

Learning to Sew

By Kathleen Abbott.

I wonder how many mothers remember the patchwork quilts pieced by them when they were girls. Each day a certain stint must be done, so many blocks overcame together. What an interesting task it seemed. I remember when as I grew a little older I saw my mother piecing one of the sewing machine and when I thought of the long hours of struggle with thread they would persist in knitting up in the hot, sticky little hands and then saw how easily and quickly it might have been done on the machine, a feeling of the injustice of it came over me. Couldn't I have learned to sew without all those tiresome, unnecessary stitches?

There is a better way I think and yet here is danger of the machine superseding the fine hand work of older days. By all means we will teach our little daughters to sew, but why not make the lesson of interest, not a tiresome task to be gotten through with as soon as possible. I wish my own little girl could do the same over and over stitch but instead of starting her on a seemingly endless task of piecing a large quilt we started with dollie's bed and a little mattress and pillows with the eager little eyes watching me every minute. Then I told Ruth that I hadn't time to do more for dollie than but if she would like I would show her how and she might make the rest. So together we looked through the piece bag and picked out the prettiest pieces of prints and gingham that we could find and these I cut into three-inch blocks.

Then came the lesson, just the same stitch we had to learn, but here there is a difference. It is for dollie's bed and the little girl is interested in every stitch. She can look ahead to the completion of the little quilt. It is not an endless task. Every day she sews a little. I am very careful at first to have her stop when she is tired of it because I want her to enjoy sewing as she grows older—until, happy day! the blocks are all done. Then I line it for her and together we tie the cotton into place. Then there are little sheets and pillow cases to be hemmed. Perhaps it will be well to make another little quilt that dollie may sleep warmer. At least that is what I say.

In reality I wish her to have more practice on the over-sewing. Then dollie must have more clothes to wear. At first I will cut and plan them but as she grows older she will learn to do that, and on the short seams of her dollie's clothing she learns the various stitches as she puts them together under her mother's directions. One day she will be allowed to help mamma hem the new dish towels or perhaps do a little simple sewing of her own little undergarments. So little by little she will learn the good old-

fashioned art of plain sewing. The sewing time is made as pleasant as possible and whenever possible she and mamma work together and that, working and playing together, will mean so much to both mother and daughter as the days go by.

Washing Made Easy

Blanche Brown

Two things are essential to the establishment of a laundry system; those are the failure of equipment of the laundry and abundance of supplies. To have everything at hand, and everything on hand, is a prime essential.

GET A GOOD MACHINE

The intelligent selection of a washing machine is important; any machine will wash clothes clean, but some are harder on the clothes than others. When you are ready to buy a machine, send to the different manufacturers for catalogues and full information; acquaint yourself with the good and bad points of each make, and take what appeals to you most.

The equipment of a laundry may be as elaborate or simple as the purse will admit, but the same essentials constitute the good equipment. These essentials are:

One washing-machine, 2 tubs, 1 wash-board, 1 wringer, 1 boiler, 2 pails, 1 dipper, 1 knife, 1 ironing-sheet, 1 kettle for starch, 1 granite wash-basin, 2 baskets, 1 soap-dish, 1 clothes-stick, plenty of clothes-line, 1 strainer, 1 wooden spoon, 1 gross clothes-pins, 1 skirt-board, 1 waist-board, 4 sad-irons, 1 iron-stand or asbestos mats, 2 holders, 1 whisk-broom for sprinkling, 1 clothes-horse.

In laundry supply: Soap, borax, washing soda, beeswax or paraffin, bluing, ammonia, starch.

To the equipment of the household supplied with a laundry bag if possible for personal belongings is much better than to use one large hamper. Have a mass of washable material so they can be kept clean. It is also a good plan to have for the table linen a large bag that can be hung in the laundry; being hung up keeps away the mice, who smell the food and spots on tablecloths, but are unable to reach them.

SORT OVER THE CLOTHES

Sort over the clothes, putting table linen and bedding in one pile; in another, things like corset covers, night-dresses and cambric underwear; in a third, white waists and handkerchiefs. Towels, washcloths and dusters must go in a pile by themselves. Colored clothes and stockings are better washed last.

The choice of soap is a matter of importance for the intelligent selection of a laundry soap will add to the wearing quality of your clothes.

Now prepare a boiler of soft water with one-half a bar of good yellow

soap dissolved in it. If you must use hard water, dissolve one tablespoonful of borax to each pail of water. This will soften it and serve as a bleach to the clothes.

PROCESS OF WASHING

If you have a washing-machine this warm water can be used for washing the clothes, having first wet them with cold water. Some people scald clothes, and I know of no more satisfactory way than putting them in cool water and bringing them to a scald; but do not boil them, for this makes them yellow, grinding the loosened dirt back in again. A few drops of indigo bluing give the clothes a good color. There should only be enough to tint the water.

Take table linen first (having removed all stains), and if there is a small wash, the bedding can go into this lot. Very soiled pants can be soaped thoroughly first. When the clothes are clean take out of the tub and rinse well in two waters before bluing. Bear in mind the bluing water should never be used for the purpose of rinsing; it is simply to restore the color.

Draw off some of the water in the machine and add fresh clean water and more soap; take the next lot of clothes, use the same methods as before, and with care you will have perfectly pure white clothes. Remember that air and sunlight all add to the bleaching.

Holes in Iron Dishes

To mend holes in any iron dish, put in a copper, iron or a lead rivet and head it down. Holes in the agate iron dish may be soldered by making the iron bright and holding a cloth on the other side to hold the solder. Large holes in iron kettles may be mended by pouring them full of melted lead or zinc, and then rivet

down. Gutta percha now comes in sheets of the thickness of tissue paper, for mending all kinds of cloth or thin leather, by placing it between the patch and cloth and cutting it out the size of the hole; then iron together with flat iron at good ironing heat. The cost of this at rubber stores is 25 to 30 cents per square yard. That which is much thicker is used to make rubber cement. This is cheap, and for common use scrape a both parts and shave the patch to this edge, then melt on the percha with a hot griddle handle, then press together with a hot iron. Leather is best to patch rubber boots or shoes.

Won a Cook Book

I am glad to have two new subscriptions to send you The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World for one year. I enclose the \$2 for same and would like to have you send me your new Cook Book as a premium. We like your paper very much and would not do without it now.—Mrs. M. W. Linton, Northumberland Co.

Where They Kept the Milk

Almost pathetic is the story of a small boy from the child who went out to the country to visit his grandparents and for the first time witnessed the milking of a cow.

He followed his grandfather to the cow stable and as the milk fell into the pail, he asked: "Is that the milk we drink?" His grandfather answered that it was, and then the boy remarked: "Home we keep the milk in a refrigerator. Do you keep yours in that thing?"

If your children object to patched stockings as the children seem too large to mend, sew a piece of net over the hole and darn across the net.



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