

# The Home Department

Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

**Bringing the Baggage Home**  
In, through the ferry's pulsing door,  
In, through the railway's clanging gate,  
The baggage is coming, day by day,  
Many the size and shape and weight.  
Trunks that tell of their long, long routes,  
Boxes bursting, in woeful plight,  
Crammed with the trophies of summer sports,  
Coming, coming, both day and night.

Under the lids the garments lie,  
Limp and ruined with reckless wear,  
Crumpled and stained and ripped and torn,  
Bundled together without a care.  
Crowds are following, close abreast,  
Coming from mountain and lake and shore,  
Back to the world and their work they come—  
The summer is ended, vacation is o'er.

But there are pieces that show no wear,  
Tossed and jostled on yonder pile,  
Packed but a few brief days ago—  
Outward bound, with jest and smile.

Tender hands are searching them out,  
Groping, through tears, they softly move—  
Then, homeward borne, through the hush of grief,  
All that is left of the one we love!

O, stainless garments that knew no wear,  
Neatly folded and soft and white,  
There is no need for your dainty care,  
O, hands that are folded and still tonight!

O, empty glove, and laces smooth,  
O, stainless shoe, that will tread no more  
Life's measured dance to the tune of Time,  
Your brief vacation, too, is o'er!

Ceaseless the travelers come and go,  
Claiming their own. In the noisy stream,  
There are sweet, still faces you never see—  
A presence of which you never dream.

While rumbling along the noisy streets,  
The baggage wagons go and come,  
Dropping their burdens here and there—  
Bringing the Summer baggage home.

—Ethel Lynn.

**The Outlook**  
This is the season when, ordinarily, the air is laden with sweet

savors and spicy odors, and the smell of cookery meets the olfactory nerves on every hand. Yet, when one reads of burnt-up gardens and ruined field crops, and has at first hand the evidence of destruction in her own garden, because of the long-withheld rain and intense heat, it is hard to know just what to say. The early promise of the year was for fine crops of everything; but as the months passed, the promise seemed too dim because of the unusual conditions. Where everything has not failed, the outcome is below the average, except in a few things not dependent upon moisture. In some localities, little is to be harvested, while in others, the average is maintained; from no locality does there come reports of full crops. But we have the assurance that in no locality has everything failed, and the latter rains, if they come as they promise to, are sure to bring on the late plantings so that there may yet be enough for the hopeful housewife.

There will be fruits and vegetables, but they will doubtless, in many cases, be poor in quality and high in price. Where the gardens have been held in readiness for the appearance of rain, and the seeds hurried into the ground at the first good wetting, much will blossom and bear fruit with which the fruit cans may be filled, although few things in the late vegetable line may mature before the frost comes. Somehow or other, we always get along, and the Lord will provide. It is just as well to meet disaster cheerfully. It is well to "laugh through tears," at times, and the world will love you all the better if you do. Supplement your faith by good work, and we will yet come out all right. But work; while you are asking the Lord to help you, be very busy helping yourself.

### Getting Ready for Sewing

September is the month devoted by the usual woman to getting the winter wardrobe in shape, and it is also a time when one can pick up bargains in remnants and light-weight goods suitable for such uses. Many of the new fabrics are inexpensive, and yet very desirable, coming in good widths which will make a few yards do duty as a full pattern for the young girl's or small woman's dress. Once the materials are selected, the styles now in vogue make it very easy for the young girl to learn to make her own garments, and this is something every woman should know how to do. The paper patterns now to be had are very reliable, and easily understood, and on the label of each one are full directions, with a list of quantities needed. Many young girls take readily to sewing, and they can be set to work

at a very early age in becoming skilled in the use of the needle, thread and thimble, as well as scissors. What the patterns do not teach, the fashion magazines supply, and the girl is far better off in the sewing room for a reasonable number of hours than in the streets and places of amusement.

Children's dresses follow the general style features of their elders, yet with touches that make for a youthful appearance that add becomingness to their appearance. It is not the materials which make the dress costly, so much as the wages of the seamstress or tailoress.

In many families, there is much that may be passed down to the younger members of the family, and without a hint of being "made over" if care is taken to thoroughly clean and press the garment, and neatness in making the changes necessary. Where it is possible, this should be attended to first, and then the quantity of new materials can be estimated with certainty. Where garments are faded, or the color not desirable, the packet dyes can be used with perfect satisfaction.

### The Fall Sewing

For a time, the summer clothing will supply the needs of the school girl, but the home seamstress is now planning for the new garments, so soon to be needed. In making dresses for the growing girl, be sure to provide for the growth of the girl and the shrinking of the material by extra material in the garment. Many seamstresses spoil the appearance of the child by making the garment over-large and ill-fitting, to provide for this. The belt of the dress may be set up on the waist an inch or two; usually the waist line is made about three inches below the actual line of the body, and extra material may be allowed and turned up, as the waist is made loose enough for the dress to hang quite straight. When the garment shrinks, or the girl grows, the skirt may be taken off and set down, as the case requires. The skirt can further be lengthened if the need occurs, by allowing for a large hem at the bottom, the hem to be made the proper width, with the extra material turned inside the hem. When tucks are allowable, they are most convenient for lengthening needs.

Up to eight years, or thereabouts, according to the size of the child, the dress should stop just above the knees for small girls, but for those large for their age, a little longer is admissible. An average sized twelve-year-old should have her knees covered, and a fourteen-year-old may wear the skirt two inches longer; but if small, the bottom of the skirt should not reach the calf of the leg. A large girl of the same age may have the skirt longer. A sixteen-year-old, if very large, should wear the skirt to the shoe-tops; the eighteen-year-old wears usually what the miss of twenty years old wears.

Ginghams, chambrays, linens, pique, rep, poplin and the indispensable and undeniably suitable serge, with checked cottons, woolens and plaids, are all appropriate materials for school wear.

### Sleeves for the School Garments

One-seam full-length sleeves are worn, or they may be shorter if desired; but for the health and com-

fort of the child, they should be made comfortably long for the cool or cold days now coming. To provide against outgrowing and shrinking, the cuffs may be set up on the sleeve instead of being joined at the bottom edge, and when needed, the cuff can be taken off and set lower down. Tiny tucks may be taken at the bend of the elbow at the inside seam, where the sleeve is sure to wrinkle, and in most cases, this will be sufficient.

If possible to slip in a pocket somewhere for the tiny woman in which to put her handkerchief, it will add greatly to the value of the garment; few pockets are shown, but it is just as necessary to give the girl a pocket as it is to patch the boy's suit all over with them. The home seamstress can usually find a place for a pocket that will not be objectionable.

### Boys Clothing

It is usual to buy the boy's garments ready made, but if the home seamstress feels that she should make them, herself, the paper patterns are excellent guides. Plenty of pockets, comfort, and good wearing material are the necessities. For top coats for the cold days, the boys wear is "just like father's", and has manly lines that make the little men feel very large and important. Where the "cutting down" of the outgrown garments of the older ones is practiced, the garments should be ripped apart, either washed, pressed and every thread picked out, or the goods should be well cleaned of any spots of whatever kind, sponged and pressed before cutting out. If faded, the packet dyes are most successfully used in the home, and directions

### HAPPY OLD AGE

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