

## HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

The muskmelon usually has nine ridges, which are separated by narrow strips of smooth skin, and if these strips are green, the melon is a good one to leave alone.

It is convenient to have an iron holder attached by a long string to the band of the apron when cooking; it saves burnt fingers or scorched aprons, and is always at hand.

There is no better diet for children than milk, not cream, which is apt to be a little too rich for the stomach. As a soporific nothing equals a glass of milk taken just before retiring.

To make waterproof writing ink, an ink which will not blur if the writing is exposed to rain: Dissolve two ounces shellac in one pint alcohol (ninety-five per cent.), filter through chalk, and mix with best lampblack.

An original use of glass has been devised. Various colored pieces in odd sizes are pierced by three or four holes on the edge, and caught together by wire until they form a mesh of fret work large enough for a panel in a transom.

Grease may be removed from white marble by applying a mixture of two parts washing soda, one part ground pumice-stone and one part chalk, all first finely powdered and made into a paste with water; rub well over the marble, and finally wash off with soap and water.

A hint for a pin cushion that is a sachet as well may be new to some. It is made square, with each corner of the inner covering cut off about three inches from the point. The outer covering is left square, the corners tightly tied, and each made into a tiny sachet. The powder selected for the filling must be that preferred by the owner.

Avoid a bare corner in your room. A table with a few selected pieces of bric-a-brac upon it will look well here. In a sitting-room, in what was once a dull corner, stands one of the pretty cabinets, now so often seen, hung with dainty curtains of plush, lined with satin. The shelves are lined with books, bits of bric-a-brac, etc., the whole making a most attractive feature of the room.

An English genius has invented a tray containing a night-lamp and a small sauce cup for holding infant's food. This mechanical arrangement can be attached to the bed-post, and is invaluable in a home where there is an invalid or a baby and a few or no servants. The night-lamp emits sufficient heat to keep the child's food warm. When not required for service the tray is a convenient place for a book.

## POINTS BY A PLUMBER.

"If you want a point or two about cleaning waste pipes without sending for a plumber," said a retired member of the fraternity to a New York *Telegram* reporter, who was complaining of the trials of house ownership, "just listen to me. If I were still in the business I would not give away what I am going to tell you now, but as I am out of it I do not see why I may not help a friend. One of the most frequent and trying annoyances," he continued, "is the obstruction to the free, quick outlet of the waste water of the wash-basin, the bath-tub and kitchen sink. This is caused by a gradual accumulation of small bits of refuse material, paper, rags, meat, bones or grease, which check and finally entirely stop the outflow of the waste, and then the plumber is called to remove the stoppage with his force pump. Sometimes this is accomplished, but often the pipe has to be cut, and there is a great inconvenience and expense. Just before retiring at night pour into the clogged pipe enough liquid soda lye to fill the 'trap,' as it is called, or the bent part of the pipe just below the outlet. Be sure that no water runs into it until

the next morning. During the night the lye will convert all the offal into soft soap, and the first current of water in the morning will wash it all away and leave the pipe as clean as new. See? This is practical chemistry, yet few chemists would ever think of it.

## WASHING BLACK HOSIERY.

Just now, when fast black hosiery is up on the very crest of a tidal wave of popularity, the following, from the *British Ware-houseman*, will be of interest: "Great improvements have been made in the dyeing of black stockings by the use of the new imperial fast dye, for which it is claimed that the color will improve rather than not by washing, and drapers would do well to give a hint to their customers how dyed cotton stockings ought to be treated. No washing powders or washing liquors of any sort should be made use of, and they should be washed in soft water, soft lather first, and instead of wringing them out hard, which is the common process, and by which at all events, certain portions of the dye must be expected to be removed, they should be rolled in a dry cloth and have the moisture well pressed out, and then dried quickly afterward. Nothing could be more melancholy-looking than the rusty, white-black stockings of years gone by, after they had been a short time in use, and the blue black color of the new dyes gives them an excellent appearance.

FOLLOWING are directions for a very useful article that we think should be in every household but have never seen one mentioned. Procure a deep cheese-box, line it inside with dark cambric or calico, put pockets all round the inside about two inches from the top and let them extend to very nearly the bottom. In these pockets put a nice sponge, a spool of white silk, coarse white cotton, needles and pins, fingers cut from kid gloves, rolls of bandages, all sizes, court-plaster, mustard for plasters, a bottle of chloroform, sweet oil for burns, saleratus, a jar of vaseline, a bottle of arnica and one of good liniment; if you understand using remedies, have a few of the most important common medicines. Have some uncleaned sheep's wool to use for smoking painful wounds. In fact, put in everything that could be needed in any case of sudden illness or accident, when everyone will naturally be excited and not quite know where to look for anything. In the body of the box put old linen, flannel, and old cotton cloths, so useful in sickness, not forgetting some very thin pieces to spread over plasters. Cover the top of your box with a cushion and tack a little frill around the edge. Cover the box with the same material put on in box pleats. You then have a very pretty foot-stool and one that is useful as well as ornamental. The covering may be of any material suitable for the room in which it is to be placed. One prepared in the same way and filled with the family hose, with the darning material in the pockets is very useful.

LAUNDRY bags are convenient household articles. Ticking, feather-stitched awning cloth or a washable cretonne, each a yard long, which are slit near the top, bound with braid around the slit, and laid together with a piece of the same size of stout lining in Turkey red twill or any other suitable material laid between them. The edges of these three layers are bound together with braid, and the bag is shirred at the top over a flat, smooth stick or lath about half a yard long and an inch wide. When hung up this makes two bags, one on each side of the lining.