

the lime into a stoneware vessel, pour upon it a sufficient quantity of milk to make a mixture resembling cream, and then add the balance of the milk. Crumble the whitening, and spread it on the surface of the fluid. Stir or grind as you would lead paint, and apply as you do other paints. It dries quickly, and a second or third coat can be added if desired. It is inodorous, does not rub off. This quantity will cover 57 square yards with one coat. It may be colored, if desired, by adding coloring matter.

CLEANSING BLANKETS.

It is quite as important to have blankets on our beds clean as to have the sheets pure and white. The *Boston Journal of Chemistry* gives the following method of cleansing them.

"Put two large tablespoonfuls of borax and a pint bowl of soft soap into a tub of cold water. When dissolved, put in a pair of blankets, and let them remain over night. Next day rub and drain them out, and rinse thoroughly in two waters, and hang them out to dry. Do not wring them."

But this is not the only domestic use to which borax may be put. Says the same journal, "Borax is the best cockroach exterminator yet discovered. This troublesome insect has a peculiar aversion to it, and will never return where it has once been scattered. As the salt is perfectly harmless to human beings, it is much to be preferred to the poisonous substances commonly used. For cleansing the hair, nothing is better than a solution of borax water. Wash afterward with pure water, if it leaves the hair too stiff. Borax dissolved in water is also an excellent dentifrice or tooth-wash."

CARPETS, DUST, AND DISEASE.

An atmosphere impregnated with the dust which has been gathered in carpets and remained there for a considerable length of time, is positively unhealthy. The dust after being stagnant for some time, especially in warm weather, presents myriads of animal-culæ. To prevent the evil the carpets should be cleaned often. The dust should be thoroughly removed every month. The trouble of taking up, shaking, and replacing will be amply repaid, first, in the matter of health, and secondly, in preserving the carpet.—*Home and Health*.

INGENIOUS DEVICE.—A British scientific publication gives the following: "Many of your readers have doubtless had more or less trouble, at some period of their lives, in repairing water pipes where the water could not be sent off conveniently at the fountain head or some intermediate point. In going to my office a few days since my way led past a place where a man was repairing a lead pipe, which had been cut off accidentally in making an excavation. There was a pressure of water more than fifty feet head. His plan seemed to me to be novel and ingenious. The two ends of the pipe were plugged, and then a small pile of broken ice and salt was placed around them; in five minutes the water in the pipe was frozen the plugs removed, a short piece of pipe inserted and perfectly soldered,

and in five minutes the ice in the pipes were thawed and the water flowing freely through."

PERSPIRATION ODORS.—The unpleasant odor produced by perspiration is frequently a cause of vexation to persons who are subject to it. Nothing is simpler than to remove this odor much more effectually than by the application of such unguents and perfumes as are now in use. It is only necessary to procure some compound spirits of ammonia, and place about two tea-spoonfuls in a basin of water. Washing the face, hands and arms with this, leaves the skin as clean, neat and fresh as one could wish. The wash is very harmless and very cheap. It is recommended on the authority of an experienced physician, and it ought to be tried at least by all those whose persons are so offensive in this respect.

Horace Greely says: "One million families are trying to live by selling liquors, tobacco, candy, etc., in our cities who could be spared therefrom without the slightest public detriment; and if these were transferred to the soil, and set to growing grain, meat, wool, etc., or employed in smelting the metals, or weaving the fabrics for which we are still running into debt in Europe, our country would increase its wealth at least twice as fast as now, and there would be far less complaint of 'dull trade' and 'hard times.'"

TO CURE HAMS.—The following receipt for curing hams obtained the first premium offered by the Maryland State Agricultural Society:—Mix 2½ lbs. saltpetre finely powdered, ½ bushel fine salt, 3 lbs. brown sugar, ½ gallon molasses. Rub the meat with the mixture; pack with the skin down. Turn over once a week, and add a little salt. After being down three or four weeks, take out, wash, and hang up two or three weeks until it is dry. Then smoke with hickory wood three or four weeks, then bag or pack away in a cool place—not a cellar—in chaff or hay.

TO SETTLE COFFEE.—The genuine article can be nicely settled by beating an egg and stirring it on a batch of coffee, just as it is browned. The coffee must be cool enough so as not to cook the egg. It must be left near the fire long enough to dry. It settles the coffee as well as to use a whole egg every time it is prepared for the table, and does not take near as many dozens in the course of the year. The coffee pot should stand a few moments after being taken from the stove, or have a little water put in.

A COOLING DRINK.—Mix half a teaspoonful of powdered ginger, or a teaspoonful of extract of ginger, in a tumbler of water, and add a teaspoonful of molasses. This will be found palatable, will quench the thirst, and will prevent the ill effects which often follow an over dose of icewater and cooling draughts. In the West Indies ginger is considered one of the best preventives for the Summer complaints of the tropics.

BEEF STEAK.—In broiling a beef steak, whenever the coals blaze up from the drippings, a pinch of fine salt thrown upon them will instantly extinguish the flames. By carefully attending to this matter you may have your broiled steak or chicken crisp, but not scorched, and juicy, yet well done.

APPLE MARMALADE.—Take any kind of sour apples, pare and core them, cut them in small pieces, and to every pound of apples put three quarters of a pound of sugar. Put them in preserving