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Hints for the Housewife.

Indian Summer.

The ruddy blaze of the sumac flares wide through the hazy gloom. And the goldenrod flaunts proudly Her glimmering yellow plume.

The tall rudbeckia opens Her disc like a glowing sun Where the Indian turnip blazons A path to the meadow run.

The dogwoods are gowned in crimson. The maples are splashed with red: And the ivy swings her lantern From a blighted bough o'erhead.

Then ho! for the partridge, calling His mate in the cornfield sere! And ho! for the woodcock drumming On a log by the limpid mere!

And ho! for Jack Frost, the Midas Who touches the oaken wold, Transmuting its simple verdure To mountings of gleaming gold!

Remove the foot plate from the sewing machine occasionally (after taking out the needle), and clean the feeder with gasoline, using a darning needle to lift out the fluff.

Old window shades can be greatly improved in appearance by removing from the roller, stitching a new hem on the roller end with a long stitch on the sewing machine, then tack the old hem (ripped out) on the roller.

If not the fortunate possessor of curtain stretchers, a good substitute is found in quilt frames. Fasten a pair of curtains at a time, pinning every scallop in place, and set where the sun and wind will quickly dry.

Brass or copper preserving kettles are in great demand to serve as jardinières. If discolored, scour with a strong solution of oxalic acid, using a swab (as the acid eats into the flesh like lime), and burnish with a chamois pad.

The dainty housekeeper has "silence" cloths on sideboard and serving table as well as under the table cloth, and you may be sure she has them fitted to dressing-table, chiffonier, and washstand as well, even if they are made of only thick canton flannel.

An artistic receptacle for holding a small amount of kindling and shavings is made from two squares of fine Japanese matting laced together on three sides with raffia, and having raffia covered rings on the open side, through which a heavy fiber cord is run to hang by.

Why not keep up writing desk supplies just as conscientiously as those for the pantry? Few households would get along a week without sugar, salt or soap, yet how many letters are unanswered for the lack of a good pen, a stamp, or an envelope. It is not the expense, but lack of thought, that keeps an insufficient or meager supply of the necessary articles on hand.

When dressmaking or much sewing is done in the house it is a great convenience to have a denim rug to spread over the carpet to prevent delicate fabrics coming in contact with the carpet, and also to keep all threads and litter off the carpet. Sixteen yards of denim will make a rug four yards square, which should be stitched on the machine with a two-inch hem to finish.

An article of furniture too seldom used is the clothes "tree," resembling the posts of our grandmother's four-post bedstead. It stands on three feet, and has half a dozen prongs or hooks. It takes up so little floor space and holds so many garments, it is an invaluable article. In a small hall or vestibule it takes the place of the hat rack, and in a larger hall it complements the table on which gentlemen's hats are laid. For the necessary airing of one's clothes overnight it is preferable to chairs, as it can so easily be set out of the sleeping-room. In the bathroom it is especially convenient.

If the edge and medallions of old Irish point curtains are in good condition, though the net is much broken, they can be transferred to new net without much trouble. Get enough bobbinette or Brussels net for the new curtains, cut the desired length, allowing for hems, and put into curtain stretchers. Baste the border of Irish point onto the net, then the medallions, and stitch on by the machine, using the longest stitch and a loose tension. Cut away the net close to the stitching.

It was a quick-witted bachelor girl who discovered that bamboo porch curtains made an ideal partition in the

large room she was obliged to use for both sitting-room and sleeping apartment. Two upright curtain poles secured to the floor and half a dozen screw-eyes in the floor helped to hold them secure, and a doorway was constructed out of Oriental cotton cloth. The screens allowed of better ventilation than was possible with drapery.

Miscellaneous.

Hot water and soda will usually remove stains from wood, such as the floor, table, etc.

A simple method of cleaning lamp chimneys—hold in the steam of a kettle and polish with a newspaper.

An old refrigerator which has a lining of tin may be made to look cleaner by applying coats of white enamel.

Put a few grains of rice in the salt cellars to keep the salt from caking; as the cellar is shaken the rice will keep the salt moving.

To clean a fishy frying pan, fill with cold water and place on the fire to boil. When boiling, put a red-hot cinder in, and then wash in the usual way.

When washing glassware do not put it in hot water bottom first, as it will be liable to crack from sudden expansion. Even delicate glass can be safely washed in very hot water if slipped in edgewise.

Peppermint sprigs laid around shelves and places which mice frequent will drive them away. Chloride of lime sprinkled around places that rats or mice frequent will also drive them away. Keep it in a bottle, corked.

Gin is the best thing to use to remove tea stains from a white dress. Place the stained part in a saucer, with enough gin to cover the stain, rub with a piece of the same material, press on the wrong side with a moderately hot iron till dry.

Rubbed well into yellowed knife handles of ivory, turpentine restores the color. Gilt frames can be cleaned by wiping with a small sponge dipped lightly in oil of turpentine. Wet the sponge just enough to take off the soil and dry marks. Let the frame dry itself.

To Make Colors Fast.—To preserve the colors of gingham, printed lawns, etc., and before washing almost any colored fabrics, it is recommended to soak them for some time in water to every gallon of which is added a spoonful of ox gall. A strong, clear tea of common hay will preserve the color of French linens. Vinegar in the rinsing water for pink and green fabrics will brighten these colors, and soda answers the same purpose for both purple and blue. The colors of the above fabrics may be preserved by using a strong, milk-warm lather of white soap, putting the dress into it instead of rubbing it on the material, and stirring into a first and second tub of rinsing water a large tablespoonful of ox gall. To prepare ox gall for washing colored articles empty it into a bottle, put in it a handful of salt and keep it closely corked. A teaspoonful to five gallons of the rinsing water will suffice.

Household Helps.

Heat the milk to be used in custards, pies or puddings, and they may be baked much quicker.

Add a little cream to icing for cake to prevent its cracking when cut.

Clean wringer rollers with kerosene and keep the wringer well oiled.

Clean mica in heating stoves by washing with hot vinegar and salt.

Wash woolen blankets in strong suds, not too hot, rubbing on as little soap as possible, rinse always in warm water, dry where they will not freeze, and they will not shrink. Pull them into shape and fold neatly—do not iron.

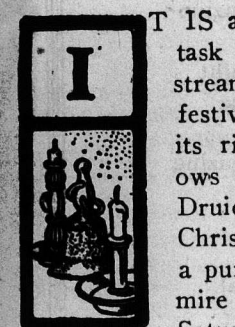
Hang up woolen blankets lengthwise, so that if the colors in the striped ends are inclined to run they will run down the stripe and not discolor the rest of the blanket.

An appetizing soup may be made by cooking together for an hour or two all left-overs of meat and vegetables, thoroughly incorporate them, strain, season nicely and serve with croutons—stale bread toasted, buttered and cut into small squares.

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T IS a task strewn with festive its r... ows... Drui... Chris... a pu... mire... Satur... nivals. For Mar... of the nativity... celebrated in Apr... 220, A.D., the East... 6th of January i... both the birth and... But the Western... chose rather to ob... winter solstice.

In common church red-letter influenced the fix... festival at this pe... most of the heath... regarded the wint... when nature took... vigor. At this p... the sun is nearest... occurred those h... among our rude... their origin in a... Strange to say, i... fourth century t... Western Christi... dates, the Easter... December 25th.

It was Pope G... said: The heath... ually be change... and the Christi... those of the tim... this remark he r... the Christmas fe... Saturnalia, the... Brumalia of Ital... and sanctified by... the Christian cy... servance. And... the heathen win... turned into a ce... ity, there is lit... Jul festival of t... the foundation f... ance. The Jul... nalia, was the... ancient German... ber 24th and en... was the time d... god of the he...