

HOUSEHOLD.

[For the 'Messenger']

A Home-Made Rug.

The rugs which I shall describe combine beauty and durability, and are so economical, that they commend themselves to the economical housewife. Select soft woollen material, either dress goods or knit underwear, from the pile of cast-off garments, and cut in bias stripe one inch wide. Gather the stripe lengthwise through the middle, using a coarse needle and No. 8 thread. It will not be necessary to sew the stripes together, simply lap the edges and gather through them, twisting the roll as you go. When one thread is full, tie on another and proceed until you have all you need. Roll these gathered stripes into balls, and send them to a carpet weaver, whose charge for weaving and chain will not exceed thirty cents per square yard. It does not resemble rag carpet in the least, as the chain sinks into the rags and does not show. In fact, it is a good imitation of the Smyrna rug. Much of the beauty of the rug depends upon the colors used, and if the goods are faded, as is probable, dye the color you wish with diamond dyes. Any dark color is pretty for the middle, with a bright colored border. If you prefer a hit or miss centre, collect all the small pieces you have, cut into strips, and lay in a pile by themselves. The small rolls of pieces that have cumbered the boxes for a long time can be used to advantage. When you have plenty, mix them well, and sew them. The shorter the stripe, and the greater the variety of colors, the prettier it will be. Have the ends finished with a plain border, and a heavy crocheted fringe.—E. J. C., Kansas.

To get the most out of the new year, we must put the most into it. And we put the most into it by living in a spirit of earnestness, doing with our might what our hands find to do, not trifling with the golden hours, but receiving each as a precious gift from God. Only such earnest purpose makes the day a blessing, insures progress from good to better, and causes us to live in eternity while we are in time. They are the happiest who value every hour, who put good work into it, who do not procrastinate, who do everything now, and do it as well as it can be done. These make of life a fine art. Such men say each year, in the words of our dear brother and friend,—

'Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unrest-
ing sea!'

—James Freeman Clarke.

Handy Paste.

A paste that will keep and be ready whenever the children want to work at their scrap-books during the winter evenings, or whenever one of the school books or music books needs immediate repair, would be a boon to the busy mother. The following is a good recipe for this purpose:—Dissolve a teaspoonful of alum in a quart of warm water. Leave till cold and then stir in as much flour as will bring it to the consistency of cream, being careful to press out all the lumps. Stir in half a teaspoonful of powdered rosin and pour on to the paste a cup of boiling water, mixing it well. When it becomes thick, put into a wide-mouthed jar, cover and keep in a close place. When required for use, take out a little and soften it with warm water.

What is going to be our truth for the New Year? Is it not that the love which has never deserted us shall come closer to us, because it finds us readier to receive it—making us better, stronger, purer, nobler, more manly, more womanly, more fit for life; not because God loves us any more, but because we, with new openness, are more ready to receive him into our lives?—Phillips Brooks.



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Darning Stockings.

Darning stockings is never a very welcome task, and too often in the case where there is a large family the task seems almost endless. The following method will insure less darning, because the darrs being more secure will last longer. Before beginning to darn a hole tack a piece of coarse net lightly to the stocking over the hole, then darn over the net and be sure to also darn well into the stocking as well to keep the darn firm. The net makes such a good foundation that the work is more quickly done, and the result is a much smoother and neater darn than one done in the old way.—Selected.

Effects of Sunshine.

The depressing effect of a week of cloudy weather is not felt alone by human beings, but the whole animal world as well. Cattle go moping about, horses put on a forlorn, forsaken look, the birds refuse to sing, the crows fly about giving voice to their discontent in such mournful 'caws,' and everything, both great and small, shows the effect of cloudy, gloomy days, with nothing to brighten them up. But let a day of sunshine come, and behold the change! People meet each other with smiling, happy faces; the horses toss their heads and caper away over the hills, playful and happy; the birds sing as though it were the first day of creation; insects hum; and all nature is joyful. If the change from clouds to brightness is manifested so plainly in all things that live outdoors, why is it that so many people shut away the source of light from their homes and their bodies? Is it healthful—is it wise?—'Life and Health.'

Monday no Longer Scrub Day

It was Saturday when I entered upon an experience which finally resulted in lightening to a good degree the labor of Monday. I had risen that morning with a headache to prepare alone a breakfast for four. My sole and only servant left in a tantrum the previous Monday, before the washing was begun, and I had not succeeded in replacing her during the week. The washing—the dreaded washing, the dreadful washing had been done in the meantime by a woman who had promised to come to-day to do the ironing. The appointed hour arrived, but not the woman. Nine o'clock had struck, then ten.

'Now, I shall have to do that ironing myself,' I groaned.

I waxed irate. It would never do to leave the clothes already dampened in the basket over Sunday in August. 'I shall have to spend

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the remainder of this hot day cooking and ironing. My sight was dimmed with tears.

But there was no help for it, and I wearily began the task with throbbing head and smarting eyes. Just then the door bell rang. 'For the twentieth time this morning. It has continued to keep me running to the door every ten minutes since I came to the kitchen. There is no person living half so perverse as an inanimate thing.' This I muttered crossly passing through the hall.

I opened the door before Mrs. Woulddomegood, who asked cheerily, 'Would you like to engage a girl for general housework?'

'Why, I am just perishing for the want of one,' I laughed. The clouds lifted all at once.

'The sister of the girl who works for me is at my house waiting to find a place. She would be glad to come to you to-day.'

'Has she any references?' thinking of the disastrous results of my last trial. 'Do you know anything about her?'

'Oh, dear, no, not a thing—except that she is a—greenhorn! Just arrived in Brooklyn yesterday from Finland. Only think of her coming alone from Finland to America. She can wash, so my girl says, but she can't speak a word of English.'

My heart sank at that. 'Oh, I do not want her then. It would be such a task to teach her.'

'If you haven't anybody,' said my bright neighbor, 'she will do better than no one until you find some one more experienced. Finland girls learn easily—and this one can wash dishes. She learned so much this morning.'

Now I have such a positive distaste for dish-washing, the mere thought of it turned the balance instantly.