

THE HOME CIRCLE.

MELVIN HILL NOTES

IMMODEST DRESSING.

A Column Devoted To Tired Mothers As They Join The Home Circle At Evening Tide.

THE BABY.

Where did you come from, baby dear? Out of the everywhere into here. Where did you get your eyes so blue? Out of the sky as I came through. Where did you get that little tear? I found it waiting when I got here. What makes your forehead so smooth and high? A soft hand stroked it as I went by. What makes your cheek like a warm white rose? I saw something better than anyone knows. Whence that three-cornered smile of bliss? Three angels gave me at once a kiss. Where did you get this pearly ear? God spoke, and it came out to hear. Where did you get those arms and hands? Love made itself into hooks and bands. Feet, whence did you come, you darling things? From the same box as the cherub's wings. How did they all come to be you? God thought about me and so I grew. But how did you come to us, you dear? God thought about you and so I am here.

No heathen god or goddess has ever had more zealous devotees than fashion, or a more absurd and humiliating ritual, or more mortifying and cruel penance. Her laws, like those of the Medes and Persians, must be implicitly obeyed, but unlike them, change, as certainly as the moon. They are rarely founded in reason, usually violate common sense, sometimes common decency, and uniformly common comfort.

ALL the strength of the world and all of its beauty, all true joy, everything that consoles, that feeds hope or throws a ray of light along our dark paths, everything that makes us see across our poor lives a splendid gold and boundless future, comes to us from people of simplicity, those who have made another object of their desires than the passing satisfaction of selfishness and vanity, and have understood that the art of living is to know how to give one's life. Parents mold the characters of their children, or leave the molding to others—thus comforts or pesternents are made for our own homes and the world.

HOME is where the heart is. A place our feet may leave but not our hearts. Home is where peace, joy, comfort and happiness reign. Where father whistles merrily, where mother sings cheerily, where children are happy, joyous and gay; where the family gathers around the evening lamp, busy with books, the needle, the papers and the playthings and basks in the sunshine of each other's love. "Home is not merely four square walls, Of wood and brick and spacious halls."

We would be glad to see all children grow to useful manhood and womanhood. They should be trained along the lines of industry. In short the home ought to be a sort of school for manual training, that through this useful occupation, the real bent of the child's mind might be readily perceived. Not all work, neither all play, but enough of both to make work and pleasure alike enjoyable and refreshing. Thus the child might be trained in useful ways, and obtain physical vigor now almost impossible by the unusual strain put on the child inclined to studious habits.

MODERN living is a complex affair, greatly in contrast with the simple modes of life of the earlier Americans and of their immediate descendants. All the appliances which have been invented—notably during the past generation—to give heightened comfort to the home, and to make labor easier have added to this complexity of living, and most materially to its cost. How materially, one would

Mrs. J. E. Prince and Lewis Smawly Seriously Ill—Two Marriages—Other Notes Of Interest.

Willie Head went to Rutherfordton Monday.

Grover Fagans made a business trip to Spartanburg Monday.

Mrs. J. E. Prince is very sick and is not expected to live.

Rev. G. A. Branscom has been sick for quite awhile with acute rheumatism.

Mrs. J. T. Westbrook and daughter, Miss Dollie, are visiting relatives near Brooklyn, S. C., this week.

Lee Cocram and Miss Ila Dunahoo were married Sunday. We wish the young couple much success all through life.

Mrs. M. A. Gilbert fell while coming in at her door and came very near breaking her leg, but she is improving very fast.

Miss Lena Fagans and Miss Hattie Walker were visitors at our Sunday School Sunday. They reside near Blackwood, S. C.

H. E. Head and daughter, Miss Meldora, visited Louis Smawly Saturday. The latter has consumption and is not expected to live.

Albert Turner and Miss Luna Gilbert were married Sunday. We hope the young couple will be as happy all through life as they looked they were Sunday.

hardly believe until he had studied the matter for himself and discovered beyond a question that today a man cannot support a wife and bring up one child, living in a comforting and not at all lavish manner, upon what his ancestor would have considered sufficient to rear a large family. He cannot do it on what it cost his ancestor of only two generations ago. As men and women are educated and taught to think for themselves, they will no longer follow blindly the lead of the so-called "fashionable" bell-wethers, but will recognize the charm of independent modes of thought and life, and will permit themselves to live according to their own ideals and in their own ways. They will see the folly of attempting to imitate the methods of the millionaire on the income of the average business or professional man, but will live their own lives, happy in doing the things which they really care to do, instead of the things which they do just because somebody else does them.

THE woman who looks forward to a time when the lightening of household cares will give her time for mental development should begin the lightening-up process at once. There is always a best way to do things. The benedict who gave his wife an easy lesson in saving time on the dish-washing by pitching the china and the fragments of the feast all into hot water together may not have struck the best way. But if the dishes came out of the scrimmage clean and unbroken who could dispute his assertion that it was better than spending an hour in scraping the plates. Figuratively speaking there is a great deal of time wasted in scraping the plates—in magnifying trifles—in getting ready to do something. The real business of the day is crowded through in some way, but there are so many other things that are given undue prominence that by the time the day is over the poor house-mother is a bundle of nerves and weariness. But it isn't always so. The years that have opened nearly every avenue in the business world to women have taught many of them to apply business methods in the management of a home. Good rules of actions get the answer wherever they are applied. If concentration is a necessity in an office it is equally important in the home; for where it is properly applied it enables one to accomplish the best results with the least labor.

A Sensible Article On The Immodest Dressing Of Women During Summer—Ought Not To Be Dressed In Peek-A-Boo Lace Or Gauze.

Now that summer weather is approaching I wish to beg our fair women not to dress as many of them did last summer. They then seemed to imagine that the more the dress exposed the person the more stylish it was. If arms, shoulders and bust, were not bare, they were covered with the flimsiest peek-a-boo lace or gauze. The sight was embarrassing to hardened men, and called forth many half sneering comments. One of these under-dressed ladies, a visitor to a Georgia town, was leaving the presence of a group of men, when one of them said as he bowed to her, "I hope to see more of you, Miss Blank, before you leave town." "I don't see how he can well see more of her," commented another man in a low voice.

Our good women are very scornful of their fallen sisters. Why, then, do they strive to imitate and outdo them in dressing immodestly? Do they think this style of dress is admired by men? If so, it is a mistake. It brings up no thought of a woman's purity and delicacy—qualities that to women are a grace and fragrance to a flower. Recently I heard a young man say that it made him feel ashamed for certain girls when he was in their company, they had so little covering on their bodies. Think of women who would deem themselves insulted if their purity were called in question dressing in such a manner as to embarrass even a man of the world! In decency's and morality's sake, dear women, try to dress in a way more worthy of your better sense and taste and of the respect of the men, whom it is said women dress to please.—Reformer of the Sunny South.

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