

noticed, and, as they are of divers causes and qualities, a number of cleansers should be kept on hand. A good plan is to paste clippings describing the methods of taking out various spots on a piece of pasteboard, and keep it, with the bottles containing the various "remedies," in a cabinet by themselves.

Gasoline, mixed with salt, and rubbed on a spot with a pad of blotting paper beneath, will usually remove grease, etc., from dark woollen materials. A good rubbing with powdered magnesia will often suffice to remove a similar spot from light-colored silk. Alcohol will remove grass stains. Soap-bark is an excellent cleanser, and there are many other good cleansing preparations sold in drug stores.

When a dress has become so uniformly soiled that cleaning it at home is no longer possible, do not take it for "the house." Send it to a good professional cleaner and it will have a new lease of life. If you understand how to be sufficiently careful with gasoline, however, you may clean "easy dresses," such as those made of voile, crepe de chine, veiling, etc., at home. Brush the gown well and shake all the dust out, then place in a crock, cover with gasoline, and leave overnight in a cool place, preferably out in some shed, or even out of doors. Next day rub out lightly, rinse again, if necessary, in clean gasoline, hang on the line in the open air, not exposed to sunshine, to dry, then press out at leisure. Although the thing has been a thousand times said, it may perhaps be necessary to repeat: Do not use gasoline in a room in which fire or lights are burning. Do not even permit a match to be struck or a lighted cigar brought near it. Open windows of any room in which it has been used, to drive the gas out, and do not rub the material vigorously while washing, lest heat enough be generated by friction to ignite the fluid and thus cause explosion. This precaution is to be especially taken with silk. . . . This method, by the way, will make a rusty voile dress (which has not actually faded) look almost as well as new.

A dress or suit of good quality, but which has become at all faded or shabby, may often be given a new lease of life by dyeing it. Any dye of good standing may often be used quite successfully at home for dresses, if directions are exactly followed, but it is usually much safer to send a suit to a good professional dyer. It is not necessary to rip either coat or skirt when sending, but it is better to remove the buttons. The price charged averages about \$2.75, but this is much less than the price of a new suit.

When making over old material in which old machine-stitching shows badly, wet the stitch marks thoroughly, and let the goods dry, then cover the goods with a wet cloth, steam thoroughly, and press. Old velvet may be made into very good panne velvet by brushing and steaming well, then pressing on the right side. Light chiffon may be cleaned by the use of powdered starch and powdered borax, two parts starch to one of borax. Rub the chiffon well with the mixture and shake well, repeating once or twice. If still at all soiled, fill the chiffon with clean powder and roll it up in a cloth. In a day or two, shake out.

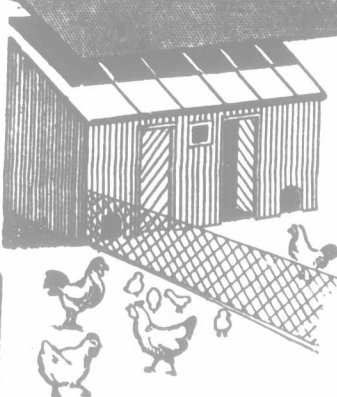
Always have petticoats short enough to escape the mud—the French woman's petticoats hardly fall below the shoe-tops—and do not fail to have boots mended as holes appear. Boots may be worn twice as long if mended and half-soled as necessary.

Often muslins and gingham which have been slightly faded may be restored by a little judicious doctoring. A half-cup of vinegar in the rinsing water will revive many of the delicate tints, such as blue, purple and gray.

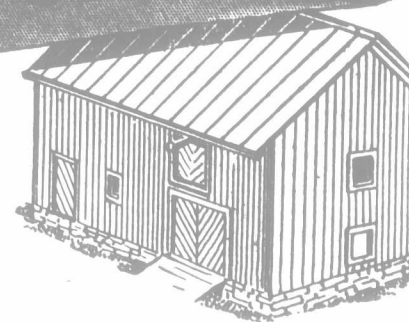
To set the color in blue wash goods, soak for two hours before washing in two gallons water in which 1 oz. sugar of lead has been dissolved. For purple, black and lavender, use 2 tablespoons vinegar to 1 quart water; for red, 1 pint salt to 4 gallons water, or 2 ozs. alum to each gallon of water, soaking one hour. When washing a white dress that has become yellow, put a few drops of turpentine into the water and dry in bright sunshine. To freshen up black satin and tulle, sponge with a cupful of strong tea and a teaspoon of ammonia, and press on the wrong side over a dampened cloth.

As a last word in this talk, remember

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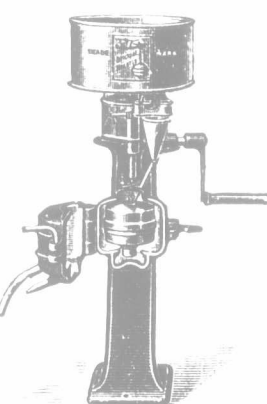
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that it is always economy to own a raincoat. Many people do without this very useful article of apparel, and as a consequence run the risk of having clothes ruined, if not health. Besides, a raincoat does not go out of fashion. It may be worn year after year, and may often be made to do duty as a dust-coat, even as a wrap for cold days, if worn over one

of the now fashionable sweaters or golf-coats.

Letter from a Prizewinner.

Dear Dame Durdan—I suppose a discussion the same as we have in our Institutes will be allowed on the essays "My Vegetable Garden," not, however, in

a spirit of controversy or criticism, but to bring out points that may be beneficial to some. Well, to begin with, I expected some would bring me to task for recommending that seeds should be sown late rather than early, and you mentioned it first thing; but I am pleased also to see that you noted the difference in the climate between this county and the County of Lambton. There is a great difference. At the same time, we can grow seeds early here too, if we go to a lot of trouble, but I was thinking of the average farmer's wife, and not of the market gardener, or the very few who have the time and inclination to go in for such. Lots of my neighbors grow tomato seeds and such in boxes in the house, and have good success, too, but I prefer not to be in too big a hurry and make sure of the main crop, for you know a woman cannot attend to everything. If gardening was our calling and we had no house work it would be different. We have all different notions and inclinations, and some of us take time for one thing and some for another. "The Woman with the Hoe" writes of having her potatoes sprouted in the cellar and planting them out carefully, not to break the sprouts. It is a good way to have early potatoes. In the Old Country, that practice is carried on extensively by farmers who grow potatoes for early market. They have numerous numbers of boxes for the purpose, and have the potatoes arranged in them and put in a temperature where they will sprout quickly, shortly after the New Year, and plant them out as early as February and March. I am never in any hurry for a new potato, however. I don't think they are as good for us as the old ones, and I don't think they taste any better on the 12th of July than on the 1st of August. There isn't a sprout yet on the potatoes in our cellar (written April 11th), nor will not be for long enough, and there are heaps of them, and we always keep sufficient to do us till the new ones come, and are never without. We can also keep apples—such as Russet and Ben Davis—till the new ones come, and I have had old beets one week and new ones the next, and cucumbers ditto, and so on. I have known people who never could grow enough of potatoes to do. They would be scarce in the spring, and start at the new ones when they were no bigger than marbles, and when it was a waste to use them, and have them all done before the later ones came on; and they would always be scarce, and with other vegetables the same. I would not

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