



Troubles That Do Not Come.

Of the hard and weary loads
 Neath which we bend and fall,
 The troubles that do not come
 Are the heaviest ones of all.
 For grief that cuts like a knife
 There's oil of comfort and cure,
 And the Hand which binds the weight
 Brings strength and grace to endure.
 But to phantoms of pain and woe
 The lips of Pity are dumb,
 And there's never oil of wine
 For troubles that do not come.
 There's a song to lighten the toil,
 And a staff for climbing the height,
 But never an Alpine stock
 For the hills that are out of sight.
 There are bitter herbs enough
 In the brimming cup of to-day,
 Without the sprig of rue
 From to-morrow's unknown way.
 Then take the meal that is spread,
 And go with a song on thy way,
 And let not the morrow shade
 The sunshine and joy of to-day.

—For the Ladies' Journal.
Pretty Rugs.

Very handsome rugs are made by drawing narrow strips of soft woollen goods through burlap with a steel crochet hook and trimming off the loops evenly on the top. Cut the burlap one inch larger all around than you wish the rug to be; turn the raw edge over one inch and hem it. Then sew it in a frame, just as you would a quilt for quilting. If you think you cannot afford to buy stamped patterns, get plain burlap and sketch the design on it. Geometrical designs are pretty and are not hard to draw. Floral patterns may be stamped with some of the large perforated stamping patterns or copied from pictures. Light grounds are prettiest for flowers.

Soft woollen underwear is excellent for filling the designs. A very pretty rug has a landscape with a deer in the foreground. It was made of old woollen underwear dyed the colors required with diamond dye, and looks very natural. Ivy leaves on a black background make a pretty border for a rug. Cut the pattern out of pasteboard and mark them on the burlap with a pointed stick dipped in bluing. An old castle with a river and bridge in front would be pretty for the centre of the rug.

Small square or brick-shaped pieces of Brussels carpeting, bound with cloth or dress braid, and sewed together in the proper shape makes pretty rugs. A plain border may be put around it, and a heavy crocheted fringe sewed across the ends if you like.

To make a matting rug, cut a piece of closely woven matting any length

desired, and paint a spray of poppies, or other large flowers with green leaves in the centre. Edge it all around with rope, and finish the ends with tassels made of frayed rope.

Old cloth mats may be made of old Brussels carpet. Cut it the size you wish, tack it down loosely to an attic or other floor that is not used much, then paint it with brown house paint. The wrong side of the carpet should be uppermost. Let it dry in thoroughly, and add a good coat of varnish. Let it dry a week or two and it can be washed like other oilcloth. When the varnish and paint wear off renew them, and it will last four or five times as long as common oilcloth.

A soft rug to lay beside the bed may be made as follows:—For the foundation take a piece of burlap or old ingrain carpet the size you wish for the rug, and hem or bind it all around. Select some cast-off men's clothing of any color, cut the goods into strips three inches wide, and slash all along one edge two inches deep and one-fourth of an inch wide. Sew a strip of the darkest material all around the foundation, allowing the fringe to cover the hem. Proceed in this manner with all the other pieces, taking care to have each strip overlap the one before it at least an inch. The last strip, which will come in the middle, should be slashed on both edges, and made somewhat full.

Very pretty rugs are made from common burlap, worked in cross stitch with yarn. Select a smooth, firm piece of burlap and dye it black. Hem the edges and work a design in each corner and the centre in cross stitch, using bright colors. Place them in a rug frame to work them. Almost every housekeeper has odds and ends of colored wools that can be used, or one can usually buy remnants of yarn and zephyr for a trifle from the dry goods store. Line the rug with cloth.

E. J. C.

Washing Flannels.

So much has been said as to the proper method of washing flannels, that the subject may perhaps be considered slightly worn. There are, however, always inexperienced ones anxious to learn, and others who have failed in performing the task satisfactorily.

To begin with, disabuse your mind of the idea that there is any method of washing flannels which will prevent shrinkage altogether. Woollen goods must and will shrink, and the process is a purely mechanical one. It is neither helped nor hindered by the addition to the water of any chemical. If we call to mind the fact that woollen goods are pulled by being slightly wetted and pressed between two rollers, we have in a nutshell the whole principle of shrinkage. Properly washed, however, the shrinkage need be but trifling.

It is simply ruinous to wear flannels until much soiled. Such heroic measures are necessary to make them

clean, that they can by no possibility be made soft and attractive again. Before the winter is over such garments will be badly shrunken and discolored, and so harsh as to be almost, if not entirely, unwearable.

Some housekeepers advise washing flannels in very hot water, whilst others a firm that tepid water only should be used. The inexperienced laundress is frequently at a loss to decide between the two. Hot water, not too hot to keep the hands in comfortably, is quite safe, and better than either extreme.

Flannels should always be washed by themselves, and not hurried through with the usual weekly washing. One should have plenty of time to treat them properly, and a warm, bright day should be chosen.

In cold weather it is better not to wash them until just in time to have them on the line during the warm hours of mid-day.

These goods should never be boiled, neither should they be soaked, nor needlessly left lying in the water. They should not be put in suds which have been used for other clothes, nor in dirty water of any kind. Clean soft water is indispensable.

If the water is hard it must be softened before washing is attempted. A tablespoonful of borax or ammonia to each two gallons of water, will accomplish this purpose very satisfactorily.

The suds should be prepared by dissolving some good soap in the water.

Soap must never be rubbed directly upon the flannels. If a little more is necessary rub it upon the hands, and then upon the goods. Do not use the washboard but wash the flannels with the hands.

Some good housekeepers affirm that flannels must never be put through the wringer, but this idea is a mistaken one. If folded smoothly, and run through the wringer with light pressure, the result is infinitely better than twisting the clothes with the hands.

Immerse only one article in the suds at a time, rub it gently between the hands, and stir it thoroughly about in the water, until it is quite clean and free from stains. Then wring lightly, and pass it through the rinse water until free from suds. The rinse water must be as nearly the temperature of the suds as possible. When rinsed, wring out gently, shake vigorously, and hang up to dry immediately.

Finish each piece before beginning another. There should be no cooling between the waters, and the entire process for each piece should be as brief as possible.

If this method is faithfully followed, the flannels will be soft, smooth and clear.

When there are bright colors apt to fade, the following plan will preserve the tints admirably. Boil two tablespoonfuls of flour in one quart of water for ten minutes, add it to the warm suds, and wash as directed above. Rinse in three waters, all warm, and dry quickly.

For Home Decoration.

Many pretty and useful articles are now made for home decoration. Such things should serve some purpose besides being ornamental, and should never be too fine to use. Covers for small tables may be made of common denim, either blue or brown, turning the light side out. Stamp a large scroll design in each corner, and work it with heavy rope silk in any color that looks well with the material. Figured denim, made for decorative purposes, can be purchased in any color you wish, and needs no embroidery. Heavy linen, cretonne, and momeie

cloth are used also, and either of them can be washed without injury to color or fabric. Finish the edges with cotton fringe of the color that will suit the material best.

Centre-pieces and doilies for the dinner table are made of linen and

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yellow, green, lavender, pink or violet, and will furnish the touch of brightness that is needed. Choose the colors that will harmonize best with the dark pieces that you have. Many portieres are made with a wide stripe of some plain dark color at the bottom, and the remainder in hit or miss style. Or if the curtain is of dull colors, the border may be brighter, but avoid sharp contrasts, or anything that will give it a glaring effect. Any kind of silk material may be used. As the weavers' charges are moderate, the portieres are not expensive and they do not have a "homemade" look, but resemble rich Oriental fabrics.

Chemicals for the Household.

Ammonia is a cheap and harmless chemical that should be always kept in the house. A few drops may be added to the water and used for washing woodwork, paints and carpets, also for washing dishes and glass. It is excellent for cleaning children's hair, and is a disinfectant. Borax is another chemical that should be in every household. This softens the water, cleanses the teeth and sweetens the breath. Salicylic acid is a powerful disinfectant, and is perfectly harmless and cheap. Permanganate of potash is another excellent disinfectant. Dissolve two ounces in a gallon of water and place some in saucers in the sick room. It is also excellent for flushing sinks and drains.

Perfume for Linen.

Take one ounce each of cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and Tonquin beans, with four ounces of orris root. It should all be ground or crushed into powder, put into muslin bags and laid in the linen closet.

Ink on Furniture.

To remove ink spots from furniture wipe them with oxalic acid, let it stand for a few minutes, then rub well with a cloth wet with warm water.

Removing Old Putty.

Old putty on window frames may be removed by passing a red-hot poker slowly over it.