



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Strength

I would be strong, but I have no desire

For strength such as a tyrant would display

In seeking to cause others to admire,
Or through his wish to have unbridled sway.

Such strength may come through accident of birth,

Or be the poor result of circumstance,

To be destroyed or robbed of all its worth

By some unlucky word or evil chance.

I would be strong in heart and strong in trust,

I would have strength when all is dark to strive,

To thrust away temptation, to be just,

To face disaster, keeping hope alive.

I would have strength to stand out for the right,

Though all my friends turned blindly to the wrong;

To be undaunted in a losing fight,

To keep my spirit clean, I would be strong.

—S. E. Kiser in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A "Modern Convenience"

In the days of open fire-places and numberless stoves, by which the house was supposed to be kept comfortable, the work of providing the fuel seemed a never-ending job, and as the job of preparing the fuel for the stoves and filling it into the various boxes fell to the small boy or the busy man, the game seemed hardly worth the candle, for the fuel was always giving out and constantly had to be replenished. In the homes where "modern conveniences" are to be found, there are still many stoves and some open fire-places, though coal may have become the fuel in place of wood. But by far too much time is still given to the work, and one good furnace might be used to heat the whole house, keeping every room comfortable, with vastly less work than the old method of "firing" so many heaters. Every one who has a home of several rooms should be interested in the question of the furnace. Many excellent furnaces can be installed in even the old-style houses at no very great cost, and at a big saving of both labor and fuel, to say nothing of the comfort of the family and the greatly lessened work of the housewife. There are many furnaces advertised, and it would be a good time to send for catalogues and reading matter about their cost, up-keep and advantages, besides talking the matter over with your neighbors. Plenty of warmth and light makes a home very desirable, and for the sake of all, it should be supplied. In addition to the comfort of the rooms, the constant supply of hot water for many purposes, both indoors and out, is also a great convenience. Many small houses of not more than four or five rooms have a furnace installed, and with a good gas range, alcohol or oil stove, there would be little use even for the coal or wood cooking range, and the saving of time, labor and patience would more than pay.

Binding Papers and Magazines

A good way to preserve "files" of favorite publications is to bind them one's self. A little practice will

make a very good book-binder of one, and the binding will save much valuable information. Have two pieces of heavy card-board an inch longer, and about half an inch wider than the volume to be bound. Have a strip of good, stout cloth about five inches longer and wider than the card-boards, and a pot of not too thick glue. After carefully and evenly arranging the separate papers, with a long awl and soft thread or twine, sew the volume together along the back—not drawing the thread too tight, but leaving loose enough so the volume will open easily. Commence at the left-hand end of the strip of cloth, and cover the board with the glue, lay it on the cloth, leaving about an inch at the front edge to lap over on the inside. Smooth the cloth down, removing all air spaces from between it and the board, and when it is done, turn the front edge over on the inside and paste down tightly. Leave the top and bottom edges until later. Then, allow enough of the cloth in the middle to cover the back of the file—about two inches—and commence gluing down the other board, being careful to have both boards even, working from the space left for the back cover, and when this board is covered like the first, cut a slit down the space at the back on either side and at each end, and turn the strip down on the back space and paste. Then, mitre the corners of the cloth and paste or glue down on the top and bottom of the boards. A lining of some light, strong cloth should be pasted over the inside, and down the boards, just as the paper inside is pasted on "store" books. In fact, it will be a good plan to study the work of some well-bound book. After the cover is dry, lay the volume in it, and sew through the cloth binding at the back, and through the volume, not too tight. If pains are taken, you will find your volume handy and well preserved.

Studying the Booklets

If you have not already done so, send for the seeds and nursery catalogues, and when they come, sit down and study them; read and remember what is said by the compilers, and when you are done with the pamphlet, just lay it away and look it over again. Teach the children that books are for use, not abuse, and insist on their respecting the printed page. Advertisers along many lines offer free their interesting booklets, and every one of them will contain at least a few good ideas. Send for these booklets, and when you have looked them over sufficiently for one time, file them for future reading. You have no idea what a useful supply of "reference" books you can thus accumulate. Send for the booklets.

Beet Sugar

Mrs. M. L., Kansas, wishes to know how she can make beet sugar. It is claimed that more than half the sugar now on the market comes from the sugar beet. Germany exports thousands of tons of it. In this country, California is the center of the industry, one factory alone is said to consume three thousand tons of beets each day. The sugar beet, however, can be grown successfully over a wide area of country. H. W. Wiley has written on the subject for the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C., and says that,

while any farmer can make the sugar, it will not be fit for household uses, because, not having been refined, the salts and bitter principles of the crude vegetable product will not be palatable. Expensive factories, with machinery and necessary appliances for refining the crude product, alone can make the article of commerce, and farmers should not be led to believe they can make usable beet sugar and molasses with the few and crude appliances which they can afford. It is claimed that the beet crop will average \$50 per acre where the vegetable is cultivated. For information, send a request to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for literature on the subject.

Brown-Tail Moth Itch

A reader from New Hampshire writes us, asking for a cure for this ailment which, I am sure, is a new distress to many of our friends, but is said to be very prevalent in the district infested by this destructive insect. The only information we have we gathered from the Rural New Yorker, and pass it on. The itch is caused by the barbed hairs of the caterpillars which crawl everywhere; those irritating hairs, blowing about from nests or cocoons, or from fallen caterpillars, poison the skin as badly as poison ivy. A remedy given is a strong tea of sweet fern and used cold as a wash for the affected parts. The tea will stain the clothing brown, but the remedy is said to work well. If any one knows a better remedy, we shall be glad to have it.

The Homeliest Professional Women

It is said that in professional ranks, including actresses, artists, musicians, doctors, lawyers, lecturers and writers, beauty is more rare among literary women—writers—than among any other class. This is due to the fact that their personality is distinct from their work. In any other profession mentioned, a woman's success depends primarily, though not exclusively, upon her abilities, but appearance, manner, address, grace of motion, are all factors of very large marketable value to her, and count for as much—in some instances more—than the fact of her fitness for work. The woman who does her work in public knows this, and is forced to pay particular attention to these matters. The work of the writing woman is a factor quite apart from herself; it must stand or fall on its merits, which are quite distinct from her physical graces. Unless her work can stand the editorial test, beauty will profit her nothing. Therefore, since neither beauty nor charm will profit her, she has taken no pains to insure their possession or permanence. Still, there is a subtle something in the expression of the woman who works in any profession requiring large mental ability, which is not present in the face of the sister who has not entered the business or professional field. There is a look of thought and purpose which effort and aspiration bestow; an expression of life's deeper meaning learned through experiences; of a breadth of view which comes from keeping in touch with the ever-widening thoughts of the world. This may add nothing to the beauty of youth; but it does add vastly to the charm of middle age and later life. It

adds the touch of imagination, of interest, which compels and captivates attention, until one forgets to notice the lack of surface beauty which women of other professions must possess in order to please.

For the Hands

To promote the softness and whiteness of the hands, use only mild, emollient soaps, or those abounding in oils, as such soap will cleanse and heal, while the coarse, alkali soaps used for the laundry will render the skin dry and brittle. If the hands are black and dirty, a very little good laundry soap may be used with warm water, but just as soon as the skin is clean, it should be rinsed off. A small brush, which will cost but about four cents, may be used to scrub the skin with, where there are seams and dirt. After washing the hands, rub them dry with oatmeal before drying them.

There are so many ways to whiten and soften the skin where the hands are not used for hard, dirty work; but one of the best is to wear cotton gloves whenever you are at work; be sure the gloves are kept clean.

For the Garden

One of the ways of making money at home, which has been proven effective is to get a cannery; it need not be so very large, if you are at all nervous about the outcome. One that will do for a small garden will cost about five dollars, but a ten-dollar outfit is better. Learn all you can about the growing of the fruit or vegetables you expect to can, and do the work just as nicely as possible. A great deal of garden stuff goes to waste, and if you should can your surplus, you can sell it readily. Do the work well, and get your name before your neighbors as a reliable, competent worker. It is full time, now, that you begin to plan for the garden and cannery. You will probably have disappointments and discouragements; but just determine that you are going to succeed. Only the best fruits and vegetables must be used. Make catsup out of the culls, and put a lot of it up for soup. Don't use rotten, or decaying vegetables, but put up the best.

Query Box

M. M. B.—Fine oatmeal put into a cheese-cloth bag and boiled a few minutes, then squeezed in the wash water is claimed to smooth rough hands and keep them clean. Use no soap.

T. S.—To remove cream stain, chlorinated soda should be applied to the spot as soon after it is soiled as possible; leave it on ten minutes, then rinse out carefully; lay the cloth while still damp in the sunshine, or near a warm stove, and wet hourly with lemon juice after the first treatment is washed out. If after a day in the sunshine the spot still remains, repeat the process.

Mrs. L. S.—For removing fruit stains, there are endless numbers of treatments advised for the stain when freshly done. After the stain has dried, none of the directions are so certain. Saturating with coal oil; or wetting with alcohol; or holding in the fumes of a burnt match or sulphur, or putting salt on the stain, stretching it over a bowl and pouring boiling water through the spot. These are all recommended for colored goods.

"A Sufferer"—A "sure cure for a corn" depends on the individual and the corn. It is claimed that many persons are predisposed to the malady. About the only way to find a really sure cure is to gather up a few hundreds of the recipes found on the printed pages, and give each one a thorough trial until you reach the one that helps you. One of the sure