

The Household.

Keep the Cellar Clean.

A great deal of sickness families suffer could be easily traced to the cellar. The cellar not unusually opens into the kitchen; the kitchen is heated and the cellar is not. Following the natural laws, the cold air of the cellar will rush to take the place of the warmer and, therefore, lighter air of the kitchen. This would be well enough if the cellar air was pure, but often it is not; partly decayed vegetables may be there, or rotten wood, etc. The present time is opportune for a thorough cleansing of the cellar. A day should be taken to throw out and carry away all dirt, rotten wood, decaying vegetables and other accumulations that have gathered there. Brush down the cobwebs, and with a bucket of lime give the walls and ceiling a good coat of whitewash. If a whitewash brush is not at hand, take an old broom that the good wife has worn out, and spread the whitewash on thick and strong. It will sweeten up the bedrooms, and it may save the family from the afflictions of fevers, diphtheria and doctors.—*American Artisan.*

Household Hints.

To make eggs froth quickly when beating them, add a small pinch of salt; and it will freshen them, too.

Mix your stove-blackening with soap-suds; the polish comes quickly and the dust of the blackening is avoided.

Egg shells crushed into small bits and shaken well in decanters three parts filled with cold water, will not only clean them thoroughly, but will make the glass look like new.

By rubbing with a flannel dipped in the best whiting, the brown discoloration may be taken off cups in which custards have been baked.

When putting away the silver tea or coffee pot which is not in use every day, lay a stick across the top under cover. This will allow fresh air to get in, and prevent mustiness of the contents familiar to boarding-house sufferers.

If you are going to save money by doing your own whitewashing, this spring, it is just as well for you to know how to go about it. Some who try it go on for a while until the whole house is ornamented up with lime out of place, and at last send for "the men." There is no reason, however, why, with a proper idea of what is to be done, and how to do it, you should not be able to use the brush to good purpose. First, "catch your hare." Procure fresh burnt lime, not that partly air-slacked. The large lumps are best. The fine portions and small lumps will not make a wash that will stick well. For this reason, lime that has been burned for several months is not as good as that just from the kiln. Put a pound or two into a vessel, and pour on boiling water slowly until it is all slacked and is about as thick as cream; then add cold rain water until it will flow well from the brush. Stir often when using it. A few drops of bluing added will give it a more lively colour. One or two table-spoonfuls of clean salt, and one-fourth pound of clean sugar to a gallon of the wash, will make it more adhesive. If the walls have been whitewashed, let them be swept thoroughly, and if colored with smoke, wash them clean

with soap-suds. A brush with long, thick hair will hold fluid best when applying it over head. If a person has the wash of the right consistence, and a good brush, he can whitewash a large parlor without allowing a drop to fall. When it appears streaked after drying, it is too thick, and needs diluting with cold water. Apply the wash back and forth in one direction, and then go cross-wise, using a paint-brush at the corners, and a thin piece of board to keep the brush from the wood-work or the border of the paper. Coloring matter may be mingled with the wash to give it any desired tint. To make a light peach-blow color, mingle a small quantity of Venetian-red. For a sky-blue, add any kind of dry blue paint, stirring it well while mixing. To make a wash of a light straw color, mingle a few ounces of yellow ochre or chrome yellow. The coloring matter should be quite fine to prevent its settling to the bottom of the vessel.

Ammonia.

Ammonia is cheaper than soap, and cleans everything it touches. A few drops in a kettle that is hard to clean makes grease and stickiness fade away and robs the work of all its terrors. Let it stand ten minutes before attempting to scrape off, and every corner will be clean. It cleans the sink and penetrates into the drain pipe. Spots, finger marks on paint, disappear under its magical influence, and it is equally effective on floor and oil cloth, though it must be used with care on the latter, or it will injure the polish, and keeps clean longer than anything else. If the silver be only slightly tarnished, put two table-spoonfuls of ammonia in a quart of hot water, brush the tarnished article with it, and dry with a chamois. If badly discolored they need a little whitening previous to the washing. An old nail brush goes into the cracks to polish and brighten. For fine muslin and delicate lace it is invaluable, as it cleans, without rubbing, the finest fabrics. Put a few drops into your sponge bath in hot weather, and you will be astonished at the result, as it imparts coolness to the skin. Use it to clean hair brushes, and to wash any hair or feathers to be used for beds or pillows. When employed in anything that is not especially soiled, use the waste water afterward for the house plants that are taken down from their natural position and immersed in a tub of water. Ammonia is a fertilizer, and helps to keep healthy the plants it nourishes. In every way, in fact, ammonia is the housekeeper's friend.—*Baptist Weekly.*

Hanging Wall Paper.

There are many housekeepers who have one or more rooms which they would like to re-paper in spring, but are kept from doing as much of this kind of work as they would like on account of the expense of getting a professional paper-hanger to put the paper on. Any one who takes the pains to notice, can soon learn to put on paper as well as the best paper-hanger. In the first place, you can often find among the cheap papers one or more lots that look just as well, and are of as good quality as the more expensive ones. When you have got your paper home, trim off the edge on the right side, as it is better for an inexperienced hand to commence at the left side of a door or window, and go toward the left. When you are ready to begin, make your

paste with boiling water, and let it boil about as long as common starch, and it should be no thicker than starch after it is cold. Let it cool, and strain it through a common salt sack, to take out the lumps. Then take a piece of washing soda as large as a walnut with the hull off, dissolve it in water, and put it in the paste, and you need not use any glue or anything else whatever. Let an assistant hold the paper up to the wall so that it will match with the piece already on, and cut it off the right length, always half an inch short, as it will stretch that much. Lay the paper wrong side up on a large table, let your help hold one end while you put on the paste quickly and evenly with a white-wash brush. Be sure to get every part covered. Take hold of the upper end while your assistant takes the lower end, fasten it at the top, then sweep it down with a soft broom or brush, pick all windy places with a pin, and pat gently with a soft cloth. If it should become fast at the bottom too soon for the rest, pull it out carefully from the wall and replace it again. Paper put on with washing soda in the paste will not crack and come loose on greasy walls, as it often does without it. Try this plan, and your rooms will look nice and new with but little expense.

Home Wrinkles.

Tin ware washed in soda water will look like new.

To keep postage stamps from sticking together, rub over the head; the natural oil on the hair oils them.

Salt extracts the juices from meat in cooking. Steaks ought not therefore to be salted until they have been broiled.

In darning woolen socks, make the first layer out of stout thread, and the cross threads of woolen yarn. It makes a firm, smooth darn, which wears well.

Try one of the smallest coal oil lamps. It looks like a toy, but for a hand lamp it will make as much light as a good tallow candle, and will not drop sparks.

Finger marks may be removed from varnished furniture by the use of a little sweet oil upon a soft rag. Patient rubbing with chloroform will remove paint from black silk or any other material.

A mustard plaster that will draw but not blister: mix the mustard with the white of an egg, or melted lard, spread on a thin cloth, and cover with a piece of gauze or thin muslin. This can be worn for days without fear of taking cold.

Save old napkins and table-cloths, cut out the good parts and put them away in a bag, appropriately labeled, to be ready for use in case of sickness. Also, keep another bag with pieces of flannel, and another with old cotton cloth, for the same purpose.

Always say a kind word if you can, if only that it may come in, perhaps, with singular opportuneness, entering some mournful man's darkened room like a fire-fly whose happy circumvolutions he cannot but watch, forgetting his many troubles.

An ordinary bee can draw twenty times the weight of its body; and a large horned beetle, which was carefully weighed and allowed to work unmolested beneath a bell-glass, drew forty-two and two-tenths times its own weight. Think what labor some of the larger animals would or could perform if they could move loads according to their size as do some of the lower orders of animal life.