

## About the House.

### ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

Oh, beautiful, waxen bride flowers,  
So pure in your dainty white,  
Opening your delicate petals  
Catching the sunshine bright.

Resting among the green leaves,  
Shedding your perfume sweet;  
Oh, lovely tropical flow'ret,  
Your beauty is most complete!

Oh, beautiful, waxen bride flowers,  
May she whose brow you entwine  
In that unknown, mystic future,  
Emulate a life pure as thine.

### THE BABY'S CLOTHES.

"A baby's clothing should be drawn over its feet and not slipped over its head," said Miss Marianna Wheeler, superintendent of the "Babies' Hospital, of New York City," whose long experience in training nursemaids makes her an authority on all subjects pertaining to the care of infants.

"Nothing is more awkward than to attempt to dress a young baby in a sitting posture. It should lie on the nurse's lap until quite able to sit alone. If the clothes are put on as I describe there will be no fighting and crying, but, instead, the child will be fond of being dressed. For the first four months there should be a snug flannel band over its bowels. Later this should be replaced by a ribbed knitted band, of wool, of course, and made like the top of a sock. It must be drawn over the feet and should be worn through the second year.

"I am sure that nearly all intestinal troubles in young children are caused by their bowels getting cold. It is the one place which must be protected if you would have a healthy child. There are three weights of these bands which I recommend, medium, thin and gauze. The very heavy should never be put on, and the same rule should be followed in selecting flannel garments.

"It is most important that a baby's clothes should fit the body. If too tight they frequently produce vomiting after feeding, while if too large they crumple into folds and cause discomfort. No pins or buttons should be used, but all bands about the body must be basted. The openings should be neither in the back nor front, but under the arms, where any irregularity will be least felt by the child.

"I disapprove very decidedly of putting veils over a baby's face. When the weather is so cold or so windy as to render a veil necessary no young child should be sent out of doors, but instead given its airing in a well-ventilated nursery. Veils affect the eyes, and are as a rule uncleanly. In the majority of instances a mother never thinks of having the baby's veil washed. They wear the veil for an entire winter, so you can imagine the condition. Then, aside from this, a child's face is all the better for being exposed to the air, not only because it allows her to breathe more freely, but it is healthy for the complexion.

"The greatest care should be taken not to keep children too hot, and while light wraps may, and as a rule should be, kept on them in the early morning and late afternoon, in the middle of the day they should be removed. A common mistake among others, especially in furnace-heated homes, is using excessively heavy clothing for their children. They usually live in a warm nursery, their circulation is active and they perspire more freely than a grown person. For these reasons the heaviest flannels should never be used, even in very cold climates, but extra heavy wraps be put on when they are taken out."

### PEAT-MOSSES.

There are beds of peat in our country, and several attempts have been made to utilize them for fuel, as is done in Ireland and some parts of Scotland. The peat mosses, of which the beds are formed, belong to the lowest family of the moss tribe. They are familiar objects in our tamarack swamps, where their gray-green, hemispherical masses lie thick upon the ground, to the exclusion of other vegetation except cranberries, which spin their thin vines over them, and a few pitcher-plants and grasses. Every year the axes of the plants increase in length and the older stems of former years sink lower into the bog. In this way the center of the bogs, especially of those fed by springs, becomes considerably higher than the circumference. When peat moss has thus been growing for many centuries, filling perhaps what was once a lake, the remains of the stems become matted together by the pressure of the water-logged fresh areas above, and after a time become compacted into what is known as peat, probably one of the stages in the production of coal. It is not altogether certain, says Prof. McGillan, and coal was developed from mosses like the living peat mosses, but it is perfectly certain that it originated in ancient swamps by the same general processes which are building the peat-bogs of to-day.

Hundreds who read this paragraph will have clambered over masses of peat moss—growing upon the old stems far below, which are gradually being converted into peat as outlined above—in the search for huckleber-

ries. They would recognize the long ghostly gray threads, thick set with gray "leaves" which seem made up of many overlapping, acute pointed scales or bracts, and which look a little like miniature catkins, but they never thought anything about them—except that the moss was hard to walk over, and afford a good harbor for snakes. That is the way with us. Wonderful processes are going on all around us, in nature, but we are blind to them.

Peat mosses are so simply and easily propagated by the development of branches that they rarely fruit. But occasionally they do so—sometimes a whole bog will be in fruit at once. When you find at the terminal of one of the branches a little cluster—generally three—of egg-shaped bodies, each rising on a slender stalk from the end of the branch, you may know that you have the fruit-body of a peat moss in hand.

"The fruit-body is a little egg-shaped black capsule with bulbous base, the whole shaped somewhat like a dumb-bell with one end larger than the other, and a short neck between. The smaller end of the dumb-bell is imbedded in the enlarged cushion-like tip of a slender, erect leafless branch of its vegetative plant. Around the bottom of the capsule may be found a thin broken membrane which is a relic of the wall of the egg-organ in which the capsule began its existence. Peat moss capsules open by little circular lids, which when the capsule is ripe, separate from the bowl part, allowing the spores to escape."

### CHILDREN'S POCKET MONEY.

I believe that children can be best taught the worth of a dollar by earning and spending the dollar. I have known parents who clothed and fed their children well and gave them spending money on special occasions. I have known other parents who gave their children a weekly allowance. I have known still others who explained to their children that their help was needed to make the home—father and mother could not do it all—but that if they shared in the work they should also share in the income—in a word they formed a family partnership. And I am free to confess, that the results after years of observation, lead me to prefer the partnership plan.

The objection has sometimes been made when children were paid for work they became unwilling to do anything without money returned. It has not been so with children I have known.

I have noticed that when money was given children it was spent thoughtlessly; when it was earned it was not parted with without careful consideration.

I have noticed also that children who were allowed to share in the family income and help select their own clothing were not only satisfied with less, but were far happier than children for whom everything was provided by the parents. Furthermore, they learned how to be self-supporting and when they reached manhood and womanhood were industrious and self-reliant.

### THE GIRL OF TO-DAY.

One of the most remarkable social developments of these latter days is the evolution of the mature heroine of romance. Formerly this post was allotted to the young girl or the young married woman. In those times, moreover, the adjective of youth would not have been applied to the maiden who had passed her twenty-fifth year, and only in the spirit of the grossest flattery to the matron who had seen her three decades. It is typical of the age that this explanatory note should be necessary. Now the expression "young" is purely relative. The period of middle age has been entirely abolished. When almost everybody is younger than somebody else, it is only the few who are proud of their extreme antiquity who can be regarded with any degree of certainty as old. At 30 the girl of to-day no longer retires on the shelf as a failure, to pass the rest of her life in the humiliating position of the maiden aunt who devotes herself to the children or revenges herself on the poor. She is merely preparing to start on a new phase of life with a more definite plan and a clearer vision. Very often she marries and begins afresh at 40. Sometimes she has been known to be so greatly daring as to enter on matrimony for the first time when she has passed her fiftieth year. For the matron the range is even more extended. At 30 she is quite a young thing—gay, frivolous, skittish, to whom society and flirtation are the chief objects in life. Ten years more bring her to her prime. It is the period of fascination, of adventure, of impulse. The woman of 40 is capable of anything. She is the object of the most wildest plans, the centre of the most daring romances. At 50 she is probably marrying for the second time. Three-score will find her approaching the altar for her third wedding, and if she lives long enough, she may even reappear at a later date to bring her record up to four.

### THE BLACK CAT FAD.

The latest idea in the way of a porte-bonheur is to carry a tiny puss of wondrous goldsmith's work swinging as a pendant from the end of your lorgnette chain. The cat is made of black enamel upon metal. Its eyes have a metallic green gleam. Are they not tiny catseyes? The sapient puss wears a collar of brilliant set close about her furry neck. This, it seems, is the very "latest."

## FEEDING A GREAT ARMY.

### DETAILS OF THE PROCESS BY WHICH IT IS ACCOMPLISHED.

It is a Mighty Task, Calling for Enormous Supplies and an Immense Amount of Labour—Easy Enough at Home, But on Active Service It is a Different Matter.

It was Frederick the Great who said: "A general who does not provide himself with enough provisions, even if he were greater than Caesar, would not be a hero very long."

And Coligny put it even stronger when he said: "When it is desired to build up an army, it is necessary to commence with the stomach."

It is very probable that ninety-nine people out of every hundred think of an army as a great aggregation of fighting men, armed to the teeth with rifles, swords, and what not, while they never once give a thought to the "men in the rear." Yet these men in the rear are an important part of the fighting machinery. When an army is encamped in a friendly country there is not so great a difficulty in feeding it as when it is penetrating hostile territory, and has separated itself from its own country. And yet in either case it is no light task to furnish and distribute the food that is to keep, say 30,000 hearts in the right place. This is the work of the commissary department.

### EASY ENOUGH AT HOME.

When an army division or an army corps is encamped at home, the problem of getting supplies is comparatively simple. Sometimes they are furnished on contract, sometimes bought in large quantities a week or more in advance of the time at which they will be needed. The commissary general is responsible for the procuring of these supplies, and having them deposited at a depot within easy reach of the troops. Each company of a regiment has its cooks; each regiment has its commissary depot where supplies are kept sufficient for, say, a week or ten days for all the men. Men are detailed from each company to assist in the work of getting the supplies from the regimental depot to the company kitchens every day. Others are detailed to help transport the supplies to the regimental depots from the general headquarters whenever the stores in the former are getting low. As all supplies are issued from headquarters only on orders and receipts are given for everything secured, it can be seen that there is an immense amount of clerical work necessary to the smooth and uninterrupted work of the department.

When the troops are in barracks the work of the kitchen can be better attended to than in the field. Ranges and all necessary utensils are on hand and hot meals are served to the different mess tables with regularity. When in the field, either field stoves are used for cooking or partially covered trenches are constructed, with an opening for the huge coffee kettle and an oven for the baking of bread.

### ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Suppose an army to have landed on a foreign coast. The first move after the landing of the men and arms is to secure a convenient spot for a depot of supplies. These are landed and piled high on the shore until there seems to be a mountain of boxes inextricably mingled in the general mass. Gradually these are separated into different piles and order begins to make its appearance out of chaos, until all the supplies are properly housed. For an army of 30,000 men and 10,000 horses for three months, it is estimated that there are necessary 11,000 tons of food and forage. This must be made up of palatable and strengthening supplies, with a proper proportion of meat, vegetables, coffee, and flour for bread, or biscuits. The meat is generally canned, although sides of bacon are abundant, and even herds of live cattle are taken along for fresh meat.

Whenever any important move is to be made by the army, each soldier is usually supplied with rations for a day, which he carries in his haversack. These he is not to use unless ordered to do so. There are, besides, two days' rations carried in transport for each fraction of a command to tide the troops over the march. In the English army there are even wagon arrangements for cooking meals on the march, great quantities of soup being heated and meat and potatoes being prepared while on the march. But when the army moves away from its base of supplies, then it is that the feeding problem becomes more complicated.

### A GREATER TASK.

There are always a number of men detailed from each regiment to assist in the work of bringing up supplies. The keeping open of a line of communication with the base of supplies is the first thing that a commander must see to, for it means the safety of his army. If this line of communication is but a day's march, the work is simple, and it does not take many men detailed to wagon-driving to replenish the impoverished stock of the regimental or division larder. But when the distance is increased to sixty or a hundred miles the trick is one of great dif-

ficulty. There are along this line of communication two lines of transport wagons constantly on the move and in opposite directions. The one line is for wagons filled with stores and supplies for the army. The other is made up of empty wagons going back to the base for other loads. Easy stages are made of the journey. For instance, one lot of loaded wagons will start from the base and go an easy distance, when another lot of empty ones will be coming in the opposite direction. The drivers and horses will be exchanged, those on the loaded wagons returning with the empty ones to the base of supplies and those on the empty wagons taking the loaded supplies one stage nearer the army, at the end of which the same thing is repeated. There is thus a series of relays through which the transportation of supplies and ammunition, too, is being constantly carried on.

### ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES.

Within easy reach of the army is established a second base of supplies where a great amount of stores is accumulated in order to enable the army to extend its operations further from its principal base. Of course, a railroad makes the thing doubly sure and quick. But there is usually a good deal of wagon hauling to be done even with the railroads, because it is not often possible for an army to confine its operations to the line of rail communication. In any case, from the nearest base of supplies are brought to the division or regimental wagons, which are filled on requisition and receipts are given for the supplies received. A week's supply or even ten days' food should be at hand with the army. From the regimental depots the company gets its food for each day, and it is transferred to the company kitchen. Here are great kettles of coffee steaming over the fire with bacon or other meat cooking in the pans. Thus the food which started as the contents of one of the boxes in the mountain of supplies on the shore, finally comes to the plate of the soldier to give him strength.

Sometimes a flying column takes no commissary train with it, cuts itself off from its base of supplies, and moves swiftly through the country, taking a few days' rations. This cannot be done unless the country is thoroughly known and can be depended on for food. One of the most remarkable incidents of this sort on record is a performance in India by Gen. Lord Roberts. But Lord Roberts is above all things thorough in his organization of his supply column, for he served for many years in the commissary department in India.

### THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE.

Sir George Head, writing of his experience in charge of the commissary in the Peninsular war, says that 3 o'clock every morning found him in the presence of the commanding general where he was told of the movement of the army for the day. He would then go to his own quarters where he found scores of representatives of the different parts of the army waiting for information. Sometimes, he says, he was obliged to ride out in the rain and scour the country for wheat to be made into flour for that night's distribution. The worst of such a position can scarcely be imagined, for even after a supply of wheat was found, it had to be transported to mill, ground and carried to a convenient place for distribution among the parts of the army, which operations required the services of many men and teams.

### REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

There are a whole lot of men who never hear a new, witty story without its reminding them of an old, poor one.

Some men are so mean that to get even with their wives for something they will even quit acting like they would die for them when there is company.

The love of a little child is the most valuable love in the world, because the little child is the only one who doesn't expect to get anything out of it.

When a man tells his little boy that it hurts him worse when he has to whip him than it does himself, he has forgotten what he used to think when his father told him the same thing.

### BAMBOOZLED.

What I like about Christmas, is, it gives you a chance to keep up the glorious old custom of drinking. Give me plenty of booze, I say, was Uncle Newbury's remark.

I do not care for intoxicants myself, said Parson Fielding, who was with us that night.

All booze isn't an intoxicant though, said Walter Whiston, our champion funny man.

Oh, yes it is! said Uncle Newbury. I'll bet you it isn't! said Walter.

Here's a fiver if you prove it. Well, I can!

Go on—what booze isn't an intoxicant? Why, bamboos, to be sure!

And Uncle Newbury was—dare we say it?—bamboozled out of five of the best.

### WORSE STILL.

Mistress. You're a good, truthful, trustworthy girl, Jane. And so the master wanted to kiss you, did he? Jane. Yes'm. An' when I says, "Lor', sir," "I ain't good-lookin' enough," he says, "Why, Jane, you're a reg'lar Venus alongside the missus!"

### MERELY A HINT.

Mr. Slowboy—"In some States there is a law making it a misdemeanor for a man to change his name."

Miss Willing—"Yes; but there is no law in any State that prohibits a man from changing a woman's name."

## MEN OF MARK.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has a decided dislike to a personal use of the pen.

James A. Allen of Palmyra, Wis., has been for 50 consecutive years a justice of the peace in that city.

Inasmuch as Admiral Schley will retire on account of age in February, 1901, his prospective cruise to South Africa cannot extend over a period of 15 months.

O. H. Ingham of Lacrosse, Wis., has given \$15,000 toward the building of a new school of science for Ripon college, Ripon, Wis. The building will be named in honor of Mr. Ingham.

William H. Young, the veteran chief of the Western Union telegraph office at the capitol, was sick and missed the assembling of the new congress. It was the first time he had been absent on a "first day" since 1857.

Theodore C. Hurd, chief clerk of all the courts of Middlesex county, Mass., has been celebrating his achievement of the prophetic age of "threescore years and ten," with every faculty unimpaired and able to do as hard a day's work as when he was a lad of 10.

The latest echo of the Dreyfus case is the announcement that General Mercier will be a candidate for the senate at the next election. The ex-minister of war formerly commanded the infantry division garrisoned in the Somme department, for which he is to stand.

Professor Roentgen of Wurzburg, the discoverer of the X rays, has finally accepted a call to Munich university that was extended to him some months ago. There were certain conditions laid down by the scientist that have only recently been agreed to by the larger university.

Philip D. Armour says that George A. Sheldon, a Lake Shore station agent, who died the other day, once did him the great service of his life. "I was for four days a brakeman under him when he was a conductor," says Mr. Armour, "and he told me I was too much of a fool ever to make a good railroad."

Professor Max Muller, who has just entered on his seventieth year, was born in Dessau, Germany, and has been connected with Oxford university for well nigh 50 years. The venerable professor adds to his numerous foreign honors that of member of the French institute, and he is an honorary LL. D. of Edinburgh, Cambridge and Dublin.

Representative F. W. Cushman of Washington state made his maiden speech in the house the other day. He afterward expressed himself as very much disappointed with it. He says he found it quite different making a speech in the house from making one on the stump and fears he did not make the serious impression he wished to.

Congressman Julius Kahn of California, who had the good luck in the drawing of seats for the present session of congress to get the one occupied by ex-Speaker Reed in the Forty-seventh session, was formerly an actor and has trod the boards with Edwin Booth, Joseph Jefferson, Tommaso Salvini, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence, Clara Morris and others.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Unleached ashes are the best fertilizer for all stone fruits.

Peach trees suffer the most from standing in the thick grass and cherry and pear the least of any of the fruit trees.

The objection to trying to grow grapes in the orchard among the fruit trees is that the grapes need all the sunshine possible.

The compact form of growth of the currant adapts it to close garden quarters, while its ability to thrive in a partial shade is greatly in its favor.

Generally a warm, dry, light soil is best for the grape, but it will succeed in almost any kind of fertile soil well adapted to garden crops if not too damp.

Most fruit trees thrive best on rolling land. Fruits are less liable to injury by frosts on rolling land than on level land, even though the latter be high and dry.

Black spot on roses is a fungus growing on the leaves, which causes them to drop prematurely. A good preventive is to keep the plants in a warm, dry atmosphere.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Flatirons once made red-hot never retain the heat as well afterward and will always be rougher.

After sweeping a room allow a full hour for dust to settle. Dust with a damp cloth, followed by a dry rubbing.

Apply a little lard to dirty hands before washing them with soap and water. It loosens the dirt and keeps the skin soft.

Vinegar makes spots on the table linen. Teach children to catch the drop left on the lip of the cruet after using on the stopper and thus prevent stains, or set the cruet in a saucer.

## THE NURSERY.

A child will be naturally polite and thoughtful if the mother is also careful.

A thin flannel bandage around a baby's abdomen will often prevent cholera infantum.

Weakly children may be greatly strengthened by a daily salt bath, and, if possible, sea salt should be obtained for this purpose.

Never use pure mustard poultices for children. Their skins are too delicate. One spoonful of mustard to two of linseed meal is a good mixture.

## WOMEN'S WAYS.

Every woman uses a man's face for a mirror.—New York World.

Every time a man says something complimentary to his loving wife it removes one more wrinkle from her brow.

The average girl starts out at 18 to make a name for herself, but decides at 20 that some man's will do.—Acheson Globe.

The postoffice department now rules that female clerks in that department must resign when they get married. Even then they will continue to boss the males.—Baltimore American.