

Ladies' Department.

Around the House.

I think it is an excellent plan for house-keepers to keep a miniature tool box, containing as well as the necessary tools, nails and screws of all sizes. In this box you want a clawhammer large enough and heavy enough to drive a ten penny nail, and let me tell you, though you are a girl, it is easier to drive nails with a hammer of some weight than with these foolish light tools sold "for ladies' use." Next, you need a common screwdriver, such as comes with sewing machines, and costs five cents; two files, one coarse, one fine, the two costing twenty-five cents; a hand saw, fifty cents, and a good jack-knifeworth twenty-five. You have a hatchet with a broad blade already—as most families do—but is it sharp? If not the kitchen grindstones will set that right. Add to these, if you choose, a kit of soldering tools, which come for women's use in a neat wooden box for fifty cents, iron, scraper, solder and resin complete. Also a glue-pot and two wooden clamps at five cents apiece, and you can not only save the cost of repairs, which is the least consideration, but also the waiting for things which need mending, and the vexation of careless workmen and slighted work. You can soon learn to use a soldering iron, and a saw, even though you are only a woman. There is nothing in the ordinary repairs of a house, in tin, wood or iron, painting or puttying, which is not as easy for a girl or woman as half the work which falls to her proper share. For instance, the door of the closet sticks, and every time it is opened you must work and coax it, bear down the handle or kick the panel before it will budge. I have seen families worry with a door for years without the energy to put it in order. You can see by the mark on the floor or frame what the matter is. The door needs planing off the eighth of an inch on some corner. The best way to cure it is to take it off the hinges, and have the edge planed true; but this is too heavy for you, though I have seen a slender woman take a door down, trim it with a jack plane, and put it up in less time than one could send for a carpenter. You can remedy the trouble in an humble way by paring the corner carefully with a sharp knife, and rubbing it smooth with sandpaper. A window rattles at night, disturbing the sleep of every one near. Whittle out two small wedges of hard wood to fit between the sash and window frame, and the clatter is stopped.

A Plea For Female Doctors.

A company of medical students were assembled for a clinical lecture at the Blockley Almshouse in Philadelphia. Among them were three representatives from the Women's Medical College. The professor was belated, and while the student awaited him they began a noisy demonstration, which was finally directed in the way of playful banter to the women present. Suddenly Miss A. M. Field, one of the female students, who is widely known as a missionary in China, arose, and as he began to speak the noise was changed to respectful silence. "Gentlemen," she said, "I have been for eighteen years a missionary in China. The Chinese have no medical science, and superstitious rites are chiefly relied on in the treatment of disease. All the people are in need of medical aid, but the women are the neediest. A Chinese woman would under no circumstances go to a male physician for the treatment of any disease peculiar to her sex. She would be prevented by her own womanly delicacy and by all the notions of modesty held by those around her. She would suffer life-long agony rather than violate her sense of propriety. Her father, her brother, and her husband would even let her die rather than allow her to be treated by a male physician. Full of sorrow for the sufferings of these women, I have been looking in Christian America to see what help for them might

be there. I have been glad to find that in some of our great medical schools earnest and self-sacrificing women are fitting themselves for a work of mercy in Asia and other lands. Unless such women learn to do such work well there is no physical salvation for those afflicted ones. And in behalf of these women, who have no medical care while they so sorely need it, I ask from you the courtesy of gentlemen towards ladies who are studying medicine in Philadelphia." As Miss Field sat down she was greeted with a cheer, and a member of the class, rising, assured the ladies in a very gallant speech, that no annoyance to them was intended. The timely remarks of Miss Field had touched the inborn courtesy of the young men and taught them a lesson they will probably never forget.

Jerseys.

The introduction of the jersey has been of immense benefit to children. On grown-up women this garment very frequently proved quite detestable; even immodest. For children it is, to use a colloquialism, "the very thing." Clinging closely to the small frame, yet yielding its knitted meshes to every movement, it at once serves to retain the heat of the body and favours the most perfect freedom. The jersey is also to be recommended on the score of economy, its initial cost being trifling, and its durability great. Knitting may, indeed, be said to play a very important part in the clothing of our children. Under-garments of the rational Princess or Gabrielle shape—i.e. made all in one piece—are knitted; the skirt on large wooden needles, and the bodice on steel ones. The best and most enduring socks and gaiters are produced by the same process. Jerseys and hoods are also knitted, besides the numerous forms of caps and jacket devised for babies and larger children. The crochet-hook produces all these garments in forms that are much more ornamental than those to which the sturdy simplicity of the knitting-needle lends itself; but the crochet-hook is frivolous. Its children are full of an airy beauty: an ephemeral decorative-ness, that disappears in the wash-tub. Many a mother has been tempted by a delightful pelisse and cape crocheted in snowy wool; has yielded to the temptation, purchased the article, found it contract the soil of the world with that curious facility which attaches to children's clothes; and has received back from the wash an incoherent mass of pulpy yellowish whiteness that bears as much similarity to the original garment as did the pumpkin to Cinderella's coach.—*Daily News.*

The Propagation of House Plants.

Nothing about plant culture is more fascinating than the multiplying of plants from cuttings. It is the making of a new plant, and one takes all the more interest in a plant thus produced. Florists, with their propagating benches, turn out plants by hundreds and thousands. Their propagating houses are regular plant factories, in which the raw material of cuttings, is turned out as the finished product—the rooted plants. Several years ago was published a method by which the amateur could multiply his plants in all needed numbers, and with something like the certainty that attends the larger operations of the florist. The method alluded to is known as "the saucer system," and, as it will be new to a large number of our readers, we give it in brief. The outfit needed is sharp sand—if from the sea shore, let it be thoroughly washed, to deprive it of all salt—and a saucer, soup-plate or other dish, that will hold an inch in depth of sand. Cuttings are made of the tender growth of house plants, an inch or two long, and set in the sand so closely together as to touch one another. The dish of sand containing the cuttings, should be set in a sunny window fully exposed to the light, and the sand, from the beginning must be "soaping wet," and kept in the state of mud continuously. If the

sand is allowed to get dry most of the cuttings will be lost. Some cuttings will be rooted in a week, others in two or three weeks. As soon as roots are formed at the base, the cuttings should be potted off in rich, light soil. Shrubs that do not root readily from cuttings of the ripened stem, will often grow readily in the saucer if a tender shoot be taken.

Family Matters.

Boil eggs hard, slice them when cold, and dip each slice in raw egg and afterward in bread crumbs; fry in butter and serve hot.

If cayenne pepper is sprinkled plentifully in the resorts of rats, they will return from the premises.

A very palatable dish can be made of mashed potatoes and a little finely chopped meat of one or more kinds, mixed together, flavored with salt and pepper, and fried in small flat cakes.

For cream sponge cake, which is easily made, take two eggs and beat in a cup and fill with cream, add one teaspoonful of sugar, and one and a half of flour, and one spoonful of baking powder and pinch of salt.

Oatmeal is excellent for the skin. Soak a cupful in a little water for three or four hours. Apply to the face and hands before retiring and do not rub off. Dry oatmeal rubbed on the skin after a bath is also very beneficial.

A handsome ottoman may be made of an old soap box. Pad the box with old pieces of carpet or cotton, taking care to have it smooth and firm. Then cover with an old broach shawl, or a dark red merino dress, an old red rep curtain redyed, or any similar material. Chintz will also prove a pretty covering.

The best way to clean mirrors, the glass of pictures, &c., is to take a clean sponge, wash it well in clean water, and squeeze it as dry as possible; dip in some spirits of wine, and rub over the glass; then have some powdered blue tied up in a rag, dust it over your glass and rub it lightly and quickly with a soft cloth; afterward finish with silk handkerchief.

A little cider if added to buckwheat batter will make the cakes brown nicely and help to form a sort of crust on the outside. If you have no cider, pour a little hot water over some apple peelings and let it stand for an hour.

Starch which will not stick in white patches on your dark cambric dress, is made thus: Take the very best fine starch you can get, mix in the proportion of two tablespoonsful to as little water as will make a smooth paste, and to this add a pint of clear coffee; let it boil for ten minutes. Stir it with a sperm candle, strain it through a piece of muslin, and it is ready for use.

To cure frost bites, rub the afflicted parts with pure oil of peppermint. It will also prevent the after effect of chilblains. Care should be taken to use only the pure oil, and not the essence of peppermint, as the essence will not have the desired effect.

Laying hens thrive with much sunshine and plenty of food, both green and dry, with a full supply of pure water, and some form of lime.

Prof Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural College, claims to have proven by long practice that corn fodder has a practical feeding value of two-thirds to three quarters that of good hay.

The spruce trees on the Green Mountains of Vermont have been attacked by some mysterious disease, which is destroying them and causing no little uneasiness among the owners of timber land.

Frozen roots, or, indeed, frozen food of any kind, is very pernicious to swine and all other stock, as it disturbs their digestion and renders the other food taken into the stomach less nutritious. Ice is a poor diet on which to fatten animals.

Do not wait until you begin work in the spring to feed your horses. Do not

starve them all winter and then expect a week or two of extra feeding to bring them up to the working point. Begin now. Keep them in regular health. They will enjoy the food now and assimilate it.

English farmers have learned that high hilling of potatoes so soon as the blight appears on the leaf is a preventive of the rot. The theory is that the rot is washed downwards by the rains which carry the fungus spores to the tubers. This idea is confirmed by the fact that rot is most prevalent in very wet seasons.

Special attention is directed to page 22, and the large rewards there offered for answers to Bible questions. The leading reward this time is an elegant Piano. The next a Cabinet organ, and then other very valuable rewards follow. Try your skill. Only \$1 required for a six months subscription.

Every affliction has its blessing. The man with a wooden leg never knows what it is to have rheumatism in that ankle.

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