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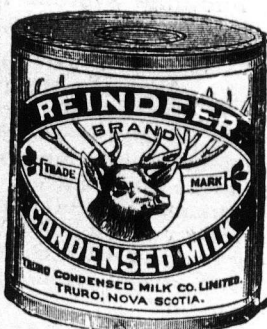
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Woman and the Home.

Moth Eaten.

I had a beautiful garment,
And I laid it by with care;
I folded it close with lavender leaves
In a napkin fine and fair;
"It is far too costly a robe," I said,
"For one like me to wear."

So never at morn or evening
I put my garment on;
It lay by itself under clasp and key
In the perfumed dusk alone,
Its wonderful broiery hidden
Till many a day had gone.

There were guests who came to my portal,
There were friends who sat with me,
And clad in soberest raiment
I knew that I owned a beautiful robe,
Though its splendor none might see.

There were poor who stood at my portal,
There were orphaned sought my care;
I gave them the tenderest pity,
But had nothing besides to spare;
I had only the beautiful garment,
And the raiment for daily wear.

At last, on a feast-day coming,
I thought in my dress to shine;
I would please myself with the luster
Of its shifting colors fine;
I would walk with pride in the marvel
Of its rarely rich design.

So out from the dust I bore it—
The lavender fell away—
And fold on fold I held it up
To the searching light of the day.
Alas! the glory had perished,
While there in its place it lay.

Who seeks for the fadeless beauty
Must seek for the use that seals
To the grace of a constant blessing
The beauty that use reveals.
For into the folded robe alone
The moth with its blighting steals.

Forethought and Foreboding.

While it is necessary at the present stage of progress of the human race to exercise some measure of forethought for future maintenance and comfort, there is much that is a waste of time and vital energy for which there is no better descriptive word or phrase than the well-worn and trite "borrowing trouble."

This is simply a habit of thought which may be overcome if we will but train the mind to dwell on pleasant things. If the individual will is not strong enough alone to overcome this pessimistic tendency to shroud one's self, the family and home in clouds of imaginary calamities, we should seek in the companionship of others to cultivate a happier frame of mind. Get out among people, become interested in the affairs of others, even widely beyond the neighborhood environment, and in the great general interests of all humanity lose the depression caused by individual foreboding.

True, we learn of widespread misery and suffering; we learn to realize and be thankful for our comforts and forget our own lesser trials.

It is necessary to take thought for the morrow and make provision for the days that are to come but it is most unwise to depress ourselves with imaginary troubles.

This beautiful world is not a "vale of tears" only as we make it so. When we contemplate its wonderful beauties and consider its no less wonderful resources in a proper frame of mind, we cannot but feel that it was intended by the Creator as a place where his creatures may be happy if they will while learning the lessons of life that are designed to fit them for eternity. And that such a beautiful place is provided for humanity during the stage of progress termed earth life should give full assurance of the wondrous blessings to be known in the life to come, when the infirmities of the earthly condition having fallen away, the freed spirit shall go untrammelled and unafraid upon the next stage of progress planned by the Omnipotent for all whom He has created "in His image."

This effort to counteract the tendency of pessimistic thought has carried us far—into the realm of the infinite and unknowable, but not unattainable; for however erring and suffering and sinful and sorrowing we may become through misconception and misuse of the plans and provisions of life here, all from the humblest to the greatest, shall be finally carried out of and beyond it into the higher realm of being.

And this should not be a saddening thought. We should so live and so regard every phase of life as to enjoy contributing as we may to the happiness of others—for the opportunity is quickly past, we come not this way or to this day again—and bear every trial and sorrow as a portion of the discipline necessary to the chastening of the spirit that shall make us more worthy our capacity for its appreciation and enjoyment.

Let us make the most and best of life, for ourselves and for others,

wherever our lot may be cast, expect only good, anticipate only pleasure, and bear whatever ill may befall as simply our share of the "common fate of all," not as the dispensations of an angry God, but as consequences of our ignorance of the plan of the Creator, weak, human transgressions of His universal laws which, were we able to properly interpret and conform to them, would always bless, never distress.

We were created for happiness here and hereafter. "Seek, and ye shall find," and enjoy; but do not the one selfishly nor the other grossly. If we keep the spiritual nature ever in the ascendant, the thought of the pure and good ever in mind, attune the laws of individual being as nearly as human conception may to the grand harmony of the infinite, our thoughts of the eternal future will be tinged with no shadows of foreboding or fear and we will joyfully answer the summons, "Come up higher."

St. Valentine Entertainment.

A good many members of The Western Home Monthly will want suggestions for entertaining a St. Valentine's party.

Let the heart be the prevailing shape for table decorations and whatever else is to be used by way of entertainment. Before the supper will come games. A good way to "break the ice" and get every one in a jolly humor is to place a basket in the centre of the floor; divide the guests into two sides and give each side of the same number of hearts, cut out of cardboard but of a different color for each side.

Let the opposing sides take turns at trying to throw the cards into the basket from a given distance; the side getting the greater number of hearts sounds as if it would be the winner. This to do, the fun is in seeing the hearts land everywhere but in the basket.

Another merriment-maker is the game of trying to blow soap-bubbles through two large rings made of wire and bent to a heart shape. Wrap the wires with red tissue-paper or ribbon and suspend them in a wide opening, between folding doors or elsewhere. Have your basin of soap-suds and clay pipes ready and let every one take a turn, or as many turns as may be agreed upon. Blow a big, clear bubble, detach it carefully from the pipe and try to blow it through a given ring. Above each ring should be a rhyme, or motto, indicating which is the lucky one and which the unlucky.

A heart-shaped card, bearing one-half of a rhyme, or sentiment, may be given to each gentleman, while a corresponding heart bearing the other half of the rhyme may be given to each lady; and when the gentlemen have sought, and matched their cards the partners may file out to supper. Have the table prettily decorated with evergreens and nut red paper-hearts, or valentines, bearing appropriate sentiments, at the places. The cakes, sandwiches, and ices should be heart-shaped. Appropriate heart-shaped prizes, comic or otherwise, may be given for the games, if desired.

How to Carve.

To carve well is a matter of economy as well as of grace and health. To get the best results from a saddle of mutton or lamb, they should be cut in thin slices and when the shape of the piece permits, a slice should be cut evenly over the whole surface in the plane of the knife. If the slice proves too large to serve, it can be divided. Hams, legs of mutton and of lamb should be cut in the middle. A loin of pork, mutton or veal should be cut first in the thickest part. Tongue should be sliced not too thin. The slices should be about a quarter of an inch thick and should be cut first from the centre, where the tongue is thickest.

As a general rule, beef should be cut thin and mutton thick.

How to Use Cleansing Fluid Upon Cloth Without Leaving "Rings."

Use a sponge or a scrub instead of a cloth. Do not pour the fluid upon the cloth, but take a small quantity at a time upon the sponge or scrub and, stroking the cloth lightly around the spot, work toward the centre. Rinse the sponge or scrub repeatedly in the fluid (some of which should have been poured from the bottle into a saucer). The spot, if thus treated, will gradually grow smaller till it is a mere dot than can be "pinched" out of the cloth with a drop of fluid. If the strokes are made away from the spot instead of toward it, all the dust or grease is worked out into a ring surrounding the spot.

Repeat it:—"Shilo's Cure will always cure my coughs and colds."