard
As the scythes swing low.

Clover and thyme and lilies tall,
Side by side are lying all.

Ribbons of beauty the long swaths
seem

Richest of gems the scythes
agleam

As singing so:

"Hush, ah, hush!" and fall asleep
On sunlit mead, on hillside steep;
Hush and sleep,
And sleep.

A wreath of beauty the wild rose
spray,

Where the bobolink sang his roundelay,

Thrilling sweet to his dainty bride,
Petals and songsters scatter wide

As the scythes swing low.

Daisies that hid the downy nest,
Cardinals with their fiery crest

Bow their heads as keen scythes
pass

Over the clover, over the grass,
As singing so:

"Hush, ah, hush!" and fall asleep
On sunlit mead, on hillside steep;
Hush and sleep,
And sleep.

Held in amorous clasp of the sun,
Grasses sleep till day is done.

One by one their comrades fall,
A fragrant bed where they nestle
all

As the scythes swing low.

Subtle mists from the fields arise,
They yield their soul till daylight
dies;

And still the scythes through
clover deep

Onward go with a ceaseless sweep;
As singing so:

"Hush, ah, hush!" and fall asleep
On sunlit mead, on hillside steep;
Hush and sleep,
And sleep.

—Winfield Lionel Scott, in Boston
Evening Transcript.

For the Hot Days

One hardly knows what to say—
there is so little strength left to say
anything. But one thing we would
like to repeat, and that is, to urge
the housewives to try all the labor-
saving, heat-reducing inventions she
can lay hands on. The commercial
"fireless cooker" is a guaranteed
thing, and a small, one-compartment
stove of either the electric, or the
radiant, will cost but a small sum.
Cooking of all kinds can be done on
them, and with any kind of reason-
able care they are so constructed as
to last a long time. With one of the
radiants, fifteen minutes of cooking
over the fire is said to be all that is
necessary for the cooking of a piece
of roast that would require two or
three hours over the gas burner, and
no end of work for the cook lady.

The alcohol-heated flat-iron is said
to do wonders in the way of helping
the laundress with her work, as she
can take her ironing-board out on
the porch and carry the self-heating
flat-iron with her. The washing ma-
chine run by motive power, electric,
gasoline motor, or water, will save
the health and lives of many women
who are compelled to do the family
washing. None of these inventions
are so very costly, and even if they
were, a woman is worth more than

a machine, and the women who keep
the houses in these days are not
strong enough to do the extra work
that the day demands. Housekeep-
ing is too complex, and women are
not the sturdy creatures they were
in the long ago.

In most of cases, it is the woman's
own fault that she tries to get along
with old, back-breaking apparatuses,
or with her hands and flabby muscles
alone. They refuse to try the ma-
chinery, even when brought into the
house, and if "John," in a flush of
generosity suggests supplying such
things, she cools his ardor at once
by raising objections. In such cases,
I have only to say, "Just go ahead,
dear sister, and when John gets the
chance to install No. 2, he will get
the machinery without once think-
ing of the cost." No. 2 will have an
easier time than you are willing to
have. Don't you believe it?

Floral Notes

There is always work to be done in
the vegetable and floral gardens, no
matter what kind of weather one has,
and the woman who reads a good
floral magazine will see that she has
much to learn by experience. Keep-
ing the ground stirred among the
growing plants will help to mulch
the roots and prevent the baking by
the hot midsummer sun. The ground
should be thickly mulched with any
kind of material that will conserve
the moisture, and water can be
poured over the mulch at any time
during the day, but must not be
allowed to touch the foliage. The
cannas can not be kept too wet, and
the dahlias should be well watered
and staked to keep them from break-
ing down. Vines must be trained
and fastened up to the wall or trellis.

Hardy perennial seeds should be
sown this month and next, if there
is any moisture; but if not, it is use-
less to waste the seeds. For peren-
nials and biennials, the average flower
lover would better plant the seeds
in the late spring, so the plants may
at least get above the ground; if
sown in dry weather, they are apt
to await the rainy season before ger-
minating, or, if the tiny sprouts do
show, they will dry up, if not given
more care than most women are will-
ing to give them.

Potted plants intended for the
winter window garden should be
kept growing and the soil not allowed
to dry out.

One of our readers complains that
the floral magazines in general are
poor guides, noting the fact that
several magazines for July are filled
with instructions that should have
been given last April or May, and
very little they contain is applicable
to July or August. I have found this
to be true, and wondered why the
editors did not give seasonable mat-
ter. It certainly is just as easy to
do, and the magazines would be
much more sought after, if informa-
tion for the day were given.

Fashion Notes

Since the advent of the short skirt,
the stockings are an important article
of dress; they come in black and
colors and white, and in many shades
of color. There are over twenty
shades of blue, including the corona-
tion blue, the royal navy blue and
the gobelin blue. Sunset reds, yel-
lows, bluish grays, blue shading off
into a pale gray, browns, orange yel-
lows in open work, are all popular.

Stockings to match the dress, as well
as shoes and gloves of the same shade
are now demanded. With the reign
of the white shoe, the wearing of
the white stocking continues.

To prevent the tearing of the top
of the stocking, a round pad of
chamois skin is attached to the end
of each corset elastic and goes be-
tween the top of the stocking and
the steel hook; the pulling of the
stocking comes against the pad in-
stead of the metal, and protects the
stocking.

Another protection for the top of
the stocking is a two-inch band of
silk or lisle-thread which is doubled
over the stocking after it is put on,
and serves as a bulwark against the
pull of the elastic. For the toe, a guard
of knitted silk can be worn under
any stocking, as it is short; this saves
the stocking from the wear of the
toe.

White serge is never out of style,
and though not so cool as linen, it
looks better and does not need the
constant laundering which the vege-
table fibre does. The new white
serge looks to the untrained eye like
a new kind of white cloth, thin, with
smooth surface and supple weave,
while the weight is not felt.

Irish dimity is much used for sum-
mer wear in one-piece dresses. In-
expensive muslins that can be washed
free from the stain of perspiration,
is much recommended and one can
thus have plenty of tub frocks for
the warm weather, which will be
with us yet a long while, though it
is to be hoped in a lessened degree.

Photography for Women

While many women have taken up
photography as a pastime, some of
these women have developed into
professional artists, earning a good
living by their work. Women, as a
rule, are supposed to be more artis-
tic than men, grasping more readily
the essential ideas requisite for bring-
ing into effect some prominent fea-
ture of the picture which men over-
look. In portraying child-life, she is
at her best, usually securing not only
a good picture, but bringing out some
characteristic point of particular value
in feature or expression. In scenic
effect, a woman is always a suc-
cess, because she sees the picture in
the landscape, or point of view to be
taken, because of her own nearness
to nature, and can take advantage of
the poetry spread before her in
flower-lands, rippling waters, cloud-
tints, shadows and glintings of light
that bring out the lines of the pic-
ture most vividly. As a means of
livelihood, if a woman would give her-
self up to the work as a profession
or business, she would find it not
only a pleasant work, but a re-
munerative one. But there must be
artistic taste and natural ability,
along with business methods to keep
the finance part running smoothly.

The Matter of Carfare, Etc.

There is one thing that every wo-
man should do, when out with other
women, and that is, pay her own
carfare. It is a pleasure, often, to
one woman to pay the carfare of the
"bunch," but it is often an embarras-
sment as well; and many times
one has to spend more money than
she can well spare, in her effort to
be generous. It will be a good thing
for the woman if he will insist upon
paying for herself at all times, and
it is but a just custom. Another

thing women should do, is to settle
her own lunch check. Many times,
while shopping, one woman, less
strong perhaps than the others, find
it almost a necessity to have a cup
of coffee, or an ice, while the rest of
the party either does not care for
either, or has not the change to
spare; so, the exhausted woman has
either to treat the crowd, or go with-
out; or, the crowd not caring for the
refreshment, decide against it, and
the tired woman has to drag along,
rather than take her lunch alone.

Query Box

E. M.—Lemon juice will not re-
move surplus flesh, but its acid
properties have a tendency to pre-
vent the accumulation of fatty tis-
sues. Much exercise (walking is
best) and careful dieting, avoiding
all starchy foods, milk, butter, cream
and every kind of pastry and sweets
will do much to keep down the flesh.
Obesity is largely a matter of tem-
perament and heredity.

L. L.—Aromatic salts in the bath
are good for the nervous woman.
Crush a tablespoonful of common
carbonate of soda and sprinkle it
with a few drops each of lavender,
rosemary, and eucalyptus; a very
little of this in the bath water will
perfume and render the bath very
invigorating. Ammonia is strength-
ening, but very drying to the skin,
and must be used sparingly.

E. H.—If you must use hard water
for toilet purposes, use the bran or
oatmeal bags I have told you about.
Almond meal is better, but more ex-
pensive, and can be had of the drug-
gist.

Jennie D.—Benzoin tends to
whiten the skin, giving it a pleasant
odor; put a few drops in the face
bath, and it will freshen and sweeten
the skin. It is rather drying, and
very little should be used.

Mrs. S.—There is nothing that will
remove freckles so they will not re-
turn on exposure to sunshine. The
old-fashioned sunbonnet was a "best
preventive." A yellow veil is recom-
mended.

T. B.—Fill small china silk bags
with best Florentine orris root and
lay about in trunks and drawers. The
perfume will soon impregnate the
wood and the perfume will last for
years. A single grain of musk
wrapped thickly in cotton will im-
part a lasting rich odor to any re-
ceptacle, and is practically imperish-
able. A drop of genuine attar of
roses will do the same. Both are
expensive, but lasting.

E. M.—See article on freckles.
Nitro, moistened with a little water,
is recommended. The articles men-
tioned are proprietary preparations;
the recipes are advertisements.

Beautifying the Skin

Here is a process for beautifying
the skin which I find in an old, old
scrap book, and as it is very simple,
and, unless in rare cases, harmless,
one might give it a trial; it is
claimed that it is very efficacious in
cases of tan, freckle, blackheads or
oily skin, but if the skin is very
tender from exposure to the sun, or
if the skin has been blistered in any
way, its use is not advised: An hour
or more before the treatment is to
be given, take six ounces of sweet
milk and pour it over enough fine
table salt to make a thick, creamy
mixture; coat the face well with this
substance and after covering every
part, including the neck, allow the
mixture to become completely dry
on the skin. Then, with the finger-
tips commence a very gentle mas-
sage with the view of removing all
the grains of salt that remain on the
surface of the skin. When this is
accomplished, apply a good skin food
manipulating the flesh as in the usual
massage. The result is said to be