



# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## The Fearless Suitor

Since a pretty maid is never  
In possession of a brain,  
Being neither kind nor clever,  
But coquettish, dull and vain  
Much I marvel that my soul is  
Not oppressed with grave alarm;  
For Clorinda, on the whole, is  
Well endowed with outward charm!

He who choseth some ungainly,  
Graceless damsel for a wife,  
Who has been, to put it plainly,  
Snubbed and bullied all her life;  
Though she seems, before they  
marry,

Weak and timid as a mouse,  
He may find she'll play old Harry  
When she's mistress of a house!

If Clorinda is unable  
Or unwilling to prepare  
Dainty dishes for my table  
With unfailing art and care;  
If she can not bake a biscuit,  
Or compound a paltry cake,  
I will marry her, and risk it,  
For Clorinda's own dear sake!

If her carriage is majestic,  
I will not avoid a maid,  
Fearing that she's not "domestic,"  
But a proud and selfish jade;  
Though her glances, true and tender,  
May belie a heart of flint,  
Yet I would decline to render  
Trustful homage to a squint!

Ever swayed at her caprice, men  
Must be led by woman's "looks;"  
Nor, like gluttonous policemen,  
Only court efficient cooks.  
I, Clorinda's loyal knight, place  
Full reliance on the view  
That her heart is in the right place,  
Even though her nose is, too!

—Arthur Stanley.

## Early Habits of Industry

A member of the New York board of school inspectors, in a recent issue of the Mothers' Magazine, advances some good ideas in favor of the early training of children, especially girls, to practical habits of industry. She says: "A girl who as a baby-child stands by her mother's bread-board and gradually learns how to mix, compound, knead and bake, is never subject to those temptations which ruin womanhood as is the girl who is encouraged to come up with white hands and live in comparative idleness. The idle girl, the girl who has not been taught to use her brains and muscles every day, who has no fixed purpose of work, has not the resisting power of her sister who has been trained to an occupation." It is the trained, capable girl who gets the best positions and best wages, because she has been taught habits of care and industry before she entered the business of life. It is the untrained girl who leaves home unprepared for her toil, who is not to be depended upon, morally, physically or mentally. The great, overwhelming cause, this writer states, of the idle girl, the useless girl, the girl drifting into immorality, is "lack of care and education to work in the home." The daughter is not educated from babyhood up, to the time when she enters work or the married state, to know how to use her brains, her hands, her nerves and muscles in productive work. People seem to have gone mad over the idea of sparing the child all sense of responsibility, and of making its lessons of life as impractical as possible.

As to teaching the girls to work in the home, the factories have taken about all productive work out of the hands of the housewife, and the mother who confines her baby-child to her side and teaches her the homely duties of cooking, patching, darning, washing, ironing, sweeping, scrubbing, and cleaning, is not regarded with kindly eyes by the average reformer. Teach the child to play, is the cry; make play of the work, and do its thinking for it, removing all sense of responsibility and incentive to work out its own salvation.

## Some Fashion Notes

Nothing is plain, these days. Silk trimming is seen on linen costumes, the collars and cuffs being detachable so that the garment may be washed without injuring the trimming. Several sets of these may be made for each dress, and in this way, one dress can be made to represent several by the use of different colors and textures.

Fringes of all kinds are worn; bead fringes in colors are very lovely. All kinds of buttons are in vogue, flat, ball shape; crystal buttons, wooden buttons, molds covered with silk or silk crochet, gold buttons, odd metal buttons, painted china buttons.

Belts, most varied, including many attractive specimens in colors, with beautiful clasps and buckles, as well as plain round ones, are worn. Narrow leather belts are worn with many costumes, no matter the colors. Wide lace collars and cuffs are liked. Some of the skirts are draped either below the belt-line in the back, or at the knees from under a panel. On many dresses a touch of red is added by way of embroidery, braiding or cording.

In the summer shoes there is a tendency toward novel effects in coloring and material, but not to the extent of offending good taste or conflicting with the costume.

There are many flower and lace hats, and the smaller hats are gaining in favor; toques draped with silk or lace, with flowers are much worn. Leghorn, milan, and hemp are draped with filmy laces, quaint pipings and shirrings.

Face veils are worn with many little turbans and toques, and some lovely new veiling has appeared, shadow patterns, either floral or conventional; some all black, and some white with black.

The new neckwear is charming, and the fichu plays a prominent part in many novelties. Black velvet ribbon with designs more or less elaborate, are worn about the head; simple styles of hair dressing continue to be favored.

## Contributed Recipes

**Fruit Puffs**—Take a wide pan of sufficient size with a close-fitting cover, and half-fill it with boiling water. Half-fill as many cups as there are persons to serve with any kind of fruit, fresh, stewed, or canned, lay on top a bit of butter, sugar to taste and a tablespoonful of either fruit juice or boiling water. Set the cups in the pan of boiling water and put on the close-fitting cover to keep in the steam. Have a batter prepared as follows: Sift together three-quarters of a cup of flour, one teaspoonful of baking powder, one tablespoonful of

granulated sugar; rub into this one tablespoonful of butter; beat very light one egg, and add the egg to half a cupful of sweet milk; pour this over the dry ingredients, and beat all together hard for a minute, until thoroughly smooth and blended. Take the cover off the pan and drop the batter by spoonfuls in the cups on top of the fruit, re-cover and let cook undisturbed for twenty minutes, but do not let boil so hard as to have the water thrown up into the cups. The batter should be cooked light and flaky. This amount should be enough for four to six cups. Care must be taken, if the water evaporates too much to re-fill with boiling water. Serve with any preferred sauce; but hard sauce is usually used.

**Deviled Chicken**—Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter, add two tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs, two cupfuls of finely chopped chicken, and one-half cupful of rich cream, and stir until heated through. Press two hard-boiled eggs through a sieve and add with two tablespoonfuls of chopped parsley, three drops of onion juice, salt and pepper to taste. Mix this well, and take from the fire; add curry powder, if it is liked. Put into individual dishes, cover with bread crumbs and brown.

## Query Box

**F. S.**—Ground mustard is often adulterated with flour, which gives it a pale color, and the usual method for restoring the color is to use a small quantity of turmeric; turmeric is largely used in pickling to give a yellow color. Charlock, or wild mustard is also used to give color.

**"Consumer"**—Oleomargarine is a mixture of fats, flavored with milk, cream or butter; it is a cheap and wholesome substitute for butter; not harmful, but the objection is that while very cheaply made, butter prices are asked for it. Renovated butter is any kind of old, spoiled butter or fat made over by heat and chemicals, and is unfit for consumption.

**Mrs. L. H.**—"White bread brewis" is made by heating a pint of fresh milk in a double boiler, and stirring in bits of stale bread to absorb the milk; season with butter and salt and cover closely until wanted to serve hot with any sauce liked. It should not be pasty, but a dry, light porridge.

**E. I. W.**—To remove India ink stains, or those made by indelible ink or pencils, soak well with alcohol, either wood or grain. To take the stain from solled nails, apply alcohol with a soft old tooth-brush, then wash in warm suds.

**Mrs. B.**—Mushrooms, or foods containing mushrooms, must not be eaten after getting cold, as the leftovers are apt to develop injurious properties and become poisonous. Either eat all that is cooked, or throw away what is left.

**C. S. M.**—For dandelion coffee, buy a pound of the roots at the drug store; take nothing but the clean white root in coarse pieces, half an inch across; bake it until brown, as you would coffee, then grind and use with real coffee, half and half. Use with cream and sugar, and it will assist in laying on fat because of improved health.

## Facial Eruptions

During youth the sebaceous (oil) glands of the skin are very active and

secrete more fat than they can throw off; this sebum distends the pore and if not removed hardens and becomes a pimple. Sometimes it does not fester, but remains for a long time in the skin, and its apex being exposed to the dust becomes blackened. When the skin closes entirely over this tiny plug, it does not discolor, but is termed a milium, and to remove this, the skin should be pricked with a fine needle and the plug pressed out. Pimples and blackheads are the bane of youth, as wrinkles are of later years. Pimples are a result, not a cause, and the cause must be reached before the cure can be effected. The causes are ill-selected diet, lack of exercise of the right kind, defective digestion, torpid circulation, ill-ventilated rooms, neglected bathing, and impaction of the colon-clogged bowels; constipation. The last is one of the greatest evils known to humanity. Disease and facial ugliness are the outcome of internal uncleanness. You would not attempt to clean the house by plastering dirt against the doors and windows. In like manner, to cover the skin with pastes, creams, lotions, powders and so-called beautifiers is worse than useless. The cleaning must be from the inside.

## Bleaching Beeswax

After removing the honey, melt the beeswax in a copper or porcelain lined vessel, and when liquefied, stir two ounces of pulverized cream tartar into twenty-five pounds of the melted wax, thoroughly mix, then allow it to deposit most of the foreign matter, still keeping it in liquid form; then draw off the clear, and let deposit further impurities; then, while still hot, draw it into thin sheets, ribbons or scales under water, using a little roller for the purpose. Then lay the thin wax on a cloth frame (the cloth stretched and tacked on the frame), and expose to the direct rays of the sun and the dew for several days, during which time the wax should lose its yellow color; but as this bleaching affects only the surface, it is necessary to repeat the process of melting, drawing and exposing until white clear through.

Another way is to shave the wax into very thin slices, lay it on sacking, or coarse muslin tacked on frames, turning the scales or slices frequently to expose all sides, occasionally sprinkling with soft water during the day and letting the dew fall on it during the night, bleaching it thus for about a month. If not white clear through, melt and slice again, repeat the exposure, doing this until the wax is clear white. The time will depend on the state of the weather.

This is for small quantities; for large quantities, suitable machinery must be had. The cera alba (white wax) of the druggist is refined, bleached beeswax, and you pay well for it.

## House Pests

One of our readers tells us that she prefers naphtha for the extermination of bedbugs, as it is clean, injures nothing, is easily applied, and if plentifully used, is absolutely sure. The vapor is highly inflammable, and the work should be done with doors and windows open, and neither fire nor light in the room. These insects do not always confine themselves to the bed, and often they are not found on the bed at all, as they hide in the walls, in cracks in floors, behind moldings, in upholstered furniture, and under the casings of doors and windows and behind baseboards, where the plastering is in any way broken. Use a spring-bottom oiler and plenty of naphtha, and force the fluid into