



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

THE DEPARTED CHIEF

Norman J. Coleman

The busy, tireless hand that wrought
So wisely, with a Master's skill,
All work on earth has laid aside—

The loom of one strong life is still.
The web, unfinished, fold away
With reverent care; the broken
thread

That could not reach the weaver's
aim,
Wind tenderly—the chief is dead.

With faithful zeal his toil has been
Prolonged beyond the hour of rest;
He labored on when sunset's flush
Had paled and faded from the
west.

The fabrics of his fashioning
Must surely fit the Father's plan,
Because in earnestness he strove
For uplift of his fellowman.

But now the task is o'er for him
Who wrought with all a master's
skill;

The work of earth is laid aside—
The busy loom of life is still;
The web unfinished, fold away
With reverence; the broken thread
That could not reach the weaver's
aim.

Wind tenderly—the Chief is dead.
—Harriet Whitney Durbin in Col-
man's Rural World.

"Spring Blossoms and Blizzards"

A letter came to my desk the middle of January, from southern Texas, filled with fresh violets and a strong perfume of spring time. The writer asks, "How would you like to step out into your yard, as I have just done, and gather a handful of spring violets? And we had fresh tomatoes and lettuce for dinner today. I imagine you putting in your spare time dealing with the fuel problem, hunting the fast-falling mercury, and digging in snowbanks to find your sidewalks." The "image" was about correct, for outside, our part of the country was wrapped in a raging blizzard, with mercury well down toward the bulb, and the earth well carpeted with snow.

"Furnishing a Kitchen"

"Ellery M." asks how much it will cost to furnish a kitchen, using only furnishings that will wear and continue serviceable for several years. The wear of any furniture does not depend wholly on the quality of the article itself. In the hands of some women, really excellent furniture will be ready for the kindling pile or scrap heap in less than a year's time, while in the hands of another woman, the same grade of furniture will last through the rearing of a family. So much depends upon the use (or abuse) of it; but there are other factors which make for good or bad, and one of them is the attention given to little repairs which even the best of furnishings require. This attention depends on the man of the family, either to be done with his own hands, or attended to by the proper mechanic under his direction. We all know that when a piece of furniture begins to show shabby, we are not so careful of it as when it was bright and new, and to insure our respectful consideration, the paint pot, enamel can, and varnish brush, together with the handy glue pot, and a few necessary tools, should be brought into play. This refurbishing, tightening loosened joints, driv-

ing in loose screws, gluing the parting portions, and general looking over, should be the business of stronger hands than those of the housekeeper, and many men really delight in such work in their spare time, if only their attention is called to it. Then, too, not all women have the mechanical temperament, and few know when work is really well or satisfactorily done, in these days so rife with cheating, fraud, and substituting. Workmen do not have a very great respect for the practical knowledge of the average woman. After awhile, when the woman "comes into her own," as she is coming, very rapidly, she can tell when "things" are honestly done; but few of them can at the present stage of "art." But of one thing we may be sure—only the really good, if fewer pieces, should be bought, and furnishing a kitchen should not be done at "bargain sales," except in minor matters; and even then, the best is none too good, if cared for.

Fashion Notes

In the marked reaction against the dress that hooks in the back, front-closing effects are among the most popular of recent styles. The real opening of the dress is often cleverly concealed under revers at the side-front.

Buttons are employed profusely, and many most ornate results are obtained by this simple garniture. One of the newest designs for waists is the over-blouse or jumper which is so adaptable to the present taste for combining two or more materials in a dress. The jumper with the deep armholes is most attractive.

One-sided effects in both skirts and waists continue to be a notable feature of the styles. A most attractive skirt is made on the bias; the reversible goods, narrowly striped or checked on one side, no doubt suggested this skirt, but any of the other pretty striped materials now on the market may be used, and it will doubtless be popular for the spring wardrobe.

Among the most attractive garments are the peplum waists; not only do waists with serge or worsted frocks have these little skirts, but they may be used for taffeta or other fancy silks. There is a considerable diversity in the depth of the peplums, sleeves and manner of closing; they do away with the "gap" between waist and skirt which even the greatest care could not always prevent. Some fronts are turned back in revers, and suggest a short, belted jacket. They are very jaunty, and may be made very handsomely, or plainly.

The New Kitchen

It is claimed that \$100 will furnish a kitchen with all necessary articles, and some house-furnishing firms offer to fit up the room with everything needed for \$50, and even these, on the installment plan, which makes it "so easy." Some kinds of things can surely be bought for these sums; but the purchase is not to be recommended. It is better to get a good, serviceable range with a few vessels, and use pine boxes for furniture until better can be obtained, than to fill the kitchen with a cheap piece of iron and enamel, a highly varnished "cabinet," a few showy chairs, and a stock of cheap "seconds" in the way of accessories.

Get the range of a reputable dealer, and don't let him sell you something "just as good as the best," for a marvellously low price; remember that no serviceable range can be had for fifteen to twenty dollars. Get a good one, plain, and devoid of nickel trimming or enamel; for these trimmings add both to cost and to your toil, hiding the poverty of the range—or imitation of one. A good, serviceable range, which will make cookery a pleasure, if anything will, will cost not less than \$40, and a better one can be had for \$45, and better ones for a still higher price. In the matter of a cookery department, the best is none too good, for the health and happiness of the family depends beyond anything else on good cookery. When the range has been secured—pay cash if possible, and get a few dollars rebate—the next thing on your list should be a really good kitchen cabinet, which is really a store room, pantry, and kitchen closet all in one, and will save miles of stepping for the housewife. There are cabinets and cabinets; but a really good one—the kind you will want, will cost you from \$17 to \$20. It will be useful, ornamental, and satisfactory. Use the goods boxes awhile longer until you can stock this cabinet with necessary utensils, and do pay cash for everything you buy, for your own soul's sake. For a makeshift, the bargain counter damaged goods and seconds may do; but get good, lasting articles, if less of them. Then give them good care.

For the Home Seamstress

A pretty fichu is made by cutting a large handkerchief in two diagonally, lapping the ends at the back, and trimming with some suitable lace. The lace should be deep, and full on.

One of the most serviceable of aprons is made of soft table oil-cloth. The pattern for the apron should be plain, or pleats or gathers, or darts. It should come well up on the bust, and be wide enough to cover the skirt, nearly meeting in the back. To go with it there should be over-sleeves, coming well up above the elbows; or, if preferred, they may be shorter.

An inside pocket for a coat is seldom found on woman's wear, yet there are few things more necessary. A few inches of strong ribbon, satin, or sateen, fashioned like an envelope, with a small safety pin in each corner for fastening to the coat, will make a serviceable pocket in which to carry the purse containing carfare, an extra handkerchief, or other necessities that can not be reached easily in the shopping bag or purse.

One of the economies of the home seamstress is the covering of the children's school books. Table oil-cloth, of a soft finish, (enamel cloth, it is sometimes called) makes an excellent covering, and old pieces of stout cotton or linen goods are durable. The goods need not be new, as there is little strain on it; but it should bear handling.

For hemstitching on the machine, draw the threads as usual, turn the hem under nearly to the upper edge of threads and baste evenly; then stitch just as close to the edge of the hem as possible; then take hold of the under part of the hem and draw it carefully down to bottom of drawn threads. For tucks, draw the threads

and fold the tucks as usual, and stitch on right side at top of drawn threads, then draw stitching to bottom of threads; keep the tension tight and use 100 thread for rather coarse goods, and finer for fine goods. All kinds of garments, sheets, and tablecloths, can thus be hemstitched.

Tea Poisoning

A well-known specialist in diseases of the mind and nervous system says: "It would be difficult to enter into a discussion regarding the effects of tea drinking as regards the nervous system; it is the habitual use of tea, and not any particular kind of tea, that produces deleterious effects. The time comes when the user of tea feels a continual craving for the stimulant, and a larger percentage of neurasthenia cases are caused by the habit of excessive tea drinking. Women of the poorer classes suffer from nervous prostration because of it; many such women keep a pot of tea on the stove constantly, and when they feel faint, or a weakness, resort to the beverage instead of foods. The beverage has a slow, insidious effect upon the nervous system, and in fact is very similar in its effects to chronic alcoholism. Tea taken in proper quantities, freshly made, acts as a stimulant to the stomach and causes a secretion of gastric juices, acting as an aid to digestion, and is beneficial. The harm comes when the drinker resorts to its use as a whim or habit. It is not any particular beverage in itself that is deleterious to health, but rather the immoderate use of it, that works injuriously to the nervous system. It is claimed that the greatest harm resulting from the use of tea results among poor people who buy and use the cheaper grades of tea, boiling or steeping it continuously.

Good Things to Know

In building a chimney, it is recommended to put a quantity of salt into the mortar with which the inter-course of brick is laid. The effect will be that there will never be any accumulation of soot in the chimney, for the reason that the salt in the portion of mortar which is exposed will absorb the moisture on damp days, and the soot, becoming damp, will fall down from the walls of the chimney, and may be easily removed.

For washing white plumes, if they are of the knotted kind, they may be dipped up and down repeatedly in lukewarm suds made of best white soap; rinse in several waters when they "show clean," adding to the last one a few drops of bluing. Shake in front of fire while drying, and curl the ends of the barbs by holding the blunt side of the knife blade in the left hand and drawing the feather carefully along its length. Care must be taken not to break the barbs by holding too tight. Another way is to lay the feather on a large cloth or paper and gently rub with plenty of warm flour, using as much as is needed to clean. This will not take out the curl if rightly done. Washing in gasoline is also good. In any case, one must do the work carefully.

The Growing Child

Because the growing child must not be crowded with albuminous matter, vegetables, properly cooked should enter largely into his diet. The framework of the growing body must be fortified by salts and these are not contained in sufficient quantities in meat. Vegetables are the chief source of bone-forming elements, and particularly of those phosphates which constitute two-thirds of the composition of the