



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

After Years

"Give me back my child!" I plead that day,
My face against the coffin-lid.
Here is the place, upon my breast;
Not there, in cold and darkness hid.
Why, he had just begun to live—
To know my face, to laugh, to reach
His hands to meet my lips, and make
Sweet essays at some unknown
speech!

"Untrodden round his baby feet
The whole fair realm of childhood lay;
Nor stones nor thorns to make them bleed—
My hand had smoothed them all away.
No wind of Heaven had buffeted
His sunny head with cruel breath—
My arms had safely sheltered him.
Give him to me, O Death!"

Now, standing by that little grave
Where in and out the passing years
Weave tapestries of green and gold,
I smile, remembering my tears.
I lay my gray head on the mound
That drank my tears, and 'neath my
breath

I whisper: "It is better so!
Keep him, O gentle Death!"
—Julia Schayer, in Century.

Poems Wanted

Our friend, Mr. Dan Sweeney, who tells us he is fifteen years old, wishes the words to a poem, "The Dream of Eugene Aram," by Thomas Hood. As we have furnished the "Dreamer," some one who has the second poem wanted, may please send it to him at Center Point, W. Va.

J. S. McC., of California, wishes the words of a poem, the chorus of which is

"Save the boy, save the boy,
Heaven will ring with joy,
Loving hearts are pleading now,
Save, O, save the boy."

Another reader wishes the words to the old song, "Put me in my little bed."

Combating the Saloon Influence

It is claimed that in most places the saloon is the poor man's club, and is the only place where men and boys may gather to pass the evening hour; as long as the working man finds congenial companionship, warmth and cheer only in these places, he will go there, and the boy will go with him. In order to combat this influence, there should be provided a counter attraction, one equally as strong, where the moral uplift would influence to a better use of time. Morality must compete with the saloon for the poor man's patronage, and wherever a saloon is established, one of these counter attractions should find a place beside it. There are many good men and women who are anxious to work for the betterment of society, and there is nothing more needed than the opening of respectable places, properly chaperoned and guarded, where men and boys may meet women and girls for a social hour. One woman, or one man can not establish such places, but societies of men and women could do it, and should. In large towns and cities there are hundreds of homeless men and boys, as well as women and girls, with nowhere to spend the evening hour except at the pleasure resorts, or on the streets. If these homeless people could be welcomed

to respectable gathering places, and furnished not only with companionship, but with books, music and reading, or with simple warmth and light and the pleasure of watching others, the questionable gardens and resorts would not be so largely patronized. Men and women are gregarious, and the social instinct is strong in them, from the youngest to the oldest; the hunger for companionship is little less imperative in its demands than those of physical hunger. If country towns and villages would furnish meeting places for the lonely ones, there would be less of the crazy rush toward the city. Many men and women, as well as boys and girls, are literally starved for social interchange of ideas. Not alone the unmarried, but many married couples would welcome the opportunity to spend together with their friends, the spare hours of the day. Combat the evil with the good, and teach people to respect themselves and each other.

Teaching Children to Think

Judging from the effects of much thoughtlessness in this life, one is tempted to believe that the habit of not thinking is as much a crime as the deliberate doing—indeed, it is often the foundation on which many crimes are based. The capacity for solving the problems of life are born with the problem, and, as experiences multiply, the capacity increases until we are able to overcome the obstacles that arise, if we only exercise our thinking powers. The exercising of the faculty of judgment should begin at the cradle. Let them learn from the very start to reason out the difficulties that confront them. Let them manage their own affairs. Their life is their business; not yours. You might as well think to have them walk without exercising their limbs, as to have them face life's problems without exercise of mentalities. The baby in the cradle will entertain itself most industriously, if allowed to do so, and mothers make a mistake in robbing them of the pleasure. The cooing baby will have to experiment with its freedom and liberty some time, and it is just as well to let it begin now. Let the child learn to decide for itself, and take the consequences of its own decisions; their experience of self-reliance will give them the strength of mind needed to enable them to bear the burden later, as they crawl out of the cradle. Life is all a battle ground, and we must each fight for our own; dependence upon another makes cowards and weaklings of us. It is the arm that strikes in which the muscles develop—the still arm stiffens. A supervising care and an unobtrusive guidance of the hesitating steps are all right; but let the little one think out its own ways. Remember that you can not always stand by your child's side, ready to stay the stumbling feet, or pick it up if it falls. There must be will, grit, self-poise, a careful weighing of pros and cons, and a sturdy self-reliance, in order to successfully meet the thousands of difficulties that crowd its pathways. Teach it to think.

"In Olden Times"

Ever since intellect began to assert its superiority over brute force, there have been individual women who stepped beyond what was

deemed their "sphere," and proved their fitness for the larger measures. Such exceptional women have, in all times, encountered obloquy and ridicule; but each one of the brave heroines conquered somewhat for the women of the future. When the matrons of Rome were oppressively taxed, they remonstrated against the injustice; but finding petitions unavailing, they selected the gifted Hortensia to plead their cause in person before the triumviri, and for that purpose they accompanied her in procession to the forum. The speech she delivered is declared by Appian to have been worthy of Cicero. The triumviri were inclined to treat her and her companions with contempt; but the assembled populace were carried away by her eloquence, and manifested so much sympathy with her cause, that the vexed magistrates deemed it prudent to modify their system of taxation. The conservatives of Rome cried shame upon women who thus overstepped the boundaries of their sex, and the nickname, "Androgyne" was applied to them (meaning he-woman), a term used by wits of that day in much the same way that "strong-minded," or "New woman" is applied today. In former times, if a woman had a little extra education, she was called a "blue-stocking," until women were afraid to acknowledge that they knew anything of books. But a few years ago, a professor of one of our colleges, advised men to "set their faces as flint" against the educated woman but stultified himself later by marrying a talented woman.

Every advancing step taken by women disturbs the minds of a large class of men, and at every innovation they contend that the basis of society is sliding from under them, and that we shall fall through. Asiatic men believe that chaos would come if women were allowed to go about with uncovered faces, while even in our own country it was, and still is, in some parts, thought that public speaking would be fatal to the modesty and home usefulness of our women.

The Overworked Housewife

In talking over the troubles of the overworked housewife and mother, one of our magazine writers offers, as a remedy, that instead of pleading with her husband to right the wrong, the woman should take the matter in her own hands, and lessen the labor in every way possible, and especially by supplying herself with labor saving household machinery. It is all very well to talk, and in many instances such advice may be successfully acted upon and the work done "according to rule." But where the woman is the wife of a man of small wages or salary, with several babies yet under her feet in the home, it is not so easy to do. Even where money is not the main question, the question of securing available help is often hopelessly involved. No amount of mechanical machinery will look after and attend to the endless wants of the toddling babies, and the woman who attempts to not only do this, but do all her housework, sewing, laundry work, even with improved machinery, will find her burdens too great. In thousands of homes there are the barely necessary furnishings, and "living the simple life" has reached the limit, and still left altogether too

much labor and step-taking. To make the matter still harder, in thousands of these homes, the husband and father seems blind to the demands of the home and family on the strength of the house-mother, and increases the burden ten fold, by fretting and finding fault because things are not in apple-pie order, and every comfort at his command. Instead of taking into consideration the fact that the mother gets no release from the care of the babies, day or night, he resents being expected to spend his evenings at home, helping with the children during his spare hours, and says he never gets any rest, after working all day. The ageing faces of too many of our young wives speak volumes on the subject. If only some provisions could be made for the care of the babies for a few hours each day, that the mother might rest!

Home Sanitation

Throughout the summer season, the housewife must exercise a personal supervision over drains and bathroom, as well as the refrigerator. Boiling water and washing soda must be used for the sink drains, in order to remove all greasy deposits and kill odors. The soda is cheap—about one cent a pound, and a large handful will be sufficient for a gallon of water.

In the bath room, all pipes should be flushed each morning with boiling water, and at night a large spoonful of chloride of lime should be sprinkled into each pipe. A can of the lime should be kept on a high shelf in the bath room, out of reach of the children.

For cleaning the bath tub, soap does not always avail; but if a large handful of washing soda be dissolved in a gallon of boiling water, and the sides of the tub swabbed with this, boiling hot, the enamel would be clean. The tub may then be washed out with hot soapy water, ready for use.

Another way to clean the bath tub is with a hot solution of vinegar and salt—all the salt the vinegar will dissolve. If the stains are stubborn, let the mixture remain on the enamel a little while, then wash off with clean, hot water. This is fine.

For ordinary, the bath tub and wash bowl are easily kept clean with a cloth saturated with either gasoline, naphtha, or coal oil.

If you are so fortunate as to have your house plumbed, be sure to look after the pipes. Do not allow anything poured into the drain pipes but what will go through without clogging. Hair, lint, old rags, burnt matches, newspaper, fruit parings, strings, should not be allowed to go into the drains, as the stoppage will cause trouble.

For the kitchen drain pipes, remove grease with hot water and sal soda, have the solution strong and boiling hot, about one pound of soda to two quarts of boiling water. Flush afterwards with clear water.

For the Toilet

For sensitive skin which finds soap too strong, use almond meal; this can be bought ready prepared of the druggist, and will cleanse the hands as well as soap without roughing them.

After a long walk or ride, the face is often very dusty, and if very much heated, should not be washed with cold water. Instead, give the skin a good coating of any good cold cream, and after letting stay on the face a few minutes, rub the cream off with a bit of soft cloth. You will be astonished at the dirt the cloth brings away.

The girl or woman who goes about in the hot sunshine with bare arms, shoulders, and without a hat, may