

sult if hundreds or even thousands "agree" in this petition.

"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons, thanks may be given by many on our behalf.—2 Cor. I.: 11. HOPE.

About the House.

SMALL ECONOMIES.

(Continued.)

Paper II.

Before passing on to to-day's subject, may I add an observation which I forgot last day, viz., that it "pays" to adopt one prevailing color in dress; the most becoming one, of course. By so doing you are almost sure to be invariably dressed in harmony; your ribbons, gloves, etc., all match, and may be worn with anything you possess in the sweet serenity that no one section of you is at drawn daggers with any other. To illustrate: Suppose you have a blue dress, also a red one—you must have hat, gloves, ribbons, etc., to match each. You can't wear blue gloves with a red dress, or vice versa, nor ribbons, nor hats; but if you choose all blue as your color, have, say, a navy cloth suit for general wear, a navy voile, panama, etc., for more dressy occasions (we are speaking now of fall and winter wear, for in summer white takes things in its own hands), you can make one pair of gloves, one hat, one belt, etc., do for both. Sometimes, of course, one gets tired, after two or three years' wear, of the one color; then it is wise to make the transition by as easy gradations as possible; that is, choose first some intermediate color that will not clash with the things already on hand, and which may yet lead up to some other which one may wish to adopt. For instance, if you are wearing blue you may switch off upon cadet gray, or green—green and blue are quite commonly worn together (in harmonizing shades, of course) nowadays—and by and by, when the blue things have been worn out, you will have the all-green which your heart desired.

And now to our topic for to-day.

CLEANING.

To begin with, it should be unnecessary to dwell long upon the advisability of very frequent brushing. No garment can be expected to look its best unless absolutely free from dust; and yet how many people there are who are contented to go out with a bit of a brush off at the last minute. How many more there are, too, who never seem to think that it is distinctly untidy, not to mention unsanitary, to hang dust-laden garments away, time after time, in closets or bedrooms, without so much as giving them a shake. Remember that to keep any article of wearing apparel, especially coats, skirts and undershirts, in good condition, it is absolutely necessary to shake and brush them, out of doors, after each wearing. If there is a balcony convenient to the bedroom this work is simplified; if not, it is always possible, in the country, to shake things out of a window, where the dust will be carried away so that it cannot settle on things in the house. Just here, children—and "the men" also, if necessary—should be taught to do this work for themselves. It is an injustice to leave it all for the mother.

But there are harder problems to deal with. Spots are sure to appear, sooner or later, and a dirt-spotted costume, no matter how carefully brushed otherwise, is never an attractive one. . . . If the material is white the treatment will depend somewhat on the stain. The following methods have been tabulated for convenience:

Grass Stains.—Remove by washing the spot in alcohol.

Grease Spots.—Cover with magnesia or French chalk, and let stand over night, then brush out. This method is also good for colored cottons and light silks.

Scorch Stains.—Wet the place, rub with soap or salt and lemon juice, and expose in bright sunshine several hours.

Iron Rust.—Soak with lemon juice and salt, and expose to bright sunshine as above; or sprinkle with salts of lemon, then pour boiling water through. As salts of lemon is a poisonous acid which will burn the cloth, the latter should be

rinsed through several waters at once, then boiled.

Blood Stains.—Soak first in clear cold water, wash out, then put in warm pearl-line suds. Let soak, wash out again, and finally put in cool suds and bring to a boil.

Ink Stains.—Soak in sour milk or buttermilk, washing out in clear cold water after each application. If the stain still remains after two or three days' soaking, proceed as above with salts of lemon.

Mildew.—Rub well with soap, then apply a paste of powdered chalk and water and let lie in the sun. Two or three applications may be required. Another method is to soak in a weak solution of chloride of lime several hours, then wash well in clear water, afterwards, as usual, boiling with soap and water.

Chloride of lime will remove many obstinate stains, but one must be careful in the use of it or it will burn holes in the material. To prepare it, dissolve 2 level tablespoons of chloride of lime in 1 pint hot water, strain through muslin, then add 1 gal. water. Soak the stains until they disappear, rinse well in clear

cupful of the liquid added to a boiler of water when washing will help to keep white clothes beautifully clear. It must not be used for colored things. Chloride of lime, as above, is also good for removing fruit or tea stains.

Benzine, gasoline, ether and turpentine are all used for removing spots from colored woollen or silk goods. As the first three are extremely volatile, they should not be used near lights or fires. To use them, moisten with the liquid a large ring around the grease spot, and rub with a clean rag towards the center. When it is reached saturate two pieces of blotting-paper with whatever spirit is used, place one beneath, the other above the spot, and press with a weight. Sometimes a circle is left about the place moistened, but this will usually yield to vigorous steaming over a kettle.

CLEANING WHOLE GARMENTS.

When garments are so much soiled as to require cleaning in entirety, they should, if possible, be dry-cleaned; that is, cleaned without water.

Thin white or light-colored waists, if



Winter.

water, then boil. Chloride of lime may also be used to transform faded muslin dresses into white ones. Use a tablespoonful to a quart of water. Dissolve thoroughly, strain, soak the muslin, then rinse well through several waters, and finally boil.

Tar Stains.—Rub with lard or turpentine, let stand some hours, then wash with soap and soft water.

Blue stains, made by household bluing, may be removed with alcohol.

Paint.—If fresh, remove with turpentine. If dry, mix a little ammonia with the turpentine (diluting it first, if the article is colored).

Fruit, Tea and Coffee Stains.—While fresh stretch over a bowl and pour boiling water through. If you cannot treat them when fresh, remove the stains with Javelle water, which may be procured at most drug stores (the recipe for making it has been given several times in "The Farmer's Advocate"). Take one part Javelle water and four of soft water; soak the stained article in this for several hours, then wash and rinse well. A

not too much soiled, may often be made look as good as new by rubbing well with a mixture of fine salt and corn-starch, leaving over night, and brushing out well next day. Occasionally the process will have to be repeated. But if much soiled gasoline is the best cleaning agent for these, as well as for any other articles of silk or wool, either white or colored. To clean with gasoline, proceed as follows: First mend the garment, and shake and brush it free from dust. Next remove any very conspicuous spots with gasoline and blotting-paper as above, then prepare for the final cleaning. Have three covered vessels half filled with gasoline. Put the garment into the first and let stand half an hour, then rinse and squeeze out, and drop into the second vessel, transferring the garment, after another half hour, to the third. Finally, shake out and hang on a line in the open air to dry, afterwards pressing with a warm iron. This is the method adopted by professional cleaners, who send you back your skirts, etc., looking as good as new, but the work

may be done with quite as great success at home, provided you have plenty of gasoline. It cannot be repeated too often, however, that gasoline must not be used in the same room with a fire or light, nor kept in any vessel near a stove or in the hot sunshine. Not only the gasoline itself, but the fumes which arise from it and mix with the air are extremely inflammable, hence carelessness may bring about a catastrophe. Even when washing garments, especially if silk, in it, care must be taken not to rub too violently, as the rubbing may generate enough heat to ignite the liquid. With proper care, however, there is no danger in using gasoline. We have personally done much cleaning with it, and with perfect success, and, knowing its properties, have no more fear in handling it than if it were so much water. But care must never be relaxed. If the gasoline is allowed to settle after being used for cleaning, the clear portion may be poured off the top and used again and again. It must, of course, be kept in tight vessels, as it evaporates very quickly. . . . For cleaning ribbons, silk gloves and veils, all that is necessary is to put them in a sealer, cover with gasoline, leave tightly closed for an hour or so, then shake and rinse out. Always hang in the open air to dry, and in the case of ribbons and veils, press out afterwards with a warm iron. There is no danger in using an iron when the articles are dry, for by that time the gasoline will have evaporated. White kid, chamois and suede gloves in light colors may also be cleaned in gasoline, and so given a much longer lease of life. . . . To renew black gloves, mix black ink and olive oil in equal proportions, paint the gloves with the mixture, using just as little of it as possible, and let dry. Another method for cleaning gloves, which has been recommended—we cannot speak from experience—is to spread them on a clean towel, then rub them well with a piece of flannel dipped first in skimmed milk, then rubbed on yellow soap; rinse the flannel often, and when all the dirt is removed pull the gloves into shape, without rinsing, and let dry on a clean dry towel.

Our next talk will be on dyeing. M.
(To be continued.)

With the Flowers.

THE COLEUS.

To have success with the coleus, give it plenty of drainage material, a light, sandy loam, and plenty of water, and keep it in a warm sunny window, where it will have plenty of room to develop, pinching back the foliage from time to time to induce a bushy growth. Keep the temperature of the room as uniform as possible, as sudden changes or blasts of cold air blowing across the foliage is likely to do damage; when necessary to open doors or windows for ventilating, remove the plant to another room and keep it there until the air has been reheated. Do not sprinkle the foliage unless it has become very dusty, and do not fail to remove flower buds as soon as they appear; the beauty of this plant, you know, depends wholly on its foliage.

The coleus is very easy to propagate; a slip cut off and stuck in the soil beside the plant seldom fails to grow. Another method is to place the ends of the slips in a glass vessel of lukewarm water and keep it in a warm place. The large leaves are likely to drop off, but this will do no harm, as fresh sprouts will start from the axils. Pot as soon as possible after growth has started.

If you wish a great variety you may find it wise to buy a package of mixed seed. Plant in flats (shallow boxes) and keep in a warm, slightly-shaded situation until the first true leaves appear, then transplant, if necessary, and when well rooted move to a sunny window and treat as above.

THE GYNURA.

The gynura, or velvet plant, is a species of coleus much prized by some on account of its wonderfully iridescent foliage, which greatly resembles purple velvet shot with varying tints. It requires a soil composed of half leaf-mould and equal parts of sand and garden loam, and should be kept in a temperature of