

HOUSEHOLD.

Importance of the Kitchen.

(By Ellen J. Cannady.)

Many women spend a large part of their time in the kitchen, and for that reason it should be a pleasant room, furnished with all the modern conveniences for making work easier. There should be at least two windows placed in a position to furnish plenty of light, and so arranged that they may be lowered from the top. The latter is a very important consideration, for the heat rises from the stove to the ceiling, and many a nervous headache is caused by not having plenty of pure fresh air. The woodshed should adjoin the kitchen with a door between, so that wood can be obtained without going out of doors for it. This is also a convenient place for the wash boiler, tubs, wringer, washing machine and many other things that we do not wish to have in the kitchen. If possible, have water brought to the kitchen through pipes from the well. Of course, it will cost a few dollars, but the arrangement once made will last a lifetime and save much valuable time, to say nothing of tired muscles and aching back.

A small kitchen is preferable to a large one that is used for kitchen and dining-room combined, since it is easier to keep clean, and is so much more comfortable in the

summer. Paint the walls some pretty color, adding one quart of varnish to one gallon of common house paint, and giving it two coats. It can then be wiped off with a damp cloth whenever desired, and will be as clean as when first painted. Allow plenty of time for a hard-finished plastered wall to dry, and the result will be entirely satisfactory. Before painting, fill all the cracks or broken places with plaster of Paris, mixed with water. It sets quickly and is very cheap. If the floor is covered with oil cloth, the work of keeping it clean is greatly lessened, or if preferred, give it two or three coats of paint. You can obtain any color you like already mixed, and it is not a difficult task to apply it.

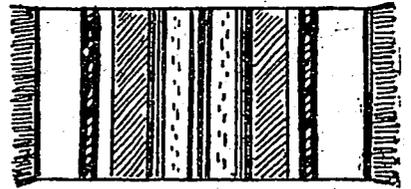
If you have no pantry, have a large cupboard put up at the end of the kitchen stove, and paint it inside as well as outside. The shelves in this may be used for sugar, coffee, starch, salt, canned or dried fruits and other provisions. The lower part may contain chests for flour, meal and graham. Have a long shelf put up along one side of the kitchen extending almost to the cupboard, place two rows of hooks above it, and at the end next to the cupboard, put up two or three shelves, which may be used for cook books, pie, cake and pudding pans and other articles used in bread and cake making. Hang the large spoons, soup ladles, etc., on the hooks. Have a kitchen table if there is room for it, and cover it with zinc or oilcloth. If there is no table, one end of the wide shelf may be

used for dish washing. A strong wooden stool just tall enough to sit upon while peeling potatoes, cleaning lamps, and many other things which can be done as well sitting as standing, is a great 'strength saver.' It may be pushed under the table out of the way when not in use.

There are many inexpensive articles which are a great help to housekeepers. Among them may be classed the double roasting pans, vegetable cutters, patent potato mashers, double boilers, improved pie and cake pans, wire dish cloth, balanced coal oil and gasoline cans, and trays or waiters to put dishes on when carrying them to and from the dining room. Granite and similar kinds of ware should take the place of the heavy iron kettles that are still found in some kitchens. Measuring cups, a glass lemon-squeezer, a wire egg beater, wire broiler, strainers and fruit press are a few of the minor articles that will be found helpful.—N. Y. 'Observer.'

Roman Stripe Rug.

A pretty rug in the fashionable Roman stripe is easily and quickly made of heavy woollen or cloth scraps. Cut into strips of varying widths and of a length to reach across the desired width of the rug. Arrange in contrasting colors and stitch to-



gether on the sewing machine. Dampen each seam and press with a hot iron until perfectly flat. Line with burlap and bind all round; finish the ends with fringe. Cat-stitching all the seams with heavy linen thread in bright colors adds to the appearance, but can be omitted.—'New England Homestead.'

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