

HOME-MAKERS' ATTENTION

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Hints on Cleaning House

If you have fitted carpets, take them up. You would do better to relay them, but to paint and varnish floors and convert your carpets into rugs. Fitted carpets are more or less unsanitary, hard on the housewife, and entirely out of date. Clean stain or paint, and then varnish. This will kill vermin and germs.

Carpets should be carried out of doors, spread on the grass, and thoroughly beaten on each side—the wrong side first. If very dirty, hang up on a line and beat some more. But the very necessity of so much cleaning proves that fitted carpets are not sanitary. The color of fitted carpets can be brightened by wiping with ammonia and water.

When laying matting, first wash and dry the floor thoroughly, then place several thicknesses of newspapers under it. It will prevent wear and catch any dust that sifts through. When matting gets dingy, wipe off any cloth, and then sweep damp, soapy water over it. If very dirty, lastly freshening it by going over it with a cloth dipped in ammonia water. To clean, sweep twice, the first time along the grain of the straw, the next crosswise with a soft broom. Then dissolve a handful of salt in a pail of tepid water and wash quickly. Use well-wringing cloths. Cover crease spots with turpentine, let it remain two days, then brush off with stiff brush.

Linoleum or oilcloth, after being washed, can be brightened by wiping with skim milk. Floor varnish applied to new linoleum will save the pattern from wearing off.

After carefully cleaning stained and varnished floors, dry thoroughly and wipe with a cloth dampened with kerosene and dipped in furniture polish. Clean painted walls by wiping with a cloth now tied over the broom brush, and remove stains or streaks with a brush made of broom and ammonia water.

Little Kitchen Talks

After many trials and much questioning of other housekeepers without good results, this plan was a complete success for keeping the juice of crust: Mix a tablespoonful of flour with the sugar to be used and the flour will keep crisp and will not become soft or soaked with juice.

How to get a well-done, perfectly uniform loaf crust for custard, lemon or berry pies has always been a problem with me, until I hit upon the expedient of putting the crust between two pie plates of the same size, and baking in a good oven. The shells are uniform and keep for days without becoming soggy.

When roasting potatoes under the meat, they should first be parboiled, and then lightly sprinkled with coarse salt before serving.

Another wrinkle that is worth remembering is this: If only the top of the cake is to be iced, and it cannot be done with the cake left in the tin, butter a strip of paper and pin it around the cake, letting it stand about half an inch above the top. When the icing is set remove the paper, and a neat looking cake, with the icing on top, where it is needed is the result.

You know that you mean to renew your subscription to Farm and Dairy in a few days, so why not set right down and do it now?

Treatment of Phlox

I have several clumps of phlox which come up nicely in the spring but when the buds come the plants seem to dry up rather sadly but always die in plenty of well rotted manure and we keep the plants watered. How should these plants be grown?—Mrs. L.G.K. Grey Co. Ont.

It is quite possible that the soil the phlox is in is too sandy. A clay loam of have not been divided recently, I should recommend dividing them early this spring and planting them in a good place. A clump or division having 10 or 12 shoots of growth would do well for transplanting. The end of April or early in May is the best time for this.

If the leaves turn yellow in the summer it is likely caused by an attack of red spider, a small insect which attacks the under side of the leaves. A good spraying with cold water every day in very hot weather will prevent attacks of red spider and materials help the plants.—Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

Some Uses for Common Salt

If lamp chimneys are rubbed over with salt after washing, a more brilliant light is the result. Various kitchen appointments and utensils also derive benefit from the application of salt.

To rub over the inside of a dishpan daily with dry salt keeps it sweet and free from grease, and saucepans will always smell sweet if, after scouring inside and out, they are rinsed first with hot salted water, then with plain cold, carefully dried and put away.

Discolored crockery could be rubbed with dry salt, enamelled cooking vessels with a flannel, or, if much the same: copper utensils respond to the latter treatment, while milk pails should be given an occasional scouring with dry salt, being afterwards scalded, rinsed and dried in the usual way. If when cleaning silver or plated spoons which have been stained by being used for eggs, a little salt is rubbed on the bowl, the stain will be at once removed.

Cut flowers will keep longer if a pinch is added to the water in which they are kept. Drooping flowers, after travelling, may be revived by warm salt and water, to which has been added a few drops of ammonia. The gardener uses salt as a species of manure in growing asparagus, seedlings to protect them from insect marauders upon moss-green paths to destroy the slippery and unsightly green, and to clear the walks from snow.

Again as pertaining to the cook's domain are the hints that eggs stored in dry salt, especially if first rubbed with vaseline, remain fresh for a considerable length of time; that a capital improvised butter cooler is managed by standing a plate covered with a cloth inverted flower pot in the water; that whites of eggs whip more easily to a froth if a pinch of salt be added.

When salt is mixed with broken ice it lowers the temperature to 32 degrees below freezing point, and advantage is taken of this property in making ice. The housewife will also find salt an invaluable aid. Floor-baskets, matted-topped furniture, wicker, willow and cane chairs, and wicker do not wax yellow with age if washed with salted water. Salt rubbed on discolored marble or tan-baths should receive a regular scouring with dry salt, and a thorough weekly rinsing with strong brine will marvellously prolong the lives of all household brooms and brushes.

If the carpet is dull looking, the colors may be renewed by rubbing it over with a flannel cloth wrung from soapy water and afterwards from water in which a little salt has been dissolved. Common sense will tell the housewife that using too much will leave the carpet damp. A little salt in the ink bottle keeps the ink from turning mouldy.

A Word of Cheer

If you're prone to feel downhearted And a little out of tune, Don't sit down in idle sorrow And begin to croak and croon— There is not a ray of comfort In bemoaning what is gone, Or in putting on a visage Just a trifle woebegone.

Courage, friend, your lot has many Compensations if you'll try To discern them through the vapor That just now obscures your sky. And the best way to remember That the sun will shine again Is to cast your clouded vision O'er the clouds of other men.

If your crops have failed you'll never Reconstruct your barren field By bemoaning your misfortune— It is only as you yield With all your implements of labor With a zeal to match our grit That you'll better the condition Of your acres by a wit.

And then while your plot is waiting For God's sunshine and his rain To set things a-starting upward In their usual way again; Look around among your neighbors For a chance to help them through Just the same ill luck, it may be, That has been disturbing you.

—H. M. Richardson.

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