

## HOUSEHOLD.

## In the Bedroom.

(By Mary Louise Palmer.)

The bedroom is a good place to learn neatness if the lesson has not been acquired elsewhere. The bedroom is a good place to practice neatness. It is the place in which we pass at least one-third of the twenty-four hours; why not have it neat and tidy, positively clean, tasteful and inviting?

A child early taught habits of neatness about her room can early assume the care and perform most of the work. That is an advantage and help to her mother. When no care or toil is expected of the daughters of the house as regards their sleeping-room and personal belongings, one finds poorly equipped, ill-trained maidens. They are not, as a rule, desirable visitors when circumstances place them in other homes. Besides it is not mistaken kindness?

I call to mind a dear girl reared in a home where all duties of a trying, perplexing nature were delegated to others. She was not vigorous, and for that reason must be shielded; she was not obliged to work in the home, servants performed every duty, hence habits of industry were never formed. She lived to learn and declare that it was a mistaken kindness on the part of her parents. If she had been taught and expected to perform the work of her bedroom only, it would have been helpful in after years, for with the turn of Fortune's wheel she became acquainted with ways and means in quite a different manner.

Select wool or hair mattresses, and always in sections. Some of the best housekeepers I have known have a cover of unbleached muslin for the mattress. This protects it, and is a tidy custom. It can be washed, and is specially recommended for children's or invalid's beds. In the matter of feather beds opinions differ. By many good country families they are considered heirlooms. No daughter of a well-to-do farmer was expected to enter the matrimonial state forty years ago without one at least, and she has much the same opinion of her daughter or grand-daughter to-day. Nevertheless I believe feather beds have assumed a back seat and for cleanliness and general comfort mattresses take their place. Blankets in place of comfortables are to be preferred; they are lighter, easier cleaned and warmer for their weight.

On leaving the room in the morning clothes should be thrown from the bed, or better, the bed should be stripped and left to air. It is the work of a moment to do this, raise the window and the good work begins at once. I believe in sweeping and dusting often, and am inclined to think that this is too much neglected in some homes. Let use rather than ornament, comfort rather than discomfort be the rule, and do not forget, dear housekeeping friends, that cleanliness is next to godliness. — 'Zion's Herald.'

## 'You Said You Would.'

'I believe I'll never make the children another promise,' said a troubled, busy mother, 'at least,' she added, modifying her impetuous declaration, 'unless I am sure of being able to perform it.' She had been confronted—as what mother has not been at some time or other?—by a little, grieved, surprised urchin who on demanding the gingerbread promised for his lunch was told that it had been so crowded a morning that the gingerbread had not been made. 'I really meant to make it, Sammy,' she said apologetically. It was then that the great eyes as well as the voice of the little fellow said reproachfully, 'You said you would.'

A much older boy said in my hearing only the other day, while ruefully regarding his unmade gloves, 'You said you would.' These household promises, as they might be termed, should indeed be guardedly made. Many of us have heard a grown man or woman say, 'My mother never deceived me.' Some doubtless may be able to add, 'and she never broke a promise made me.'

Now there is a vast difference between deceiving a child and failing to keep a promise. The former is usually intentional, the latter is sometimes entirely unavoidable. So careful and conscientious are some mo-

thers and housekeepers, that in promising to do anything for a member of the family, they rarely fail to add, 'If nothing happens to prevent.' This is the wisest way, as no one can be absolutely sure of accomplishing certain things, no matter how good the will may be.

'Oh, you told a story!' exclaimed another blunt child on discovering that a promise made before school hours had not been kept. The mother attempted to show, and perhaps succeeded in showing the disappointed child that no falsehood lurked in the unfulfilled promise, albeit there was no proof of having been convinced in the little face, even after due explanation had been offered. He found it hard to distinguish between a wrong story, and the 'hindering circumstance,' so easily understood by older heads. A cautious proviso would keep many a mother straight with the unreasoning little folks, and it is well worth while to preserve one's credit with these exacting midgets, who are very apt in treasuring up one's exact words upon occasion. Mothers are often perfectly faithful in following up a promised penalty in case of disobedience, and it surely is a thousand pities to be any less faithful in following up a pleasanter promise.

Will not mothers, both younger and a little further along in years, take into serious consideration the real importance of keeping their word in the household, just as far as possible? And will it not be worth while to so word a promise that it cannot be really broken? There is a world of reproach that is not easily forgotten by the little folks in a disappointed cry of 'You said you would!'—'Christian Work.'

## The Children's Stockings.

(By Augusta Salisbury Prescott.)

Let us see which are the weak spots in a stocking: the heel, toe, ball of the foot, back of the leg, and knee. Do you not find them so? Now let us consider how these places, on which the rub and strain come, may be strengthened so that the whole stocking will wear out evenly; and when it becomes necessary to do any serious repairing, the entire stocking will be found giving away.

When the stockings are new (supposing that they are dark) run a piece of black silk braid on the inside of the leg, letting it extend over the back seam from the heel to the top. Overcast both edges of the braid firmly down, and the back seam will remain closed as long as there is a scrap of stocking left. For the heels cut out triangles of twilled jean and backstitch without turning in the edges to the under side of the back of the heel. Round the corners of the triangle slightly, and put on so that one of the points will run up the back seam of the leg. Hold the piece rather slack and quilt a few rows through the centre of it. When done and the stocking turned right side out there should not be the slightest wrinkle.

A little practice is necessary to do this just right, but, once having learned how, it is very quick and simple work, and a bundle of these twilled patches, ready cut for use, will form a part of the stock in the work basket. For tender feet the patches may be cut from the legs of old stockings.

Strengthen the feet by running the toes and soles of the feet for half of their length with darning cotton, row after row of small stitches drawn loosely.

Lastly, quilt the knees, and to do this successfully requires a great deal of care, for not a stitch must show through. Get darning cotton of exactly the color of the stockings and run long threads of it back and forth on the under side in such a way that only the inside loop of the stitch is taken up. Let the cotton lie very loosely or it will have a drawn look on the right side. Run the rows of stitches as close to each other as possible, then cross them in the same manner. If carefully done, the knees of the stockings will feel thick, but the right side will look precisely as when new.

The whole operation may take half an hour for each stocking, but it is seldom that it requires any further attention, and there is the added merit that hosiery treated in this way always looks like new, for no varicolored patches, or darning stitches are visible. This method is only possible for new stockings. Worn out ones may be partially redeemed by putting in new feet, the heel in one piece, and the sole of the foot in another. If the legs have no back seam, they

may be cut off at the foot and the top sewed to the ankle, or the leg may be turned completely round, so that what was the top of the knee will come under the knee joint.

Look for weak spots rather than holes, for stitches taken before there are actual holes save — not nine, but an indefinite number. — 'Housewife.'

## Some Home Hints.

The peel of potatoes, when dried in the oven, will light the fire quickly instead of wood, thus saving expense and being a far more healthy way of getting rid of the peel than by putting it in the dustbin.

An article that should be found in every kitchen is a vegetable brush. Lettuce, spinach, celery, and many other vegetables may be cleaned much more readily with one than with the hands.

To prevent a bruise from discoloring apply immediately hot water, or, if that is not at hand, moisten some dry starch with cold water and cover the bruised place.

Wormwood boiled in vinegar and applied as hot as can be borne on a sprain or bruise is an invaluable remedy. The affected member should afterwards be rolled in flannel to retain the heat.

Pastry is much lighter if mixed with a knife instead of the hand and rolled with a plain glass bottle instead of a rolling pin.

On spots produced by an acid, the color may be restored by touching them with spirit of harts horn; while, if produced by alkali, they may be removed with vinegar or tartaric acid.

Tea and berry stains may be removed by pouring clear, boiling water through the stains. — 'Hand and Heart.'

## Selected Recipes.

Scalloped Chicken with Rice.—The chicken should be boiled, and the rice cooked in the broth till tender. Mince whatever meat of the fowl you do not wish to serve in another way, season with salt, pepper, celery salt, a little nutmeg, bits of butter, and moisten with the broth. Line the baking-dish with the rice. Put the chicken in the middle, cover with a layer of rice, sprinkle cracker dust over all, dotting with butter. Bake till of a delicate brown in a moderate oven. One cupful of rice, before cooking, will be sufficient for a good-sized escalloped. If there is not sufficient stock to moisten the fowl, use a little cream.

## SMALL SAND CAKES.

Wash one pound of butter and stir it to a cream; gradually add half a pound of sugar, two eggs and one and one-half pound of flour. Roll out thin. Cut out into round cakes, wash over with the yolk of egg beaten with a little sugar, and strew with sugar, cinnamon and almonds.

## ESCALLOPED OYSTERS.

Into a well-buttered pan put a layer of oysters, cover with a layer of cracker crumbs, sprinkle plentifully with seasoning, such as salt, pepper, celery salt, cloves and mace; add layers of oysters and cracker crumbs, alternately, until all are used; add enough of the liquor and sweet cream to dampen the mixture. Put a few lumps of butter on top and bake forty minutes. If milk be used instead of cream, add butter to each layer of oysters. They may be prepared the day before being used, if kept in a cool place.

## NORTHERN MESSENGER.

One yearly subscription, 30c.

Three or more to different addresses, 25c each.

Ten or more to one address, 20c each.

When addressed to Montreal City, Great Britain and Postal Union countries, 52c postage must be added for each copy; United States and Canada free of postage. Special arrangements will be made for delivering packages of 10 or more in Montreal. Subscribers residing in the United States can remit by Post Office Money Order on Rouses Point, N.Y. or Express Money Order payable in Montreal.

Sample package supplied free on application.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,  
Publishers, Montreal.

THE 'NORTHERN MESSENGER' is printed and published every week at the 'Witness' Building, at the corner of Craig and St. Peter streets in the city of Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.

All business communications should be addressed, 'John Dougall & Son,' and all letters to the editor should be addressed Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.'