

Some Household Conveniences.

A SELF-WINDING CLOTHES LINE.—A clothes line well cared for will last very much longer than one exposed to the weather, and though it is but very little trouble to take in a line, it is often left

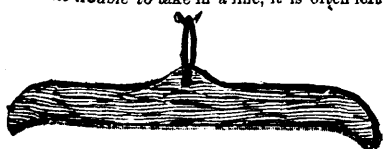


Fig. 3.—COAT-HANGER.

out from one week to another to the great annoyance of those who have to pass across the place it occupies. It is not difficult to contrive an affair which shall be self-acting and will wind up the line as soon as it is loosened. Figure 1 shows a large wooden spool with an axle or journals; the spool *B* is about six inches, and the journals about one



Fig. 4.—VEST-HANGER.

inch in diameter, the journal *A* being four inches long, while the other is but one inch in length. The ends of these rest in holes in supports which are not here shown. A small strong cord is fastened to and wound around the journal *A*, and there is attached to the cord a weight *T*, of about six pounds. A common cotton or hemp clothes line is shown at *W*, this is fastened by one end to the spool, and at the other end is an iron ring, or

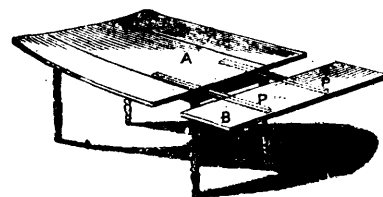


Fig. 5.—EXTRA LEAF FOR TABLE.

a stick will answer. When the weight *T* falls three inches, the spool will revolve once, and wind up 18 inches of the line; if it falls five feet it will wind up 30 feet of line. For convenience, both the clothes line and that carrying the weight, are shown wound up. In use when the clothes line is wound up on the spool, the weighted line will be unwound, and the weight at the floor. To stretch the line, take hold of the ring and walk to the point where it is to be attached; this will unwind the line and wind up the weight. When the clothes are taken down, unhook the line, and the descent of the weight will wind it up at once, and it will be housed without trouble. The spool may be placed in any convenient shed or out-building, or a column may be constructed for it which will at the same time answer as a support for a bird house, as in figure 2.

HANGING UP COATS AND VESTS.—If coats are hung up by the loop attached to the collar, they will, especially if heavy, and not frequently worn, become stretched out of shape, and when put on show an unpleasant distortion. To avoid this, careful persons use some kind of a hanger, which will keep the back and shoulders in shape. A very common expedient is to use a portion of a barrel hoop, but it is not so suitable as the one shown in figure 3, which is made from a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch board 5 inches wide. The length will be from 16 to 32 inches, according to the size of the garment, it being an inch longer than the distance from the outside of one arm to the outside of the other, measured either across the chest or the back. A heavy wire, bent as in figure 4, answers to hang up vests. Supports for both vests and coats, made of heavy copper wire, are sold by the street vendors in cities, but any one can make equally useful, if less showy ones, out of ordinary fence or bailing wire.

EXTENSION LEAF FOR A COMMON TABLE.—It is often desirable to extend or enlarge a common side-leaf table, and this may be readily done by a contrivance shown in figure 5. This shows a board, *B*, about 18 inches wide, and as long as the table is wide. Two hard wood sticks, *P, P*, one inch square, and three feet long, are secured to the leaf *B* by screws; two holes one inch square are made in the end close under top *A*, through which the supports

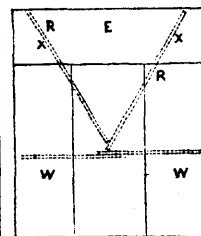


Fig. 6.—TABLE EXTENDED.

P, P, pass as indicated by dotted lines. This is a very convenient method of attaching a portable leaf, the only objection being the disfigurement of the table by the two square holes. To avoid this we would suggest the plan shown in figure 6, in which *W, W*, are the side-leaves, and *E* the extra or portable leaf, which is connected with the table by swinging arms *R, R*, loosely attached to leaf *E*, each by one small bolt, placed near *X, X*, in the figure; when in use, the arms *R, R*, are in the position indicated by dotted lines, when not in use, fold lengthwise of leaf and occupy but little room.

The Effects of Cigarette Smoking.

Several of the prominent physicians of New York city unite in declaring that cigarette smoking is much more injurious than cigar smoking, because the smoke is generally inhaled, and often ejected through the nose. It has a particularly harmful local effect on the mucous membrane of the nasal passage. People who use cigarettes are more liable than others to be afflicted with local irritations that produce catarrh. In persons of nervous temperaments the doctors say cigarette smoking always produces constitutional effects. The pulse is increased in frequency, is smaller than is natural, and is irregular. Such persons are said by physicians to have a "tobacco pulse," and a "tobacco heart." The action of the pulse in this respect is not to be mistaken. Persons who constantly smoke cigarettes are said by physicians to be easily excited, and to have a tendency to vertigo and dimness of vision, besides being troubled by dyspepsia. Bronchial and throat diseases are much more readily caused by cigarette smoking than by cigar smoking, and during the last six or seven years a large increase in diseases of the air passages, due alone to this habit, has been observed. Physicians state that there is not one-fiftieth as much of the mucous surface covered by cigar smoke as by the inhaled smoke of a cigarette. Excessive indulgence in any form of tobacco smoking may produce general paralysis, while by enfeebling the circulation, lowering the vitality of the system, and interfering with assimilation of food, it tends to produce anemia, which is one of the first steps towards softening of the brain. Vertigo, when resulting from smoking strong cigars, or from the inhaling of cigarette smoke, is due anemia, or in other words to a diminishing supply of blood to the brain.

By some it is claimed that the paper wrapping of cigarettes is as hurtful as the tobacco. This claim is grounded upon the belief that the products of the imperfect combustion of the paper or other vegetable fiber are pyrogallic and pyroigneous acids, which make their presence unpleasantly felt in the mucous membrane.

SILVERING MIRRORS.—The process of depositing metallic silver upon glass is as follows:—(A) Dissolve ten parts of nitrate of silver in 50 parts of distilled water, and neutralise with about 6 parts of liquor ammoniac; add to this a solution (B) of 1 part tartaric acid in 44 parts of water, and dilute the whole *A* and *B* solution with 500 parts of water. The things to be silvered should be placed conveniently in a vessel, the solution poured in, and then put away in a quiet place for a few hours at a temperature of from 40 deg. to 50 deg. C. When silvered they may be washed by a gentle solution of water, dried, and varnished with a solution of amber in chloroform.

Cure for Burns.

Glycerine, which may be considered the ethereal part of oil, has the property of penetration to a most remarkable degree; it penetrates the solid bone. Being thus penetrating, it is recommended by *Hall's Journal*, as the very best application for all feverish sores, for inflamed or dry surfaces simply from its quality of penetration and want of evaporability; the first and highest value of any poultice is its capability of keeping moist for the longest time; no one ever thinks of a dry poultice; glycerine keeps a part moist longer than any substance known, hence its value as above, mixed with an innoxious dry powder, called sub-nitrate of Bismuth, so as to make a thin paste or poultice. It is one of the very best applications known for burns, whether in children or adults, giving an almost instantaneous relief from suffering, by its entire exclusion of the air and by its moistening, hence cooling, soothing effects, promotes a speedy healing process, always safe, simple and efficient. A few cents will buy half a pound of it at any good drug store, and every family should have some at hand, in a bottle, plainly labelled, with a bottle of glycerine at its side.

A SIMPLE REMEDY FOR CINDERS IN THE EYE.—Persons traveling much by railway are subject to continual annoyance from the flying cinders. On getting into the eyes they are not only painful for the moment, but are often the cause of long suffering, that ends in a total loss of sight. A very simple and effective cure, is within the reach of every one, and would prevent much suffering and expense, were it more generally known. It is simply one or two grains of flax seed. They may be placed in the eye without injury or pain to that delicate organ, and shortly they begin to swell and dissolve a glutinous substance that covers the ball of the eye enveloping any foreign substance that may be in it. The irritation or cutting of the membrane is thus prevented, and the annoyance may soon be washed out. A dozen of these grains stowed away in the vest pocket may prove, in an emergency, worth their number in gold.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE STOMACH.—*L'homme a la fourchette*, so famous in Paris a year or two ago, is distanced by a man in Australia now undergoing imprisonment for being unable to restore a gold ring which he swallowed, being to the prosecutor. He is being treated by the visiting surgeon of the jail with the view of making him disgorge a large steel Albert chain and a common brass ring. The chain can be distinctly felt at the bottom of the stomach, and the prisoner states it is now nine months since he swallowed it, and it is the only one he has had any difficulty about. The jailor has a collection of objects, such as Albert chains, penknives, and rings, which he has procured by making him vomit by emetics. The prisoner is an intelligent young man of twenty-three.

WARPED FRETWORK.—Well damp it on the hollow side with warm water, and well warm it in front of fire; so soon as quite warm lay it on a flat surface and place a flat board on top of fret-work, on which place heavy weights. If not quite flat, go over the same process; when you have it flat it would be quite as well to glue a thin slip of wood the reverse way of the grain on the back of the fretwood.

VARNISH BRUSH KEEPER.—Into a wide-mouthed glass jar, placed on a rack for keeping it in the proper position, place a wire shelf fitted so as to keep its place in a horizontal position; then fill a jar to within an inch of the shelf with spirits of turpentine, cover the mouth with a close fitting tin cover, and the keeper is complete. Varnish brushes may be kept in this way by simply wiping them out on the varnish cup, and laying them on the wire shelf until they are wanted again.