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Women's Problems

OVERCOMING BAD HABITS

Some time ago in The Guide I saw a request for mothers to write, telling how to break children of bad habits, such as selfishness, lying, shyness and so on. I think the best method is never to let them be formed. Of course this is easier said than done, for I well know there is many a little careworn mother who hasn't a spark of vitality left to do it on. But right here let me advise you to make the training of these precious little darlings that God has entrusted to us our first duty. Teach them from their earliest infancy to have their piece of cake with mamma and to have their candy, apple or nuts with everyone and they will not be selfish. I have known a little girl who was raised under this rule to carry three small pieces of candy for two miles in the hot summer weather to divide with her two little sisters at home.

Now, as to shyness, I think it is caused by keeping the child too much in your own company, and could be remedied by taking the child into company oftener, or by bringing it in contact with other children every day.

For the child who tells falsehoods I think it a great mistake for parents to punish the child for it instead of gaining their confidence. I have in mind a little boy who tipped a bottle of ink on his mother's best table cloth. The mother came into the room and asked who did it. One little fellow came timidly forward and said: "I did, mamma, and I'm sorry." The mother did not punish him but took him in our arms and told him she loved him for trying to be a brave man like Daniel, who would dare to do the right. Now this is much better than having the child so frightened of punishment he will tell an untruth in hope of saving himself. My rule was to lead my children through love, gentleness and sympathy, and I have found it entirely satisfactory. I believe in being a companion to my children as much as possible. Lead them in all innocent pleasures and teach them to be lovable and sociable to all, that their childhood days may be a pleasure to look back upon.

MOTHER.

IMPROVING THE SHABBY SUIT

In these days when the price of every thing has gone up, it behoves us women to make our suits, stockings and everything woollen answer as long as possible, and of course we can do this without looking shabby. I had a coat and skirt which I considered past use. I might have bought a new one but decided to renovate the old one, and this is what I did. I ripped out the lining, washed it, as it was of a light color, in two warm soap waters, rinsed in clear water and when nearly dry ironed it on wrong side.

Then I patched any holes with pieces nearly the same from an old silk blouse. I ripped the hem, cut it off exactly where the edge had been, dampened and ironed the cut off piece, ironed the tailor's canvas that was used to line it, turned the hem up side down, I machined it on the main part of skirt again, dampened and pressed well the join, and then turned up again just high enough to join on the outside. Then I got a piece of rock ammonia, put it into a jug with a good pinch of borax, poured on a pint of boiling water and let cool. Then I rubbed coat and skirt all over with a flannel dipped in this, paying special attention to any spots and turning and rinsing the flannel as it became soiled. Then I afterwards rubbed the whole thing with a clean, dry duster, ironed well on the wrong side with a moderately hot flat iron, and lo and behold! I had a new suit. I forgot to say I added a belt, which seemed to improve the entire outfit.

As to stockings, in these days we need to be most careful to make them wear as long as possible. When I buy a new pair I take an old pair the same make and cut out a piece the same shape of the heel, turn the wrong side of the stockings and herringbone it

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of her mother to let her play with the other children, only to hear the same words from the mother, "They are too rude and unkind for my little girl to play with."

It did not take very long for the child to think it all over and one day she confided with a burst of penitent tears that she was more to blame than the others. Then the mother tenderly explained the evils of tattling and always making one's self out innocent while the others were always in the wrong. The penitent little sinner in her arms was tired of being the only "good" child in the neighborhood, and the little lesson brought forth good fruits.—HELEN RICHARDS.