

## The Household.

### Household Machinery.

It is with a sense of humiliation that one thinks of the great number of women in whose hands the most valuable labor saving inventions amount to nothing at all. An inherent hostility to new methods, or a lack of energy to learn how to make use of novel ways and means, prevents many women from getting the full benefit of efforts to lighten their work.

We all know the woman whose sewing machine is always out of order; if you ask what is the trouble with it, her reply is something like this: "Oh, it's got a freak of bothering me," as if it were animate and subject to fits of temper. Possibly yesterday she let the baby pull out the thread, the needle was sprung a little out of line, and to-day the thread is out out every stitch; perhaps an older child has turned the wheel with the feed and needle plate together, any the teeth are so worn as no longer to carry the cloth along. Possibly she may have forgotten to oil some particular point, or have wound a bobbin unevenly, and now she petulantly denounces the whole class of sewing machines and declares that her fingers and a common needle are better.

Another woman of this kind is induced to buy a carpet-sweeper; it runs well a week or two, then turns hard, skips over a part of the dirt, and is generally faulty in its work, when she promptly decides that it is a fraud and wishes she had her three dollars back again, etc., etc.

Her more patient neighbor examines the sweeper, pulls out the shreds and bits of string which have wound themselves about the gears, adds a drop of oil, and then it flies over the carpet as easily as when the smooth-tongued agent displayed its usefulness, after the manner of his class, entirely reckless of paint or furniture, until the nervous housekeeper almost buys a sweeper to save a possible bill of repairs.

The same unwillingness to learn the mechanical working of no matter how simple an invention, is noticed in the use of nearly all kinds of household machinery, including the many useful dairy utensils.

There are, however, exceptions to the value of what are intended to be labor savers, and the writer believes the washing-machine to be such an exception. Having made something of a study of ways and means of making laundry work easier, we have used, and seen others use, a great variety of washers, and the same general fault applies to all. They are made by men, and are adapted only to the strength of men; they turn easily, while holding a painful of water and a towel or two, as displayed at the fair, or by the travelling agent, but in practical use the fatigue of using them is as great as is the result of a morning's work at the old fashioned tub and board. If a woman has a good store of strength, and carefully follows directions for washing but a garment or two at a time, she may find help in one of these machines.

A few more years will probably bring some practical labor saver for use in family washing and ironing, or an improvement in public laundries.

The aggregate cost of discarded patent household articles which are now stored in attics and lumber rooms in this country would amount to a large sum of money, but in a great number of cases the strength and time that might be saved by the intelligent use of many of these articles, would reach even a greater value.

### To Get Rid of Cockroaches.

A correspondent writes as follows: "I beg to inform you of an easy, clean, and certain method of eradicating those loathsome insects from dwelling houses. A few years ago my house was infested with cockroaches (or 'clocks,' as they are called here), and I was recommended to try cucumber peelings as a remedy. I accordingly, immediately before bedtime, strewed the floor of those parts of the house most infested with the vermin with the green peel, cut up very thin, from the cucumber, and sat up half an hour later than usual to watch the effect. Before the expiration of that time the floor where the peel lay was covered with cockroaches, so that the vegetable could not be seen, so voraciously were they engaged in sucking the poisonous morsels from it. I adopted the same plan the following night, but my visitors were not so numerous—I should think not more than

a fourth of the previous night. On the third night I did not discover one; but, anxious to ascertain whether the house was quite clear of them, I examined the peel after I had laid it down about half an hour, and perceived that it was covered with myriads of minute cockroaches about the size of a flea. I therefore allowed the peel to remain till morning, and from that moment I have not seen a cockroach in the house. It is a very old building, and I can assure you that the above remedy only requires to be persevered in for three or four nights to completely eradicate the pest. It should be fresh cucumber peel every night.

### Hints.

All soups are better made with fresh uncooked meat as that which has been cooked once has lost much of its flavor and nearly all of its juices.

When you have spilled anything on the stove, or milk has boiled over and a suffocating smoke arises, sprinkle the spot with salt and it will disappear immediately.

Lamp wicks should be changed often enough to insure having a good light. If they seem clogged they may be washed in strong soda and put into the lamp again.

A good housekeeper in Bergen county, New Jersey, says that she adds a teaspoonful of turpentine to the water she mixes her stove-blackening with. She lets the stove become almost cold before blackening.

A butter stamp should always be washed in cold salt water before it is used. If soaked in hot water the butter will stick to it but never if soaked in cold brine. The salt absorbed by the wood keeps it moist while in use.

Cold biscuits left over from tea may be made better than when first baked by dipping them into hot water and placing them singly on the hot grate in the oven long enough to let them get well warmed through.

To preserve goods from moths do not use camphor in any form. Pieces of tar paper laid in fur boxes and in closets are a better protection. Five cents will buy enough to equip all the packing boxes and closets of a large house for a year.

Any gold jewelry that an immersion in water will not injure can be beautifully cleaned by shaking it well in a bottle nearly half full of warm soap suds, to which a little prepared chalk has been added, and after ward rinsing in clear, cold water and wiping it dry.

Most people dry their umbrellas handle upwards. This concentrates the moisture at the top, where it is close, rusts the wire which secures the stretchers and rots the cloth. It is better, after the umbrella is drained, to simply invert it and dry in that position.

The Angier vouches for the effectiveness of the following mixture for keeping off mosquitoes: Olive oil, three parts; oil of pennyroyal, two parts; glycerine, one part; ammonia, one part. To be well shaken before applying to the face and hands. Avoid getting the mixture into the eyes.

Ginghams and prints will keep their color better if washed in water thickened with flour starch. Flour is very cleansing and will do the work of soap in one or two washings in the starch water. This, with the rinsing, will be sufficient and the goods will look fresher than if washed and starched in the old-fashioned way.

To save stair carpets nail several thicknesses of old carpet or canvas over the edge of each stair. It is a good plan to buy more carpeting than is needed to cover the stairs and move it each season so that the whole will wear evenly. If stair carpets cannot be changed in this way they will not wear long.

It is easy to get rid of black ants. They live in ant hills and generally near the buildings. Open these hills with a hoe, scatter on a handful of salt and sprinkle on a quart of water and the ants will leave immediately. Yesterday my house was over run with these insects. I found eleven ant hills within two rods of the building and today there is not an ant to be found anywhere on or about the premises.

If any article of household furniture requires disinfecting occasionally it is a carpet, especially if it has been used a considerable time. The following is a method recommended by a lady housekeeper, both as a disinfectant and a preventive of moths. Add three teaspoonfuls of turpentine to

three quarts of water. Saturate a large sponge with this mixture, squeeze it about two-thirds dry, and go over the carpet carefully. As soon as the sponge becomes dirty cleanse it and take in a fresh supply of water.

BLEACHING STRAW HATS.—Obtain a deep box, air-tight if possible, place at the bottom a stone; on the stone a flat piece of iron red hot or a pan of charcoal, on which scatter powdered brimstone; there should be hooks in the box on which to hang the hats; close the lid and let the hats remain all night. Another recipe for bleaching straw is to soak the goods in caustic soda and afterward to use on them chloride of lime or javelle water. The excess of chloride should be removed by hyposulphite of soda, called anti chlor. In the first method the hat should be moistened, as a dry fabric will not bleach.

To make good starch, quite a number of rules have been given. Some advocate long boiling, while others say it is not necessary. Very good starch may be made by putting in a bright tin pail a quarter of a pound of starch, over which pour three pints of boiling water and then add a pint of cold water. Let it boil fifteen minutes. A little salt or sugar, a small piece of wax, or a teaspoonful of coal oil added, will make the starch iron smooth. The starch should be strained and slightly blued before using. Flour starch is frequently used for coarse or colored clothes, and potato starch may also be used. Isinglass is a very delicate starch for very fine muslins, and rice water is equally so. Muslins and laces should be dipped in thin starch and dried in the sun; laces should have the starch rubbed in until they will absorb no more. Individual taste and fashion in starching clothes must be the guide of the housekeeper in giving directions to her laundress.

### Not "Smart."

Of all forms of bad breeding, the pert, smart manner affected by boys and girls of a certain age is the most offensive and impertinent. One of these so-called smart boys was once employed in the office of the treasurer of a Western railroad. He was usually left alone in the office between the hours of eight and nine in the morning, and it was his duty to answer the questions of all callers as clearly and politely as possible.

One morning a plainly dressed old gentleman walked quietly in, and asked for the cashier.

"He's out," said the boy, without looking up from the paper he was reading.

"Do you know where he is?"

"No."

"When will he be in?"

"About nine o'clock."

"It's nearly that now, isn't it? I haven't Western time."

"There's the clock," said the boy smartly, pointing to a clock on the wall.

"Oh yes; thank you," said the gentleman. "Ten minutes until nine. Can I wait here for him?"

"I suppose so, though this isn't a public hotel."

The boy thought this was smart, and he chuckled aloud over it. He did not offer the gentleman a chair, or lay down the paper he held.

"I would like to write a note while I wait," said the caller; "will you please get me a piece of paper and an envelope?"

The boy did so, and as he handed them to the old gentleman, he coolly said,—

"Anything else?"

"Yes," was the reply. "I would like to know the name of such a smart boy as you are."

The boy felt flattered by the word "smart," and wishing to show the full extent of his smartness, replied,—

"I'm one of John Thompson's kids, William by name, and I answer to the call of 'Billy.' But here comes the boss!"

The "boss" came in, and, seeing the stranger, cried out,—

"Why, Mr. Smith, how do you do? I'm delighted to see you. We—"

But John Thompson's "kid" heard no more. He was looking around for his hat. Mr. Smith was president of the road, and Billy heard from him later, to his sorrow. Any one needing a boy of master Billy's peculiar "smartness" might secure him, as he is still out of employment.

Why is there nothing like leather? Because it is the sole support of man.

### Oddly Addressed.

Many oddly-addressed letters daily pass through the post office. Several of the rhyming kind are somewhat remarkable for the poetical skill displayed by the writers.

A clever example is given in the following, addressed to Sir Walter Scott during one of his visits to London:

"Sir Walter Scott, in London or elsewhere;  
He needs not ask, whose wide-extended fame  
Is spread about our earth, like light and air,  
A local habitation for his name."

Charles Dibden, the naval song writer, sent a letter to Mr. Hay bearing the following address:

"Postman bear this sheet away,  
And carry it to Mr. Hay;  
And whether you ride mare or colt on,  
Stop at the Theatre, Bolton,  
If in what county you incline,  
Merely mention Lancashire."

A letter addressed as follows was mailed in the provinces, and was duly delivered in London:

"Where London a column pointing to the skies,  
Like a tall bully, it is head and lies,  
There dwells a citizen of sober fame,  
A plain, good man, and Balaam is his name."

The letter was delivered without delay to a Mr. Balaam, a fishmonger near the Monument.

Turning from poetry to prose, we find the following vague direction:

"Mr. —, Travelling Band one of the Four playing in the street, Perth (Perthshire) Worcester-shire. Please find him in person."

Another envelope bore the following:

"This is for the young girl that wears spectacles,  
Who minds two babies so sweetly street, off  
Prince Edwin street, Liverpool."

Mr. J. Wilson Hyde, in his book, "The Royal Mail," says that two letters directed as follows were duly delivered:

"To my sister Jean, Up the Canongate, Down a  
Close, Edinburgh. She has a wooden leg."

The other was addressed:

"My dear Ant Sue as lives in the Cottage by the  
Wood near the New Forest."

"In the latter case, says Mr. Hyde, 'the letter had to feel its way about for a day or two, but 'Ant Sue' was found living in a cottage near Lyndhurst."

The striking mania reached a colored preacher in a town in Mississippi the other day, and he rose before his congregation and said: "Oh! I'm ben tryin' hard to preach de gospel on two dollars a week, an' I zo got discouraged. You has either got to raise the salary to three, or I zo gwine to go out an' skrimish fur begs an' chicken 'long wid de rest of you an' take my chances of gwine to heaven." By unanimous vote of the congregation it was decided to continue the salary at two dollars and let him skrimish.

No woman can lace herself so tight as a man can drink himself.

Brantford Cold Water Rice Starch, a excellent for Fine Laundry Work.

# ROYAL



# BAKING POWDER

This powder is easy to use and gives strength and flavor to the ordinary cake with the milk, or from phosphate power, Baking Powder.