

THE HOUSEHOLD.

USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

Work-baskets that are able to stand on their own feet are a delightful addition to the summer piazza, they can be so readily removed from piazza to hall or vestibule, and as the piazza calls out the fancy embroideries and fascinating wool crocheting and knitting, their receptacle must be worthy of the contents, and always accessible. The small work-basket that is an ornament to the parlor table is a nuisance on the piazza, where it must be deposited on a chair that will probably be needed for a guest, or on the floor, where it becomes a foot-ball for passers-by. The following suggestion from a practical journal will be found to produce more than merely pretty results, because of their utility:—

"I will now describe a stand work-basket, which, with a little ingenuity, can be made at home, and forms a pretty trifle in a drawing-room or boudoir. The materials required are four tolerably slender walking-sticks, as much alike as possible, and all the same length. The basket part is composed of an ordinary cardboard bonnet-box, such as milliners use to pack their goods in; an oblong or square shaped one is the most easy to adapt. It must be covered outside entirely with plush, and lined inside with quilted satin. The knobs or handles of the sticks are to be used as the feet of the stand, so must be chosen as flat as possible with a view to this. Cut a groove at the end of each stick just below the ferrule. Attach a stick to each corner of the covered box, with a stout needle and very strong thread, allowing each stitch to rest in the groove cut in the stick. Cut a second groove in the sticks, just about where the middle of the box will come, and sew them together, just as the top fastenings were managed. Secure the box and the sticks once more together near the bottom of the box. Finish off with ball fringe round the top and bottom of the work receptacle, and twist ribbons of appropriate colors down the corners, finishing with a stylish bow and long ends. Be rather careful that the bows are not exactly alike at each corner. A little cover of the quilted satin, edged with ball fringe, is an improvement. Stands of this kind look pretty if the legs are composed of three sticks instead of four. The three sticks are crossed below the trimmed box and tied up with ribbons. The work receptacle can also be made with a round base and deep sides, so that it resembles in shape the ornamental drain pipes that were lately so popular for painting upon. Crimson and amber are the favorite colors to use for the long bows and ends of ribbons that ornament knick-knacks.—*Christian Union.*

HOME NOTES.

BY KATHARINE ARMSTRONG.

The home, the "living-place," needs and shows, more than any other, the advantages and benefits of "Heaven's first law." How great the contrast between a well-ordered, well-kept home and one where good management is "notable for its absence"; where all the arrangements seem to be "at sixes and sevens," no stated time for any part of the work, no regular, certain hour for meals, but everything apparently left to blind chance!

If one needs a help, or reminder, let a written memorandum be made of the best order for the requirements of each day. As a reference, it will be found of great assistance in carrying out regular plans of work.

We confess to some ignorance of the best domestic management in the country, but in the city all skillful house-keepers observe certain days for certain departments of the work, and all goes on "as regularly as clock-work." Monday is the "regulation day" for washing, Tuesday for ironing, Wednesday for the cleaning of windows, mirrors, glass shades and the like, Thursday for cleaning the silver-ware, Friday for general and thorough sweeping, and Saturday for the weekly kitchen regulation—re-papering the dresser and pantry shelves, brightening up the dull tin-ware, and, with strong soda-water, making the floor a spotless white.

With the necessary work thus equalized and ordered, a servant knows what to do and when to do it, and, if of fair intelligence, soon falls into the traces, and finds them comparatively easy, no one day harder than another.

The weekly work well done, the regular routine carried out, and that great domestic bugbear, house-cleaning, will lose half its terrors, for much less of it will be necessary, and that can be done easily. The carpets must be raised if they need it; but disturb only one room at a time. Have the carpet up and cleaned, and down again before night, and that one room in order, at all events. Don't make paterfamilias and everybody else homesick by stirring up the entire house at once, when it cannot be settled, or a comfortable place made for any of the family to sit, for ten days at least. "Easier said than done," you say. Not so; for if you are able to have your house cleaned at all, determine to do it slowly, systematically and well, and you will gain by it; you will save yourself much weariness and worry, for common sense suggests that house-cleaning is a department of labor that cannot be "rushed" to advantage.

While the carpet is up have the paint all cleaned with ammonia, or borax, in warm water; the walls, or wall-paper, wiped down with a soft cloth tied over a broom, all the pictures taken down, well dusted, and rehung, and the floor washed with strong soda water. Insect powder around the edges of the carpets will keep moths away; but these little pests seldom trouble a carpet that is well swept once a week. Nothing brightens and cleans a carpet as effectually and satisfactorily as wet corn meal (coarse), not too wet, but sprinkled liberally on, and then swept up. It makes no dust in using, and will become very dark from the fine dirt and dust from the carpet.

Take up the dirt in the middle of each room. Do not allow the bad habit of sweeping all rooms out into the hall, for it ruins it; it is bad management.—*N. Y. Independent.*

SPOILED CHILDREN.

One of the most annoying ways that troublesome children have is of crying at every turn. The spoiled child begins first thing in the morning by crying when he is washed; next he cries because he wants bacon for breakfast instead of bread-and-milk; he is not allowed to stand in the draught to look out of the window, and he cries; he gets at something he ought not to have, and when it is taken away he cries; he cries when dressed to go out for a walk because he wanted to play with his toys; he cries when it is time to return home because he wanted to stay out longer; and so on interminably. Little people are generally taught this habit at an early age, when those in charge of them say, "We must not take that away from him or he'll cry." "If he can't have, or do, such and such, there'll be a scream." The child hears, and finding that a cry or scream is expected of him whenever his little wishes or whims are crossed, he takes care that his friends shall not be disappointed. Another method of training the young into the way of crying at every trifle is by administering excessive condolence for slight troubles. Though far from agreeing with a parent I once knew, who regarded the shedding of a few involuntary tears over a real hurt or grievance, in the light of a punishable offence, I do think that too much is often made of small things, and a spirit of grumbling fostered. "Poor little fellow! The horrid rain has come on, and he can't go out; what a shame!" the foolish nurse will sometimes say; or "poor darling, she has hurt her dear little finger against the nasty door!"

Also, great pains being taken to ameliorate a disappointment in the refusal of a wished-for indulgence, tends to induce the child to exaggerate his affliction in the hope of obtaining greater compensation. So tenacious, moreover, is this habit of crying, that I am personally acquainted with a young lady nearly fifteen years of age who weeps, nay, howls, dolorously whenever her mother goes out without her, or she is desired to perform any task which she dislikes. Another reason why spoiled children make a scene when required to do or submit to anything to which they object, is that they know by experience that if they scream and struggle enough it is just possible they may obtain their own way.

Troublesome children, furthermore, are often mischievous and meddlesome—characteristics which their friends find very trying. "They can't," to adopt an oft-used phrase, "let a single thing alone." Books, pictures, boxes, bottles, all small and attrac-

tive articles which are left about suffer from their ill-usage; everything that goes into the house where they reign paramount is in a short time soiled or broken. Friends who would like to give presents to the older members of the family are discouraged and deterred by the certainty that the children will "get at" them; and the amount of wanton damage inflicted upon pretty, and sometimes valuable knick-knacks, is pitiable to contemplate. The parents are vexed, but instead of striking at the root of the evil by training their little ones to be able to see things without touching them, they encourage this annoying habit of meddling, and bring upon themselves endless trouble by putting all spoils articles further and further out of the children's reach, upon upper shelves, within inaccessible drawers, etc., etc. Then the juveniles themselves, being, as it were, put upon their mettle, and finding that difficulty only adds zest to pursuit, tax their ingenuity to overcome these superimposed obstacles, and possess themselves of the coveted treasures, now rendered doubly desirable by the pains which have been taken to remove them out of their meddlesome reach.—*Jennie Chappell, in Child Culture.*

GAVE HERSELF.

About forty years ago two sisters married at the same time. The elder, whom we shall call Anna, became the wife of a man of wealth, and, when she married, she adopted a calm resolution to use the opportunities that wealth gave to do good in the world.

She died a year or two ago. She had been a prominent member of the church and of society. She was liberal with her gifts to all charities; "to give," she was accustomed to say, "sweetened the moral nature." Nor was she ostentatious in her giving, for she remembered the injunction—"Be not as the hypocrites are." Only she never gave to the extent of making a serious sacrifice.

She was a constant church-goer. She read at a certain time each day a chapter of the Bible, and never failed to conduct family worship. On Sunday afternoons she took apart each of her children in turn, read, and prayed with them. The prayer was very much the same each Sunday; and it never brought a tear to her eyes or to theirs. "To be perfect in every good word and work" was, she frequently stated, her object in life.

She was a woman of great beauty and sound health, and was extremely careful to preserve both of these good gifts. She walked, worked, ate, and slept by rule. She would not allow her children to wear bright colors, lest they might affect her eyes. For the same reason she never permitted herself to weep. Indeed, she avoided the sight of pain or suffering, as grief she said disturbed the digestive organs. She fulfilled all of her duties in the letter, but not one of them in the spirit.

When she died, it was found that she had made every arrangement for a handsome coffin and monument. The only comment made upon her was, "She was a remarkably well preserved woman," and she was then dismissed and forgotten, even by her children.

Her sister Jane was of a different temperament. She was a plain, awkward woman, who had so little cause to be pleased with her person, that very early in life she forgot it altogether. She married a poor farmer, was the mother of a large family of boys, and adopted, besides, two orphans, children of friends still poorer than her husband.

She worked early and late, sewing, cleaning, nursing. Now it was her husband for whom she toiled, now the children, now a neighbor, now some poor creature whom nobody else cared to help.

She had her flashes of temper, she made mistakes; she was full of faults; but she brought them with bitter tears to her Master, and struggled on.

While her sister was youthful and placid and smiling, she was wrinkled and old, her hands hard with labor. Something of herself—of her thought, her high hopes, her warm love, her strength,—she gave to all who came near her.

It was no wonder that she showed how heavy the drain had been upon her; but husband and children and friends loved her tenderly in spite of her faults. The hard, rough hands that had worked so faithfully in their service were the fairest on earth to them. More than all, she led her children,

one after another, to the Saviour who was so real and near to her.

When, at last, she lay down, silent and still, waiting until God should summon her to work elsewhere, there was not a man or woman who had known her who did not feel that a friend and helper had gone out of the world.—*Youth's Companion.*

USEFUL HINTS.

A good remedy for burns, and one that is generally at hand, is a paste made of flour and cold water.

Ordinary carriage varnish is a good cement for broken china, and if the pieces are joined neatly, the fracture will hardly be perceptible.

Women while sewing should never cut the thread with their teeth, as by so doing they injure the enamel, and in a little while the teeth decay.

It is claimed that holding a shovelful of hot coals over varnished furniture will take out spots and stains. Rub the place while warm with flannel.

Brick made of a mixture of coke, sand and lime, for light partition walls, excludes sound better than brick-work, and is light and a non-conductor of heat.

If your fence is too old for paint to stick on it, a solution of water, glue and lime will form a syndicate that will make it as white as the new fallen snow.

To clean tins, making them almost as nice as new, wash in hot soap suds, dip a dampened cloth in fine sifted coal ashes, scour well, then polish with dry ashes.

To remove paint and putty from window-glass put sufficient saleratus into hot water to make a strong solution, and with this saturate the paint or putty which adheres to the glass. Let it remain until nearly dry, then rub off with a woollen cloth.

Never be alarmed if a living insect enters the ear. Pouring warm water into the canal will drown it, when it will generally come to the surface and can be easily removed by the fingers.

To mend china: Into a solution of gum arabic stir plaster of paris until the mixture assumes the consistency of cream. Apply with the brush to the broken edges of china and join together. In three days the article cannot be broken in the same place. The whiteness of the cement adds to its value.

A mixture to erase grease spots: Equal parts of strong ammonia water, ether and alcohol form a valuable cleaning compound. Pass a piece of blotting paper under the grease spot, moisten a sponge first with water, to render it "greedy," then with the mixture, and rub with it the spot. In a moment it will be dissolved, saponified and absorbed by the sponge and blotter.

PUZZLES.

CHARADES.

In the New Bedford Standard recently appeared the following clever charade from an accomplished educator in North Carolina:—

"My first we desire when caught in the rain; When caught in a church we deplore it; In book or companion we of it complain, The fields and the fishes abhor it.

My second is where the wild beasts repair, There saints, too, have lived and have died; There live the fierce wolf and the timorous hare, And the snake with the calico hide.

My whole is an author whose fame is wide-spread, Though some of his works bring him shame; About two hundred years he now has been dead, I leave you to spell out his name. "W. H."

CROSSWORD.

My first is in black, but not in red; My second is in couch, but not in bed; My third is in Latin, but not in Greek; My fourth is in slender and also in sleek; My fifth is in tavern, but not in inn; My sixth is in racket, but not in din; My seventh is in satin, but not in silk; My eighth is in tea, but not in milk; My ninth is in girl, but not in boy; My tenth is in gladness, but not in joy; My eleventh is in oval, but not in square; My twelfth is in polar, but not in bear; My thirteenth is in salmon and also in eel; My fourteenth is in sea and also in feel; My whole, by looking, you'll find to be A capital city beyond the sea.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

1. Tiger.
2. Seem, seam. Veil, vale. See, sea.
3. Father.