

should not be overheated; when moulting (shedding feathers) avoid drafts of air; give plenty of rape-seed, slightly moistened; a little hard-boiled egg and cracker grated fine is excellent; by observing these simple directions, birds may be kept in fine condition for years. Bad seed kills most of the birds that die; to which might have been added, that canary-birds are not only very fond of but benefited by having often a leaf of cabbage, pieces of apple, or other green food, which serves to keep down the tendency to fever and prevent constipation. Our birds usually bathe each day as regular. As any one washes the face, and with apparent benefit, too. When birds are sick, and inclined not to eat well, remove all the food for a day, and then only give soaked bread, from which most of the moisture has been squeezed.

#### HOW TO MAKE SHIRT BOSOMS SHINE.

R. H. W. wants his shirt bosoms to shine like those done up in a laundry, and asks for a rule to guide his wife. Let the starch be made in the ordinary way, — that is, first dissolved in cold water, then boiling water poured over it till it is of the proper consistency. Add to a quart of starch a small lump of white sugar, or a bit of white wax, the size of a navy bean, or a few thin shavings of white soap and a spoonful of salt. Butter or lard, or spermaceti can be used instead of wax. After the clothes are rinsed, in the blue water, starch them, and dry on the clothes line; then wring them from cold water, roll up tight, and let them lie awhile. Iron smoothly in the usual way. Then place the bosom, or piece to be polished, on a board with a single fold of muslin over it, pass a damp cloth over the linen and polish with an iron made for that purpose. It may be purchased at a hardware or house-furnishing store for seventy-five cents. If the edges of an ordinary smoothing iron are ground off with a rounding bevel, the desired effect can be produced with it. In ironing shirt bosoms, as in every other accomplishment, "practice makes perfect." There are a dozen little difficulties to be overcome which only experience can master.—*N. Y. Tribune*

#### PAPER COLLARS.

The *Boston Commercial Advertiser* says the paper collar grows in importance yearly. The production in Boston, in 1860, was \$9,000,000 collars; in 1870, it was 75,000,000; and the rate for 1871 is 150,000,000. The profits do not participate in this increase. On the contrary, the competition is so close that it is only in improved machinery and prudent, close working of stock that a percentage is secured. One of the argest manufacturing dealers asserts if he could save one-eighth of an inch to each collar, on his waste of paper, beyond the savings of any other maker, he should consider that eighth of an inch a sufficient profit in his business.

When paper collars were first introduced they were in boxes of one hundred, at \$3. Subsequently, to secure the public interest and a general trial, they were tied in bunches of ten and sometimes afterward "put up in round boxes, for the accommodation of travelers." It was at this time that the novel ad-

vertisements made their appearance, reading;—"It costs 75 cents a dozen to wash linen collars, which at seven collars a week, is 43 cents, or \$22 a year; 365 paper collars are sold for \$5."

The recent perfection of linen finished collars has increased the sale of fine goods very heavily. Hence the incentive to dress nice stocks in handsome packages is legitimate, while, at the same time, it affords to the manufacturer a better margin for profit. The price for collars now ranges from \$1 to \$35 per 1000. The amount of capital invested by eleven New England manufacturers is about \$3,000,000, varying in individual cases from \$30,000 to \$500,000.

#### HOW TO KNIT A TIDY.

Cast upon very coarse needles ninety-two stitches, knit across plain like the heel of a stocking, seam back, knit across plain as before, then seam back. Commence, narrow eight stitches into four, put your thread up over once, making a loop stitch hole, and knit one stitch, thread over knit one, thread over, knit one, thread over, knit one, thread over, knit one, thread over, narrow eight times, thread over, knit one, thread over, knit one, thread over, knit one, thread over, narrow eight times as above on the right side, across, seam back, knit across plain, seam back making three times across, between eyelets, a cording to rule. You can have it as long or as short as you choose. I have one for a common lounge made of carpet warp. Trim with fringe or not, as you think best.—*Household.*

**LEARN TO SWIM**—Every boy and girl should know how to swim. It is generally thought to be an accomplishment more proper for boys than for girls; but there is quite as much need that girls, too should know how. It is great sport, and the boys should not have all the fun to themselves. But, as a matter of security against accidents, it is very desirable that every one should be able to swim, or at least, to keep their head above water. There is one proper time for young people to learn to swim, and that is—when your parents will consent to it. The judgment of the older people should be taken in regard to the safety of the place in which to learn. In trying to swim, always let your progress be towards shore. Wade off until the water is up to your breast, and then try to swim to the shore, taking it calmly and not to make too hard work of it. Of course, the attempt should be made where the water gradually deepens, where the bottom is safe, and where there is no strong current. These are things that boys should not trust their own judgment about. When you have learned to swim without clothes, or at most bathing drawers put on a pair of old pantaloons and try to swim with them. It will be found difficult at first, but it can be done; then try a shirt and vest, and, finally, shoes. But few persons learn to swim in clothing, and it is the most important thing about it. When one goes overboard by accident, he has no time to remove his clothing, and it is not well to wait until such an event happens before you find out how much more difficult it is to swim with clothing than it is without. It is not easy to give directions in swimming; the best way