

soap. It cleans the greasiest dishes without leaving the water covered with a greasy scum. Iron pots, saucepans, and dishes of any kind in which food is cooked, should be filled in part with hot water and set on the range as soon as the food is removed, to be kept hot till ready to wash them. This sends most of the grease from the pan into the hot water. As soon as ready to wash these pots and kettles pour out the hot greasy water, and wash in very hot milk and water, as above directed.

*To Clean Varnished Paint.*—Tea leaves may be saved from the table for a few days, and when sufficient are collected, steep, not boil, them for half an hour in a tin pan; strain the water off through a sieve, and use this tea to wash all varnished paint. It removes spots, and gives a fresher, newer appearance than when soap and water is used. For white paint, take up a small quantity of whitening on a damp piece of old white flannel and rub over the surface lightly, and it will leave the paint remarkably bright and new.

*Mending with Plaster.*—If the wall cracks in any part of the house, get five cents' worth of dry plaster of Paris, wet with cold water, and rub into the cracks with your finger. Rub till it is smooth. Bad nail-holes in the wall may be filled in the same way, look just as well as if a plasterer has been sent for and a bill to be paid.

If the top of a lamp becomes loose, take it off, wash with soap and water, wash the glass also to remove all the grease, then spread the wet plaster around the glass; put the brass top on quickly before the plaster has time to harden; let it stand till quite firm, and it will be ready for use. Kerosene softens the plaster, and these lamps should not be filled quite full.

*Carpet-Sweepers.*—Carpet-sweepers are a most useful invention in the hands of those who know how to use them correctly; but we have not felt it safe to trust them to servants, at least we find them of little use in their hands. To use them to advantage, they should be placed flat on the carpet, and pushed as far as possible the full length of the carpet. To do this effectively and reap the full benefit of the "sweeper," chairs and such things as can be easily moved should be taken from the room, so that one can have a free run in one direction. Never turn the sweeper round when on the carpet—that scatters out all the dirt that has been gathered; but on the "return trip," take the sweeper up from the carpet, turn, round, and proceed as at first.

All the dirt and dust gathered must be emptied every few rounds, and the brush

inside the box kept free from dirt, strings, and hair. When the sweeping is finished, clean the box and brush thoroughly before putting away.

We are surprised to see so little notice taken of "carpet-sweepers" in many household manuals. Indeed at this moment we cannot recall one in which they have been mentioned. But we think nothing cleans a carpet so well and with so little injury. It is much easier and far more expeditious when one becomes well accustomed to it than sweeping with a broom, and what should commend it to all careful housekeepers, it does not fill the room and cover everything with dust.

We have tried only two varieties, and do not know of any other, but cannot remember the name of the maker. They can be obtained at all large house-furnishing stores.

Since writing the above we have received the Welcome Carpet-Sweeper, manufactured by Charles W. Bassett, 31 Brattle-street, Boston, Mass., and find it beyond compare, the best and easiest we have ever seen. A child can use it as far as strength is concerned. All the dust is taken into the sweeper, so that no dust settles after sweeping, and it is so still in its movements that it can be used in a sick-room without disturbing the invalid; and we do not hesitate to accord it the merit of being the best we know of anywhere.

*Setting Colours.*—Blue calicoes, which fade so easily, may have the colours set by washing them the first time in salt and water. After this, and ever after, they may be washed in the common way.

*To do up Lace Edgings, Point, Guipure, etc.*—Roil the lace carefully on a round bottle; a long cologne bottle is good for this purpose. See that the edging is wound on the bottle very evenly, and none of the pearl edging turned in. Have a wash-bowl of warm soap-suds (white soap) ready, and lay the bottle or bottles in it. Have them abundantly covered with the suds. If a fair day, set the bowl in the sun, and let the lace soak several hours. Then rinse through several waters to cleanse from all soap. Blue the last rinsing water slightly, and put in enough gum-arabic water to stiffen—no more than new lace, then hang the bottle in the sun to dry. When thoroughly dry, unwrap it from the bottle, and folding it very evenly, lay it in a clean handkerchief or soft towel, and put a heavy weight on it for an hour or two. Never iron lace.

A lady writes:

"I have a nice way of doing up laces,