

Household Matters

THE MOTH

Our annual, unwelcome, little visitor will soon be with us, and careless people who make no preparation for its coming are sure to suffer in the destruction of valuable clothing.

The defence against this little pest is simple and easy, if done in time; make a good defence against its visits; no waiting till it is here; it may then be too late.

Valuable furs are to them a perfect paradise, as they attach their eggs to the long hairs, and when the eggs are hatched, the fur is eaten and falls out, leaving a bare patch, which nothing can remedy but doing over by the furrier, often at almost the value of a new garment. And this is the penalty of carelessness.

A little careful attention, now, will secure your clothing and your conscience from negligence.

My plan, which I have followed for the last few years, has answered so well that I can recommend it with the greatest security: always providing the moth has paid no visit in advance, and this cannot be the case if taken in time.

A long bag of unbleached cotton, single width 3 yards will hold a coat or cloak well. Saggy people can get the seamless pillow casing, which only needs sewing up at one end and a hem at the other for the string, a piece of strong tape sewn just under the hem to tie the bag tight.

Do this at once, and you can wear your coat, or cloak as often as you wish, providing you give it a good shake or two and pop it into its bag at once when done with. One bag will do for caps and small things but give everything a good combing, and I always put a bit of camphor into each fur mitt or cap. Thus treated, I can afford to laugh at the enemy.

A tar barrel is a very good thing for the country, where there is plenty of room to store it. Take the garments, after brushing and combing, put them in bags, or well secured in paper; cover up or turn upside down on a level floor and you will be safe from the enemy, as they do hate tar.

A large cedar box is about the nicest for winter dresses and ulsters; it should be made long enough to take them length ways, carefully brushed and put away in time with some pieces of camphor about them.

If the box is made and utilised as a sofa in a bedroom, it will answer the two purposes, and look well; with a small mattress and a cretonne cover, it will be an ornament worth having.

ABOUT SOUPS

Winter is especially the time for good, strong nourishing soups; and, as the soups under consideration are made up from both meat and vegetable, they ought to supply a felt want. When the digestive powers are weakened by a long fast and hard, perhaps harassing work, a clear soup is understood to give tone to the stomach and prepare it for further effort; hence arises the necessity for the soup tureen for the late dinner, when the master of the house comes home tired and hungry. For an early dinner a more substantial soup is permissible, but its nature and