

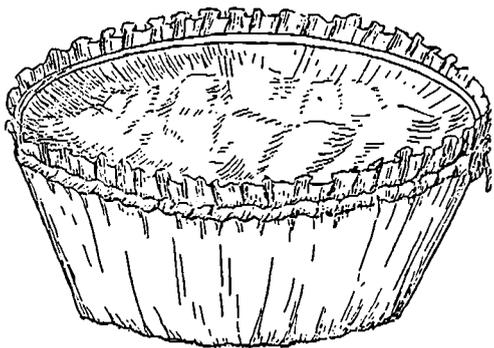


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Dish Cover.

We do not always have a silver dish to bake our bread-pudding, mashed potatoes, or macaroni in, and we are sometimes compelled to wrap a napkin around the unsightly one we use, before it is brought on the table. Below will be found a pretty design for a cover which will not only screen the dish, but keep the contents warm. It is made of white linen,



lined with red cashmere. For a dish four inches deep, and thirty-two in circumference, the strips should be forty inches long and nine inches wide. The two edges are sewed evenly together at the top, turned over, and a casing run in for a cord, which, when drawn, should form a ruffle around the top of the dish. The bottom is simply hemmed for a similar cord. Close the ends and draw the cords, to fit closely around the dish.

Fancy Bag.

THE materials for the pretty bag shown in our illustration are a strip of gold-colored China silk, nine inches wide by seven-eighths of a yard long; a brass ring, an inch and a half in diameter, and three-quarters of a yard of gold satin ribbon. The ticking is the old-fashioned narrow blue-and-white striped variety. Up each blue strip sew a row of



A PRETTY BAG.

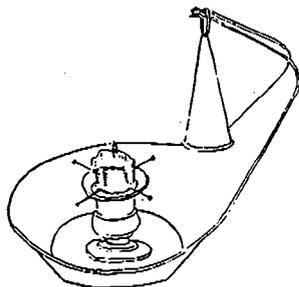
tinsel cord, alternating the silver, gold, and bronze. Each white strip is to be worked in either herring-bone or briar stitch, with colored silks—the more shades the better, so that they are assorted with an eye to harmony. Sew the two pieces together and turn so that the right side of each shall be out; turn in the edges of the open end, and blind-stitch. Turn one end up like a pocket, and button-hole-stitch the sides. The depth of the pocket is seven inches. Pass the other end through the ring for nine inches, and tack it so that it will stay in place; run the ribbon through the ring and tie a pretty bow. Take one corner of the end that hangs down, and plait and tack it up, as in the

illustration. This bag is susceptible of a variety of uses. Made with dark silk, it is a beautiful shopping-bag. It is a nice work-bag for ladies who go out to spend the afternoon. It is a pretty ornament for a parlor to conceal a piece of cheese-cloth, hemmed and embroidered, and called a duster—although, of course, you never dust anything but the choicest bits of bric-a-brac with it. Made a trifle shorter, it is a convenient ornament for the dressing-case, where it serves as a receptacle for a supply of gloves and handkerchiefs for constant use.

Candles.

PIECES of candles are often wasted because people do not understand how to use them to the best advantage.

When a candle has burned down to the edge of the candle-stick, take the candle out, and stick four

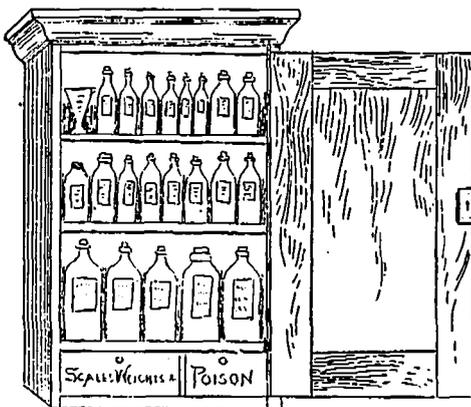


pins in the candle near the bottom, as in illustration; then place the candle on the candle-stick so that the pins will rest on and be supported by the candle-stick. In this way the small piece of candle can be burned entirely down, leaving no waste piece. There is more truth than one would believe in the old saying of "waste not, want not," and though it be only a wee piece of candle, the piece will give light, and is worthy of being saved.

Another way to use the short bits of candle is this! Let a drop of the hot oil or wax fall from the candle upon a saucer or small plate; press the bottom of the candle firmly upon this melted drop; it will adhere readily, and burn down to the end of the wick, without danger or trouble.

Medicine Cabinet.

A USEFUL possession in every household, especially on the farm, is a collection of simple medicines and prescriptions, with a regular place for their keeping. Scattered around on shelves, or in closets, they are often missing when wanted, or are upset



HOME-MADE MEDICINE-CASE.

and their contents wasted, even if they do not saturate everything in their vicinity. A small case or cabinet, such as is shown in the engraving, can be easily and cheaply made by any one who can saw a board and drive a nail. One fifteen inches wide, twenty-four inches high and six inches deep will hold a supply of bottles, etc., sufficient for any family. A drawer at the bottom

nine inches long, three inches deep and six inches wide will contain a small set of scales and weights (which can be had for a dollar), a palette-knife and other little tools and packages that may be needed. Another drawer five or six inches long, the same height and width as the first, should be provided with a lock and key and all small bottles or packages as morphine, arsenic, strychnine, et., should be placed in it, and one should be careful to return them after using any of their contents and see that the drawer is locked and the key safely cared for. Every bottle and package should be labeled, and the doses and manner of using the contents plainly written thereon in ink. A little gum tragacanth softened in water (it does not dissolve) will securely fasten labels to glass or tin. The inside of the door will be a good place to paste the formulas or composition of some of the most common remedies; also hints and directions for cases of emergency or "before the doctor comes." The door should be provided with a lock, and should be kept locked and the key placed out of the reach of children.

Hints to Housekeepers.

A GOOD rule is to use pastry flour whenever baking-powder is used, and bread flour with yeast.

Never put potatoes on the table in a covered dish. They will reabsorb their own moisture and become sodden.

For stomach worms in a child, mix one teaspoonful of powdered sage in two tablespoonfuls of molasses, and give a teaspoonful every morning.

Lamp chimneys may be cleaned by holding them over the steam from a teakettle, and then rubbing them with a soft cloth. Polish with newspaper.

To take the rust out of steel, rub the steel with sweet oil; in a day or two rub with finely powdered unslaked lime until the rust all disappears, then oil again, roll in woolen and put in a dry place, especially if it be table cutlery.

Scrubbing brushes should be kept with the bristles down and they will last twice as long: common sense will tell you if you stand them the other way the water will run down and soak into the back, loosening the bristles, whether they be glued or wired.

Before any garment is wetted in the wash, it should be thoroughly examined to see if there are any spots or stains which need special treatment. All stains made by acids should be treated with some alkaline preparation, while almost all fruit stains will readily yield to boiling water which should be poured through them to prevent the stain spreading, as it might if they were dipped into the water.

In washing woollens, the water should be of warm temperature without being absolutely hot, and plenty of ammonia ought to be added to each tub. Very little, if any, soap is ever needful if the woollens are thoroughly squeezed in water thus prepared; nor will the woollen full, as it does if soap is rubbed on each article, and then the piece rubbed on a board. If soap is used at all in cleaning woollens, it is best dissolved and put into the water with the ammonia before the articles are put in. Woollens should not be boiled, nor is it essential that they should be scalded. They are best cleansed by putting them through repeated waters.

A sickroom screen should be made very light, so it can be moved easily. A clothes-horse will answer for the frame. Buy a couple of tubes of darkest green, thin with linseed oil and a little turpentine, and with a flat bristle-brush paint the light wood frame. Dark green silesia, tacked on one side firmly to the wooden frame, will shut out light. On the other side you can pin up one picture at a time. If there is color in that one picture, so much the better. The nearer you make your sickroom screen like the screen an artist uses in his studio, the better for the recovery of the sick child. The use of this screen is to rest and protect the eyes. The use of the picture is to amuse the sick child.