

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HOME UPHOLSTERY.

There are a great number of contrivances that may add appreciably to the comfort of our houses, and yet may be arranged at a small cost by those who can handle a hammer without endangering their finger-ends. Old boxes of all sizes may be converted into ornamental as well as useful receptacles, and, carefully upholstered, serve to fill window-recesses with advantage to the appearance of the room. With the assistance of what is called a "handy man" much may be done. This gifted person goes about the world with a ball of twine, a foot-rule, hammer, and a bundle of nails of various sizes and ages for his companions.

Let us suppose that there are three or four old trunks which are sufficiently unsightly in their present condition, having been knocked about by many a heavy-handed porter—perhaps by more than one generation of porters. They are to be converted into window-seats. The first thing to be done is to choose the material to cover them. Rep is serviceable—home upholstery had better venture on nothing more expensive. Chintz is pretty, but not so enduring as rep. The latter, probably, is chosen and purchased. The box must be emptied of its contents before operations are begun, and may be brought out into the middle of the floor. All obtrusive nails should be picked out. The sewing-machine will be found useful in running together the seams, but I do not advise that the braid shall be sewn on by machinery.

The braid or gimp should be chosen of a color or colors to harmonize not only with that of the rep, but with the general surroundings. Begin by measuring the depth of the box from the ledge on which the lid shuts down, to the floor. Measure off this depth on the rep, leaving about two inches for a hem. Cut off a sufficient number of breadths to leave a slight fulness all round the box. Too much fulness destroys the effect. It is also a mistake to leave this allowance too long. It should rest upon the floor, no more. Hem it up all round and sew on the braid. Having done this, measure on a piece of strong tape where the corners come and set in pins to mark the places. Gather or pleat the allowance into this tape, leaving the rep full at the corners. It may be less full at the back than in the front, if intended for a window-recess or any other position where the back will not be seen. Then nail the tape round the ledge of the box at the front and sides, and level with the ledge at the back. This done, the stuffing of the top must be considered. I cannot advise much stuffing, for amateur upholsterers will probably fail to induce it to keep in position, unless it be made into a regular cushion, and this may be done by stitching the inside cushion through at regular intervals with a packing-needle and strong thread. But I have found two layers of wadding answer every purpose, whereas the thicker stuffing, whether of "colored wool" or flock, gets pushed back by use, and the occupant of the home-made window-seat usually deserts it for a chair, where he is not obliged to choose between lounging back or slipping off.

A piece of coarse unbleached calico, cut about half-an-inch wider and longer than the top of the box, serves as a covering for the wadding, and ought to be lightly nailed down over the latter before the rep is put on above it. Fringe and brass-headed nails form the prettiest finish to these boxes, but sometimes the wood of the trunks is so hard that it is nearly impossible to hammer in the nails without making them double up. The Handy Man had better do this part of the work.

For a bedroom, chintz is the prettiest covering for one of these boxes, which are useful for keeping dresses in, and also make a comfortable seat where there is, perhaps, no room for a couch.

Recesses may be utilized for books or curiosities at a small expense if the Handy Man makes the shelf. These may be covered with green or crimson leather, velvet, rep, or even baize, and can be finished with fringe and ornamental nails. In the case of a short occupancy of rooms, objection may be made to the expense of fitting up shelves which, as fixtures, cannot be removed when the occupant leaves. This objection may be obviated by getting the Handy Man to make little wooden rests at each side of the recess, on which the shelves can be supported. In this case there is a further advantage, in that

they are so easily removed for the purpose of cleaning. A miniature portiere of chintz or some plain material worked in crewels may be hung before the shelves, if it be wished to protect the articles from dust, but without this the fringe and nails make a very complete finish.

Brackets may be finished off in the same way. The covering may be of any of the materials mentioned above. Lace over satin makes a pretty substitute for fringe and nails; so do Berlin wool work and braided or embroidered cloth of pretty colors, the outlines being finished with a pretty cord of some suitable shade. Brackets are useful for holding statuettes, vases, or other objects that would be in harm's way on the table. They are also valuable for holding candlesticks or lamps where there is not gas.

Upholstering the dressing-table and looking-glass is quite a piece of pleasant fancy work. Materials: pink glazed calico and white muslin (an old skirt does capitally, flounces and all) or some pretty cretonne with a light ground. Implements: a small hammer (is there such a thing as a ladylike hammer?—I read of one of these the other day) and some tin tacks. With the help of these, a common deal table may be converted into a very ornamental dressing-table.—*Englishwoman's Magazine.*

CHECKING PERSPIRATION.

The following advice may be found profitable by those who like to cool off suddenly when perspiring:

A Boston merchant, in "lending a hand" on board of one of his ships on a windy day, found himself at the end of an hour and a half pretty well exhausted and perspiring freely. He sat down to rest and, engaging in conversation, time passed faster than he was aware of. In attempting to rise, he found he was unable to do so without assistance. He was taken home and put to bed, where he remained two years; and for a long time afterward could only hobble about with the aid of a crutch.

Less exposures than this have in constitutions not so vigorous resulted in inflammation of the lungs—"pneumonia"—ending in death in less than a week, or causing tedious rheumatisms, to be a source of torture for a life-time.

Multitudes of lives would be saved every year, and an incalculable amount of human suffering would be prevented, if parents would begin to explain to their children, at the age of three or four years, the danger which attends cooling off too quickly after exercise, and the importance of not standing still after exercise, or work, or play, or of remaining exposed to the wind, or of sitting at an open window or door, or of pulling off any garment, even the hat or bonnet, while in heat.

HOW TRAINED.

Many years ago, a Friend living near Philadelphia, well-known as a humanitarian, started in a little village a debating club for the benefit of his poorer neighbors, in which literary and religious subjects were discussed.

To these meetings came a blacksmith, whose vigor of thought and speech attracted the attention of the good Quaker. He introduced him to Lucretia Mott and other influential Friends who helped him by their advice and friendship.

The blacksmith was Robert Collyer, who, whether we agree with him in religious doctrine or not, is to-day one of the most powerful and eloquent men in the American pulpit. Mr. Collyer lately, in an address to young men, gave the circumstances of his early life which he regarded as the foundations of his later success.

First, he was given, he says, good birth; in that his father was an honest, truth-telling, industrious mechanic; his mother, a woman of faculty with great executive ability, and a fine sense of poesy and humor. Both parents were free from taint of hereditary disease.

Secondly, he was given good breeding; he was brought up in a cottage whose walls and floors were so clean that when the village was ravaged with fever it alone escaped; it swarmed with children who were scrubbed clean, dressed coarsely and fed on oatmeal and milk. No lying, no shirking, no dishonesty, was the rule over that door. To this early physical training he attributes the fact that he never has been sick for a single day in fifty-seven years; while he accounts for his terse, vivid Saxon language, mastered absolutely without an education, by the fact

that his only books were Bunyan, Goldsmith, Crusoe, Shakespeare and the Bible. His mind was untainted and his ear unspoiled by the vapid, unclean wash of cheap modern literature.

Thirdly, he was led to forswear liquor forever.

Fourthly, he married a good, true woman for love.

Both boys and parents can gain from these facts hints of priceless value as to the training which is healthiest and wisest during childhood.

MILKING AND MILKING TIME.

Any one who has had to do with dairy farming knows that there are a great many poor milkers, against a few who understand and practise the proper method of removing the milk from a cow. It is a well-known fact that some persons can obtain more milk from a cow with greater ease and in quicker time than others. In the first place, there must be an air and spirit of gentleness about the milker, which the cow is quick to comprehend and appreciate. It is not to be expected that a cow, and especially a nervous one, will have that easy, quiet condition so necessary to insure an unrestrained flow of milk, when she is approached in a rough way, and has a person at her teats that she justly dislikes. There must be a kindness of treatment which begets a confidence before the cow will do her best at the pail. She should know that the milker comes not as a thief to rob her, but simply to relieve her of her burden, and to do it in the quickest, quietest and kindest way possible. The next point in proper milking is cleanliness; and it is of the greatest importance if first-class milk and butter are the ends to be gained in keeping cows. No substance is so easily tainted and spoiled as milk; it is particularly sensitive to bad odors or dirt of any kind, and unless the proper neatness is observed in the milking, the products of the dairy will be faulty and second-class. Those persons who can and will practise cleanliness while at the cow are the only ones who should do the milking. It matters not how much care is taken to be neat in all the operations of the dairy if the milk is made filthy at the start; no strainer will take out the bad flavor. Three all-essential points are to be strictly observed in milking—kindness, quickness and neatness. Aside from these three is the matter of the time of milking. It should be done at the same hour each and every day, Sundays not excepted. It is both cruel and unprofitable to keep the cows with their udders distended and aching an hour over their time. We will add another ness to the essentials already given, namely, promptness.—*Watchman.*

HOSPITALITY.—Hospitality, in this country, has come to signify merely the giving of a meal. It has taken its lowest and coarsest meaning for us. In France, the highest members of the *ancien regime* met in the stately old saloons, evening after evening, where *can-sucre* and little cakes were the only entertainment offered, but where De Stael, Chateaubriand and their friends served an intellectual banquet such as the world seldom has equalled. It is undoubtedly right to set before our guest as choice food as we can afford, but we should remember that feeding is not hospitality. It is to make him free of our best thought, to welcome him to our habits and life, to the sanctuary of our home to send him away with something better to remember than a well-cooked capon. As matters are now, the cost of providing a pretentious meal induces many families to shut their doors on all guests. They will not receive their friends if they cannot treat them to a display of rare dishes and curious pottery. We know houses, on the contrary, where the table is always simple and prettily set, and where a cover is invariably laid for the occasional stranger. When he comes, however humble the fare (and it has been reduced to bread, butter and milk), he is welcome, and no apologies are made. This is true hospitality. Parents should remember that much of the education of their children depends upon the guests whom they see at their father's table. They should not, therefore, shut out these guests from any vulgar notions of vanity and display.—*Youth's Companion.*

HAVING YOUR OWN POSSESSIONS.—Where there are several sisters in a household, they are sometimes a little careless in regard to their own personal property. Every young

lady should have her own exclusive brushes, combs, books, collars, cuffs and articles of convenience or luxury. She should not wear or use articles belonging to another, either with or without the ceremony of borrowing. In going away from home for a night or two, if the visit be to a very intimate friend, it may be allowable to borrow a night-dress, but the guest should invariably take her own brush and comb. While nobody should be disobliging, there are still rights which belong to the individual, and those are the happiest homes where these rights are conceded and protected by common consent.

DISINFECTANTS.—At this season of the year foul air and gas are forced back into the house, through the drainage pipes, oftener than at any other. Disinfectants are therefore very necessary. A pound of copperas dissolved in a gallon or two of warm water, and poured into a basin or sink, will cost very little, and yet abate some unpleasant odors. Other disinfectants, most of them good, may be obtained of almost any apothecary, and they are so cheap and so easily applied that no one need suffer by the principal indoor nuisance of the season.

PUZZLES.

CHARADE.

My first is mightier than the sword—
That's what the poets say:
And yet a little child may wield
And guide it on its way.

My second's found all o'er the earth
An animal, my dears.
My third upon the ocean rides,
Freighted with hopes and fears.

My whole is useful to mankind
Of every race and class.
Learn it while young my little friends;
No idle moments pass

NUMERICAL SYNCOPATIONS.

1. Take ten from a part of a waggon, and leave a drink.
2. Take fifty from an aromatic plant, and leave a retired nook.
3. Take five hundred from a tree, and leave a kind of cloth.
4. Take five from a number, and leave an exclamation.
5. Take one from a fold, and leave to weave.
6. Take four from livelihood, and leave a fish.

TWELVE HIDDEN BIBLICAL RIVERS.

Come in, I'm rimming caps, made up. H. rates them richer, I think, Ada—Havanese as you are—than you have seen. To earn one tab, Anabel and you, who like droning ever music, gave up harp, archary, and hid De Kelso, making, I honestly think, more trouble than Jack an' Ahban.

ANAGRAMS.

Ha! French Dike.
Rich Sparta.
A union guitar.
Even Latin.
Oh! a man in gums.
Send tripe.
A hot swing.
Nice B, must boil.
Yea, guns go.

DIAMOND.

1. In Constantinople
2. An animal.
3. An ancient poet.
4. Existing in name only.
5. An animal.
6. An animal.
7. In Constantinople.

CHARADE.

My first is modern.
My second is a weight.
My whole is a noted philosopher.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES OF APRIL 15.

- Word-Dwindle.—1. Steamer. 2. Master. 3. team. 5. Mat. 6. Ma. 7. M.
- Easy Hidden Furniture.—1. Table. 2. Sofa. 3. Chair. 4. Stool. 5. What-not. 6. Crib. 7. Cot. 8. Hat-rack. 9. desk.
- A Bouquet.—1. Jonquil. 2. Crown Imperial. 3. Snowdrop. 4. Violet. 5. Lilac. 6. Buttercup. 7. Primrose. 8. Narcissus. 9. Cowslip. 10. Elder.