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HINTS ON ECONOMY.

Strings.

ONLY a piece of string! Never mind, save it; you may not need it this moment, but before long you will be glad that the string was not lost or destroyed, for short pieces of twine are often useful.

Hang the string on a convenient hook, and do the same with every piece of cord that comes into the house on parcels from the grocery or dry goods store, or elsewhere. Save all kinds of string, and when a large number of pieces have been accumulated, sort out the different styles, and at odd moments tie together all similar pieces with firm,

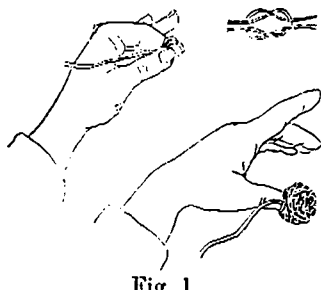


Fig. 1.

neat knots. If tied properly in a square knot—see Fig. 1—the knot will never slip. Make each different kind of string into a separate ball.

When winding the twine, allow one end of it to hang over the hand from between the thumb and first finger; then wind the cord over the first and second fingers, as in Fig. 1; keep on winding until it becomes bulky, then carefully slip the string off the fingers and place it on the thumb, as shown in Fig. 1. The ball can be held in this way until all the string is wound.

The object in placing the ball on the thumb is to keep a hole in the centre of the ball with the end of the cord hanging out of it, so that the twine can be unwound from the centre by simply pulling the depending end.

Make the string up into balls about as large as a good-sized apple.

A very pretty cover for a ball of twine can be made of four different colored ribbons, each about an inch and a half in width, sewed together in the form of a bag, with the ribbons at the bottom of the bag folded over into a point before sewing, so the divisions may be smooth and pointed at the base, where a small hole should be left for the end of the

string to pass through (Fig. 2). The ends of the ribbon at the top of the bag may be turned over on the right side of the bag, and allowed to hang down in pointed flaps, the points being made by turning the corners of the ribbon in on the under side and fastening them in place with two or three stitches.

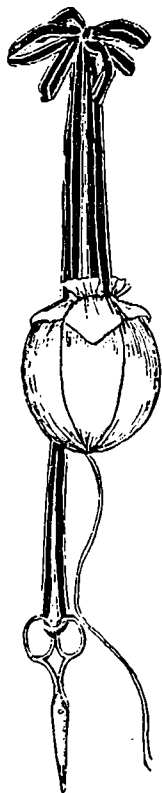
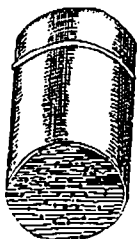


Fig. 2.

There should also be a casing at the top of the bag, and a narrow, bright ribbon run through for a draw-string. If this little ornament be hung in a handy place with a small pair of scissors attached, for cutting the string, the common twine ball will prove very useful and may save many a precious moment, which might otherwise be lost in hunting for a piece of twine.

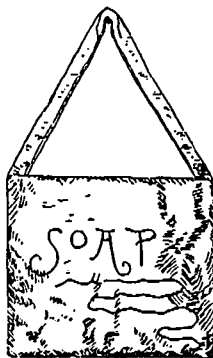
Soap.

ALL the little scraps of soap can be used, even the tiniest ones. Save the bits from the kitchen soap, and when you have half a dozen or more put by, take a small-sized baking powder can, soak off the label, and puncture holes in both ends by hammering a nail through the tin, as shown in accompanying engraving. Select a can with a cover that fits firm and close, for there must be no danger of the lid slipping off.



Drop the pieces of soap inside the can and place the lid on securely. This transforms the can into a soap shaker to be used in hot water for washing dishes, where it will prove a great convenience, and in using it there will be no danger of getting streaks of soap on the china, which is liable to happen when a large cake of soap is used in the water with the dishes.

For saving small pieces of toilet soap, make a five-inch square bag of white flannel, and use white cotton tape to form a loop at the top of the bag, so it can be hung up when not in use, as shown in engraving. Before sewing up the bag, outline the word "Soap" in fancy letters on one side of the bag, and any other desired decoration. Turkey red cotton is best to use for the lettering, as it does not fade. Hang the bag in a convenient place, and from time to time, as the cakes of toilet soap decrease in size until too small for use, drop the pieces into the bag, and when it is half-full, sew up the opening at the top, and the bath-bag will be ready for use.



Brooms.

WITH a little care brooms can be kept equal to new for a long time; as with everything else, they must be well treated to do their best work.

Always scald a new broom before it has ever been used. Pour boiling water all over the broom where it is attached to the handle; then stand the broom up to dry, with the end of the handle resting on the floor and the straws uppermost. This treatment renders the broom strong and pliable, making it wear better.

When a broom is not in use never stand it with the straws next the floor, for it tends to make the broom one-sided and spoils its shape. Rather stand the broom so it will rest on the end of the handle, with the straws lightly leaning against the wall; or, better still, pierce a hole through the top of the broom handle with a red hot nail, run a strong string through the hole and tie it in a loop to hang the broom up by.

Then see that the broom is always hung up clear of the floor when it is put away.

If, after a time, the broom begins to grow brittle again, subject it to the same treatment as at first,

and it will again become pliable. Or it is a good plan to put the broom into the hot suds in the boiler on washing day, after the clothes are removed, and leave it a few moments to soak; then shake it out thoroughly, and stand it up to dry.

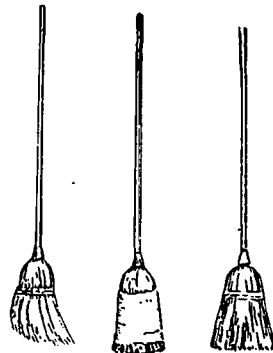


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

This will not only render the straws more pliable, but will cleanse the broom from lint or other dirt in the inside of it.

To restore a worn broom (Fig. 1), soak it thoroughly in scalding water, and be sure that every straw is well scalded; then shake out the broom, and while it is wet bend it in its proper form, so that all the straws will lie straight and even. This done, fasten a cloth band around the broom to keep it in shape until it has completely dried (Fig. 2). Next remove the band, and with a large pair of scissors clip the long, uneven straws on the edge, and you will be surprised at the improved appearance of the broom (Fig. 3).

If these suggestions are faithfully carried out, brooms will wear better, last longer, sweep cleaner, and in every way prove far more satisfactory.—*Youth's Companion.*

Hints to Housekeepers.

Clothespins boiled a few minutes and quickly dried once or twice a month become more durable.

A box of powdered borax should always be kept on the sink shelf. A little added to the water in which dish-towels are washed will help much to keep them clean, and at the same time keep one's hands soft and smooth.

If one wishes to cool a hot dish in a hurry, it will be found that if the dish be placed in a vessel full of cold, salty water it will cool far more rapidly than if it stood in the water free from salt.

Silk must never be ironed, as the heat takes all the life out of it and makes it seem stringy and flabby. If, however, you wish to press out old bits of silk and ribbon for fancy work, use an iron only moderately hot, and place two thickness of paper between that and the silk.

To prevent your glass jars from cracking when putting in hot liquid, stand a tablespoon up in them. There is a prevailing idea that this process has something to do with electricity, but the true solution is that the spoon absorbs some of the heat, and also carries some of it out into the open air.

ALL cooks do not understand the different effects produced by hard and soft water in cooking. Peas and beans cooked in hard water containing lime or gypsum, will not boil tender, because these substances harden vegetable caseine. For extracting the juice of meat to make a broth or soup, soft water, unsalted and cold at first, is the best, for it more readily penetrates the tissue; but for boiling where the juices should be retained, hard water is preferable, and the meat should be put in while the water is boiling, so as to seal up the pores at once.