

THE HOME

DUST AND FOOD.

What is the composition of dust? It has been described as a little of everything. In the paved streets of cities and towns earthy particles from the soil are always present. While street dust in the country is largely made up of the powdered earth of the road mixed with anely ground manure, in cities its lighter particles are composed of several kinds of dirt sufficiently disgusting to give us a hearty aversion to dust as an accidental accompaniment to any article of food, says an exchange.

The dust of rooms contains earthy particles, minute fragments of clothing fibre, bits of abraded skin, and pieces worn away from walls, floors and furniture; also mould spores, bacteria and street dust in greater or less quantity, according to the location.

The daily examination of the milk of a certain model dairy revealed suddenly a great increase in the bacterial count. The physician and the bacteriologist examined the premises and watched every process in a vain effort to determine the cause, until it was noticed that the milk pails were put to sun where the dust blew on them. This caused removed the bacterial count returned to normal.

These air and dust bacteria are not necessarily harmful, but where large numbers are present there are likely to be among them those which produce disease. A number of cases of illness are on record directly traceable to fruit, but it is difficult to determine whether in such cases infection has come through dust settling on the food or through direct contact of the fruit with infected human beings.

Bitter market inspection is needed, but protection of food from dust both in transit and when on sale, and a more rigid carrying out of existing laws, but, above all, a demand for clean food on the part of the buyer. Precautions should also be taken against dust after the food is delivered at the house. In modern dairying much stress is laid on the fact that sweeping the stable before milking fills the air with bacteria, which are likely to infect the newly drawn milk.

The same danger arises if food and dishes are left exposed in kitchen or pantry during sweeping. Tests have been made to determine how great this danger really is in ordinary household practice, and it has been found not only that moulds, yeasts and bacteria are much more abundant in the air during sweeping, but that those stirred up by the sweeping do not settle back again for several hours afterward.

Evidently, then, it is not sufficient to cover food and dishes during the actual sweeping; they should remain protected for some hours. Dusting with a very dry cloth or feather duster also scatters the micro-organisms into the air; for this reason a damp cloth, which will settle in kitchen, pantry and china closets in fact everywhere.

These considerations also show the great sanitary advantages of modern cleaning devices, of which a number of sorts are now on the market, by which the dirt is sucked through tubes into suitable receptacles.

Bits of damp newspaper or damp sawdust sprinkled on a floor will hinder dust from rising when the room is swept, but the wooden or linoleum covered floor of a well-kept kitchen and pantry should furnish little dust. Larger particles should be lightly brushed up and the floor washed every few days.

FASHION NOTES.

Juliette Lancret in La Coiffure, speaks a out the latest fashion in hair dressing. She says, "What is the predominating fashion at this moment?" That is something the best informed on this topic hesitate to answer. It is an incontestable fact that the Psyche knot is returning to fashion. The helmet form of hair dressing, so becoming and so much liked, still persists. The back of the hair forms the modern French twist, but the hair is drawn over the knot which, though effaced, is there just the same.

"A simple braided strand of hair, loops, or sometimes a knot formed by a flat '8' is often seen. These are good effects for the low coiffure. The vogue for them is a long way from being exhausted, for their elegant simplicity will preserve their prestige for a long time, with those who know how to dress their hair tastefully; but the Psyche knot remains first in style and we must admit its perfection.

"We are a long way today from the voluminous caps of hair which gave one a grand air, to be sure, but

overlanced the smaller faces. The front of the hair is now marked by a tendency toward a slight fluffiness. We have not yet arrived at the high and pointed coiffure that used to be so generally worn, but a growing tendency toward it is undeniable. It must be admitted that for evening wear it is preferable, for there is a richness of effect that adapts it to circumstances where elegance needs a certain alluriance.

"The present styles go perfectly with the smoothly parted hair, which few women consent to abandon, but the cats now show a trifle, and the hair is massed decidedly toward the top of the head.

HIIS OWN FAULT.

"I am not sorry for him one bit, it was all his own fault," sometimes you hear.

If there was ever a more foolish, unjust and irrational remark, I don't know what it is.

For a man who is suffering from his own fault has a double burden, he has the self-contempt for his wrong doing added to the painful consciousness of it, while the man who is suffering for the fault of some one else, at least has the comfort of a clean conscience.

The sorrow that comes from no error or wrong on our part we may bear with some nobility, but when it is joined the sense of our own blame our condition is pitiable.

If a woman has gone wrong by her own will, the more to be sympathized with is she, and to be helped.

If a man's own folly has brought him to a bitter pass, the more, he needs the rallying loyalty of his friends, for fear despair may add its poison to his grief, and self-loathing, complete the ruin begun by what was perhaps but a moment of weakness.

CONVERSATION DON'TS.

1. Don't tell long stories, or even short ones, unless you have an especial gift for it.

2. Remember that talking about yourself is an indulgence, and as such, should be strictly limited.

3. If another woman tells you of some sensation or experience of her own, don't immediately cap it with one of yours. "Swapping tastes" is of the lowest order of conversation. I have been in circles where the talk consisted in each woman's taking her turn in telling how she thought or felt about some commonplace subject, such as the digestibility of shellfish or liability to colds.

4. Never lose consciousness of the proportion of the talk you are usurping, and be sure that the quality matches the quantity.

5. Discriminate always between talk for your own pleasure and talk for your friends. People constantly tell the stupidest anecdotes because these have some extraneous charm impossible to transmit. Perhaps the occasion when it took place was important because some particular person was there, and every detail of it has taken on a radiance visible only to the narrator.

OAK ISLAND AGAIN.

Another attempt is to be made this year to secure Capt. Kidd's treasure at Oak Island. The St. John Standard says:

A. Williams, of Wisconsin, has entered into an agreement with J. W. Welling, of St. John, and F. H. Blair, of Amherst, holders of the lease of the famous Oak Island, by which Mr. Williams agrees to raise \$35,000 and undertake the job of solving the mystery of the money pit on Oak Island, where Capt. Kidd, or some other pirate, is supposed to have buried a large amount of treasure.

Various attempts have been made to get to the bottom of the money pit, but the influx of water from a subterranean shaft has always balked the efforts of the treasure seekers. Mr. Williams, who is a professor at a college in Wisconsin, has a novel scheme for solving the difficulty and one which he claims has been pronounced practical by engineering experts.

He proposes to bore five-inch holes to a depth of two hundred feet all around the money pit, and then by a special process to freeze the earth and water in and around the holes, making a solid circle right around the pit. Then he will proceed to excavate in the pit, confident that he will not be troubled by the inflow of water which has halted the other adventurers. He plans on beginning work this spring and calculating to finish the job in three months. Before starting work he has to satisfy the lessees that he has \$35,000 to devote to the undertaking.

PROVED HER COURAGE.

Suffragist Was Nettle by Taunts of Men and Endured Lion's Den.

Mademoiselle Delphine Janvier, a prominent young French suffragist, certainly has the courage of her convictions. Recently she founded a journal in a Russian city for the dissemination of her ideas along that line. She was ridiculed by men in the other newspaper offices, who kept pointing out the superiority of the male sex. Mademoiselle Janvier insisted that women could be as courageous as men. With taunting sneers her opponents replied that it required little to mend stockings or make puddings. They proclaimed that if she wished to prove her case she must accomplish some striking act of bravery. They were only joking, of course, but the sensitive French woman decided to take them at their word.

As though to help her out in this, a big menagerie entered the city at that time to remain for three days. Their principal attraction was a daring performance in the big cage with a lion and three lionesses. The plucky little French woman determined to spend an hour in the cage, believing nobody could doubt her courage afterward. But the lion tamer refused to have anything to do with her scheme, even though tempted by a large bribe. She finally persuaded one of the attendants to let her into the cage the next morning. There she awaited invitations to all her journalistic taunts to come and see her in the lions' cage at a quarter to 10.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, armed with a whip and a revolver, she entered the big cage, while the frightened attendant waited outside. She informed him, as the iron door closed behind her, that she expected visitors about 10 o'clock. The four formidable beasts were lying nonchalantly stretched on the floor. This seemed a little too tame for the young suffragist, so she began to crack her whip. The effect was immediate. The lion got up and glared fixedly at her; then, followed by the three lionesses, walked slowly round the cage. They stopped and faced her. Mademoiselle Janvier saw that this turning movement had seriously complicated matters. The lions now were all in front of the door and her escape was cut off. Seeing her alarm, the attitude of the beasts became more threatening. The attendant, now utterly scared, fled the scene, leaving her to her own devices. She lost his head and made no effort to save the situation.

Suddenly there entered the band of journalists who had been invited to see the fun. They instantly took to the situation and went off to fetch the photographer. Armed with pitchforks, half a dozen attendants tried to force the beasts into a corner, but it was not easy. Finally, the men headed the bars of iron and scared the animals away from the door. It was slow work, as the lions retreated inch by inch, and fully ten minutes more passed before the door was free. Then it was flung open and the plucky young suffragist quickly found herself outside. Mademoiselle Janvier fully proved her courage, but she came very near paying dearly for the privilege.

Lion's Head Symbolic.

The water in a great many public fountains, whether for man or beast, comes out of a lion's mouth. Did you stop to think why a lion's head should be chosen in preference to any other design? This is said to be the reason: Among the ancient Egyptians the rising of the waters of the River Nile was the most important event of the year, as it meant life and prosperity to the whole nation.

This rising of the waters always took place when the sun was in the constellation of Leo, or the lion, as they adopted the shape of a lion as the symbol for the life-giving waters of the Nile, and all their fountains were carved with a lion's head. The Greeks and Romans copied this symbol and so it has come down to us.

Lovely, Cut Unwashed.

In former times even highborn ladies and gentlemen seem not to have troubled even to wash their hands with any frequency. Even the fair and witty Margaret of Navarre on one occasion avowed her receipt of elementary cleanliness in the frankest way. "Look at my lovely hands of mine," said she to one of her courtiers. "They have not been washed for eight days, yet I'll wager they out-shine yours." In an old French manual of etiquette, "Loix de la Galanterie," published in 1690, the complete dandy is advised to "take trouble to wash his hands every day and his face almost as often."

Lung Capacity.

It has been shown by recorded tests made principally abroad that by the means of systematic exercise the capacity of the lungs may be increased to the extent of more than 12 per cent. This figure was the average increase noted in the gymnasium at Bonn. In some individual cases the beneficial results of the exercise were far greater, but the lung capacity of the average student on entering the institution was found to be 207 cubic inches, whereas after a course of training it was increased by twenty-five cubic inches.

Aged Legislators.

There are thirty-three members of the British House of Lords of eighty years and upward—six against six of the lower chamber. The Earl of Wemyss tops the list with ninety-four, and then follow Lord Strathcona at ninety-two, with Lord Nelson, Lord Halsbury, Lord Peel, Lord Scarsdale (whose son is Lord Curzon) down to Lord Roberts, who is eighty. The House of Commons has but one nonagenarian, and his name is Young.

Little Tasks of Life.

It is while you are patiently toiling at the little tasks of life that the meaning and shape of the great whole of life dawn upon you. It is while you are resisting little temptations that you are growing stronger.—Phillips Brooks.

Suffragettes Wreck House of Lloyd George

London, Feb. 19.—An explosion, believed to have been caused by militant suffragettes, partially wrecked early this morning the country residence in course of erection for Chancellor of the Exchequer David Lloyd-George at Walton Heath, near London.

A bomb had been placed in one of the rooms of the residence, which is a modest one, adjoining the golf links, on which Mr. Lloyd-George plays. The infernal machine was so powerful that neighbors who were attracted by the explosion found the thick walls of the house split in all directions and most of the rooms were wrecked.

Two seven pound tin cans of black powder also had been placed in two separate rooms among heaps of wood shavings which had been saturated with oil and in the centre of which burning candles had been fixed. The only clues obtained by the police are two broken hatpins, which were found among the wreckage.

It was declared by the neighbors that an automobile containing several people passed through a nearby village in the early hours.

Nobody was injured by the explosion, as the house had not yet been occupied.

An official of the Women's Social and Political Union declared that that Society had no knowledge of the perpetrators, adding: "Plenty of people beside ourselves have a grudge against the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

"General" Mrs. Flora Drummond, however, evidently believed the explosion was the work of women. She exclaimed enthusiastically: "I think it is grand. It was a fine act, successfully carried out and shows the determination of the women. I say 'all power' to all kinds of militancy in the direction of harassing cabinet ministers, short of taking a human life."

This is the second time within a year that violent methods have been used against the residence of a cabinet minister, the first being an attempt to burn the house of Lewis Harcourt, Secretary for the Colonies, at Nansham.

THE INCOMPETENT GEORGIE.

Little Georgie was six years old at New Year's, and the family was much interested in having him start school in February; but he insisted that he was not going.

One day his grandmother said to him: "Georgie, you are going to school with water this winter, aren't you?"

"No, grandma, I'm not going to school at all. I can't read, nor I can't write, nor I can't sing, and I'd like to know what good I'd be at school."

BRINGING IT HOME.

The late Governor Larrabee, the Grand Old Man of Iowa, was extremely fond of children. One day while looking over his mill at Turkey River, he found an urchin dirty and ragged sound asleep near the waterwheel. The boy was Mickey Burke, son of a poor family in the neighborhood.

The governor asked the boy why he was so dirty and ragged. The boy explained his mother had a large family and had to work hard and could get him no better clothes.

"But you can keep clean," exhorted Larrabee. "You could wash your face and hands if you wanted to. That costs nothing."

Mickey said he would try.

"Well," said the governor, "now is the time to begin." He procured a washbasin, some soap and a towel, and watched Mickey scrub himself until he shone. Then the governor got Mickey some clothes and dressed him neatly. Mickey looked fine.

"Now," said Larrabee, "we'll see about getting you a job."

He took Mickey to the store of an old German of whom the governor was very fond. Mr. Schneider had no place for Mickey.

"But you must have!" expostulated Larrabee. "Just look at him and see what a nice boy he is. He is clean and neat; he is a good talker and would make a good clerk. There is no finer boy, Mr. Schneider, than Mickey here."

Schneider was obdurate. He had no place.

The governor and Mickey walked out of the store, much disappointed. As they reached the sidewalk Mickey turned to his benefactor and asked: "Mr. Larrabee, if I am such a darned fine boy as you say, why don't you give me a job yourself?"

He got it, and made good.

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