



### Sympathy

Unspoken words, like treasures in the mine,  
Are valueless until we give them birth;  
Like unfound gold their hidden beauties shine  
Which God has made to bless and gild the earth.

How sad 'twould be to see a master's hand  
Strike glorious notes upon a voiceless lute,  
But, O, what pain when, at God's own command,  
A heartstring thrills with kindness, but mute.

Then hide it not, the music of the soul,  
Dear sympathy, expressed with kindly voice,  
But let it like a shining river roll  
To deserts dry—to hearts that would rejoice.

O, let the sympathy of kindly words  
Sound for the poor, the friendless and the weak;  
And He will bless you; He who struck these chords  
Will strike another when in turn you seek.

—John Boyle O'Reilly.

### "The Comfort of It"

Nowhere, in all the world, can a woman be such a power as in the home; and all recognize this fact, and that a home in the true sense of the word is impossible without the feminine touch. It seems possible, sometimes, for an effeminate man to make things in a degree "homey," but only the true, feminine touch can give to the habitation its most wonderful charm. Without it, there is always a lacking. Sometimes I dream of the "cave" mother of the long ago ages, who lovingly scraped together the leaves of the forest and the grasses of the fields for beds and couches of ease for the man and the little ones who came to her. I often wish I could know what the undeveloped mind thought, and I long to follow her throughout the day as she passed from one duty to another, making a secure hiding place for the little human creatures for which her life was so freely given. There was love in those rude cave homes, too, if only the crude love of the animal for its mate and its young; and I fancy it was the maternal, rather than the wifely love, that kept her to her often arduous duties of provision and love of home—a habitation where our choicest possessions may be safely kept, whether the material or the emotional. Down deep in the nature of every woman is the instinctive longing for love, wifehood and motherhood, however feebly it may burn, and nothing except brutal abuse can ever utterly quench its light. The women now developing through the transitional stage of the age are just as home-loving as her sisters of long ago; but she has learned some hard lessons, and her ideals have expanded. She works just the same as the long-gone cave sister, in the same lines, but not in the same ruts. Wherever the woman is, whether there be mate or child, or loneliness, the home shows through—a touch here and there of the fingertips, and underneath it all, we find the home mother—the cave

woman. Many women, wise and good and beautiful, true, gentle, affectionate, sympathetic and cheerful, are neither wives nor mothers by law or by nature; but every woman is a home maker in some degree.

### Perfuming the Summer Wardrobe

In order to properly perfume one's personal apparel, care should be taken to buy the best ingredients for the perfume or the sachet, and use but little of it, a single drop on a garment. Laces, handkerchiefs, lingerie, should all get their odor from their lying in boxes or drawers lined with sachet powder bags; the odor should be faint and delicate, and only pure drugs should be used. Always patronize a reputable druggist, though it may be more expensive at first. The sachet powders, etc., ordered through the mail, or bought over the counters of cheap stores, are not often lasting, or satisfactory.

For sachet powder to lay about among the clothing, or hang in wardrobes among dresses, get the best grade of Florentine orris root, and fill little china silk bags with it. Lay these sachet bags wherever you want the perfume. If perfumes are good and pure, it only takes a short time for the odors to permeate the wood or linings, and impart to anything contained in the receptacles the faint, delicate scent one likes best. A single grain of musk, well wrapped in cotton to prevent its becoming too strong, is practically imperishable, and will soon lend a very rich fragrance to the garments. A drop of genuine attar of roses will do the same; but each of these is very expensive.

For a good sachet powder, which a reliable druggist should mix to insure purity of drugs, take ten grammes each of powdered tonka bean, cloves and cinnamon—all powdered; twenty-five grammes each of benzoin powder, sandalwood powder, orange peel powder; fifty grammes of lavender flower powder, and 500 grammes of orange flower powder.

This will make a quantity sufficient to fill large sachets for lining drawers of dressers, or trunk trays, or bottoms of boxes. To make the sachets, have thick cotton wadding, open in halves and on the one sprinkle plentifully of the mixture, cover with the other half, tack or tuft or loosely quilt the two together, and lay where wanted.

### The Summer Thirst

We are constantly being told by those who are presumed to know, that altogether too many fluids other than pure water are used during the hot season. Some authorities even go so far as to claim that all such beverages as lemonade, plain soda, tea, coffee, and other fluids are drug drinks, and not only serve to create an abnormal thirst, but produce various gastro-intestinal disorders. Digestive disturbances are very prevalent during the summer season, and it is a question gravely discussed as to how much these ailments may be due to the soda fountain habit, when we consider the nature of the stuff dispensed therefrom. A great deal of the ice cream sold at stands and in cheap restaurants is made of untested and stale milk, the flavoring more or less impure, or made of

harmful ingredients already well on the way to decomposition. Although such disturbances often pass away quickly, in many cases they lead to chronic intestinal diseases and persistent disorders of digestion, which are very hard to overcome. It is said that Americans consume greater quantities of unwholesome stuffs than any other people, and are largely a nation of invalids. The stuffs sold on the streets and corners at a cent a glass are very attractive to little children, who hasten, whenever they get a penny, to drain as many glasses of the liquid as their means will command.

### Cement for Cellar (Requested)

For the cellar floors, take two parts of coarse gravel or broken stone and sand, one part of lime and cement mixed in equal proportions; mix well in a shallow box by shoveling it over from end to end. Mix the sand, gravel (or stone) and cement thoroughly together dry, then slake the lime and mix through with just enough moisture to cement well together. Put 5 or 6 inches of this on the bottom of the cellar, and when well set, put on a coat of cement and sand one inch thick; for this last coat, use two parts of sand and one cement. This concrete floor is rat-proof, and the cellar floor will be dry. For poultry house floor, or other out-building floor on which the sun never shines, use a cement composed of two parts coal ashes, three parts clay and one part sand, mixed with crude oil. This will harden well, and give good service.

### For the Home Seamstress

To prevent wrinkling down of the dress-belt, cut the belt crosswise of the goods instead of lengthwise; cut in this way, it will mold to the waist line, look much better, and will not shrink in length when washed.

A pretty scarf to wear of warm evenings is made of soft silk or satin, chiffon cloth, silk marquisette or grenadine, any preferred color, though black will go with any dress or gown. Get a piece about two and one-half yards long, gather each end and draw up tightly and attach a tassel, or several silk balls, as desired.

A very desirable seam for wash goods, skirts, sleeves, or waists, is made by laying the edges you wish to sew together, with the edge of the under piece projecting about an eighth of an inch beyond the upper edge; give it a turn over the top edge, then another turn, and the seam will resemble a hem, and be ready to stitch; then run a row of stitching with the machine along the edge of the hem, and the seam will be perfectly made without any rough edges. This is better and quicker than a French seam.

When cutting out the waist of a dress, the grain, or thread of material at both center, back and front, must be run on the straight; this must also be strictly observed when creasing for tucks. If the waist is to button in front, and the tucks are to run the full length, it will be found much easier to leave the fronts in one piece until tucked; if it buttons in the back, with tucks running all the way down, do the same; in this way, the possibility of unevenly spaced tucks, not matching, will be avoided.

Keep the waist smooth under the arms, but see that it fits easily and

does not pull anywhere; if this is neglected, when the arm is raised it will be apt to tear or pull the waist-line above the belt; and this is extremely ugly.

### Preserving Eggs

A reader asks for the water-glass method of preserving eggs. The eggs should be gathered freshly every day, and only fresh eggs should be put into the solution. To one part of silicate of soda add ten parts of water, and let dissolve. Pack the eggs in an earthen-vessel and pour the solution over them. When the jar is full, cover and tie the cover on; if to stand a long time, seal the cover with plaster of paris. The eggs must be always under the solution, and to keep them under, a light weight may be used. If the solution evaporates, add more, of the same strength.

### Stains of Rust

Stains of rust frequently appear on steel trimming, buckles, clasps, buttons, etc., and may be removed in this wise: Put into a saucer a spoonful of tripoli powder and a spoonful of flour of sulphur well mixed with oil to form a paste. With a piece of soft kid, a piece of spongy wood, or a bit of cork, according to the article to be cleaned, rub the article with this paste until the rust vanishes. If of long standing, the spots may need a little emery powder as well as the paste.

### Blanched Lettuce

When lettuce first begins to grow, it is tender and crisp, but as it gets larger, it toughens. When first large enough to use, thin to one plant in every foot, using the thinning as needed for the table. The lettuce will spread, and as soon as about as large as it will get, draw the leaves together in dry weather, and tie a string around them so as to shut out light from the heart of the plant. After a week from tying up, the plants may be used, and they will be better and more tender than can be grown any other way. Try it.

### Using Left-Overs

There is a knack in making palatable croquettes which often has to be learned; in the first place, the chopped foods must be bound together with a sauce of the right consistency, and the surface must be thoroughly covered with egg and bread crumbs. The least neglect in this respect means broken and mushy, fat-soaked messes, not fit to eat. Fish and vegetable croquettes are the least expensive; lobster and chicken cost more than their taste seems to warrant. When making chicken, veal, and some other kinds of meat and vegetable croquettes, a raw egg helps to bind the ingredients, but in making fish croquettes the egg is not needed. The cream sauce used must have twice the amount of flour thickening used in the ordinary white or thin cream sauce; have the fat deep and properly heated, and use a frying basket. For crumbling use, bread that has been dried in the oven, rolled on the board and then sifted is best. If prepared carelessly, the crumbs will not cover a surface completely, and they must be of the same size and well powdered. Cracker crumbs are not as good as browned bread crumbs rolled and sifted.

### Odds and Ends

For cleaning hardwood floors, take a yacht mop and saturate it with coal oil; expose to the air for twenty-four hours; by that time the oil will have evaporated so the mop will not