

THE HOUSEHOLD.

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S TOOL CHEST.

"A stitch in time saves nine" is a very excellent saying, although the reminder of the same may strike rather disagreeably on our ears when the neglected stitch has made room for a visible and unsightly breach. Like all sayings, too, this one applies in more ways than one, and to the practical housewife a tool in hand is worth, not two in the bush, but all those that lie in the carpenter's bag. Carpentering sounds a big word, perhaps, but it is wonderful what can be done at home, and how much trouble is saved by the judicious keeping and handling of some few tools; it is neither hard nor dirty work, in times of moving or re-arranging of rooms, for instance, and it rather increases the pleasure to have really had a hand in most of the innovations that can be suggested by a fertile brain or a love of variety. There is generally some corner in a house which can be set apart as a workshop, and even if this be impossible, or the title sounds too business-like, it is well to have a special receptacle for the tools, or they will inevitably be scattered about in different places, and not to be found when they are wanted. A visit to a tool shop will fascinate the most uninterested observer, and the number of articles that might "come in useful" is legion; but it is not my object to make an exhaustive list, nor to urge carpentering in its completeness. I will only suggest some things which are frequently wanted by the housewife, and which she would also be glad to have for the occasional putting together of odds and ends. Of course, the carpenter or the handy man close by can be sent for; but why should the housewife be doubtful of her own capabilities?

Always have a good provision of nails. An empty, shallow box will do to keep them in; strips of stiff card-board and a little glue will make suitable partitions, and keep screws, nails, hooks, tin tacks, etc., in separate places. In this collection it would be well to have large dress-hooks for cupboards, bed room doors, and such available places; small iron and brass brackets, too, are very useful for fixing shelves without help.

Then as to the tools. Have two hammers (one large and one small), a saw, a plane, a couple of gimlets, screw-driver, file, pincers, wire-nippers, a bradawl, a chisel and a screw-clamp, with which to fix the article you are working at to your table or any other available place. There are wooden vices which are for some work as convenient as the iron ones. Do not forget the glue and most necessary gluepot, a few tins of paint, and some good brushes. With such accessories any one can be independent and do many a useful turn in the house. Soak the paint-brushes in some turpentine, or wash them in a hot soap lather directly after using them, or they will stiffen and be useless for another time.

A row of hooks in a recess concealed by a curtain in some room with otherwise little accommodation will satisfactorily dispose of dresses or clothes that would otherwise be much in the way, and to fix such hooks is a simple piece of work any woman can do. Then a judicious handling of the plane will do away with just that "something that sticks," and tries your temper when vainly trying to open or shut a drawer in a hurry. The screw and its driver will restore the tiresome handle that falls out and rolls down at your feet, or leaves you unexpectedly shut in on the wrong side of the door.

Again, with the help of small nails and a hammer, India rubber tubing or the patent draught excluder may be fixed to your door, and keep out the draughts. It is not a bad plan to keep a few extra gas burners in the house; the pincers will soon unscrew a refractory one and remedy the faulty light; a slight escape of gas, by the way, can be temporarily stopped with a small quantity of white lead, or some soap well plastered round the crack, until the efficient workman can be procured.

Wood will necessarily be wanted for various odds and ends. It is easy to make one's choice in a lumber yard, where boards and laths will be cut to any size and are obtainable at the lowest price. Three-quarter boards are the most useful for brackets, shelves, etc., though for a mantel

board some might prefer thicker and more substantial. I should advise any one who is fond enough of carpentering to embark on actual odds and ends, nor to despise the collecting of cigar-boxes. If the wood is well smoothed and polished with fine glass-paper it will be useful in many ways. A short time ago I fitted all the plain drawers of a writing-table with partitions in this way for all manner of note paper, envelopes, stamps, pens and other such items that otherwise would have been hopelessly mixed.

Keep a small bottle of sweet oil, with a small brush, a quill or feather, and go the rounds of the doors occasionally to avoid creaking locks and hinges. Do not forget that the door-bell will become hard to pull from time to time, though a drop of oil will remedy that. Putty is rather difficult to fix. It seems an easy operation when the glazier is performing it, whereas you feel as if your fingers were all thumbs as soon as you attempt it yourself; but patience and practice make perfect, and many an inexplicable draught is obviated by its judicious application. However, it is useless to go on enumerating the advantages of learning to make oneself useful in the house; mending, upholstering, carpentering, etc., all come into the housework as surely as the ordering of dinner and the managing of the store and linen cupboard. To girls who are taught wood carving a little carpentering as a preliminary study would certainly do no harm, and there are many things we have never learned at school that necessity and a modicum of spirit and well-spent energy will teach us as well as an efficient professor.—*London Queen.*

A MOTHER'S STUMBLING BLOCK.

Who does not know the devoted mother? She is careful and troubled about many things. If she could be persuaded to more leisure, more fresh air, more recreation, she would be far lighter of heart and foot, and her children better and happier.

She feels that the whole duty of a good mother is not done unless she walk beside the little carriage as the baby gets the sunshine; unless she feels the little fingers clutching at her skirts, or hears the merry voices all day long ringing in her ears; and is assured that nobody can be trusted with Starry Eyes one hour, until sleep falls over the eyelids.

It is an absurd and impracticable theory. Constant supervision need not be constant self-sacrifice.

Oh, the pity of tired mothers! Always tired! Nerves like a spider's web, stretched from the pretty crib to the end of life! Aching, throbbing, beating; while the dear little voices chatter away, the noisy feet and busy hands do a thriving business indoors or out, with only mamma to be imposed upon. "I can't trust my precious children with a nurse!"

There is no economy in such service. A wise mother can find a capable, trusty nurse, just as a well-managed bank or store finds honest employees. I do not mean the class of mothers who send their children out with new, untried, unscrupulous women—the abominable mothers whom we all see and read about—but the conscientious, loving, care-taking mother, whose short-sighted judgment leads her to the foolish sacrifice of herself. It is the glory of motherhood to give to our children the conditions of good blood, good brains and sound bodies to make them perfect through care, love, wisdom and good health.

We know the happiest hours are spent with the children. Personal supervision is necessary, but constant care and undue anxiety is waste and extravagance. Send the little ones out—out of sight, out of hearing, for an hour or so; often, let them shout and tumble, and fall, and get up again! Let them go in safe places, with a trusted nurse; but let them go! Set them adrift for a fresh-air bath. On foot, in pillowed carriages, in the parks or fields, let them see the world.

No mother can afford to be always tired and threadbare. No husband can afford the extravagance of such a servant in his household. The position of his wife, the mother of his boys and girls, is far too important, and none other in the world can fill it again. All work is worthy, as it bears upon our growth upward and heavenward. How can a worn-out mother fashion character?

When you look for a self-controlled, joyous, unselfish mother, who is looked up to by her husband and her children, and to whom is intrusted the highest interests of the home, don't look at the woman who "can't trust" her babies out of sight, "can't trust" the work of the house to servants, but carries the heavy baby in her arms, while the little toddling ones drag at her skirts, from morning till the longed-for, prayed-for bed-time. One pair of hands to put on and take off the little garments for a walk or ride, and who wonders at "nervous debility" and the broken-down mothers?

After the children are bathed, fed and sent out then the mother needs to look for surplus strength. With fresh air, a friend, a book, a little trip, stillness from the little voices for a time, she gathers strength for the wild, merry, delightful elves who come home for midday meals and naps, and their thousand nameless wants and demands. At night she has a store of things new and sweet and healthful to offer her darlings, when they fall out of the day-time garments as the petals of wild blossoms fall off the flowers when day is done. She is a new joy, and each morning and evening in such a household is a new day.

A wise old grandmother once said of her neighbor, whose little ones climbed over her chair and talked and teased and made a noise during a call, "I hate to call upon Mary, she is so dragged to death with her children; and when I suggest a good nurse she always replies, 'Oh! I can never trust my children with any nurse.'" Tired mothers are many from bitter necessity; but to thousands from short-sighted, narrow-minded bigotry comes the slavery of a life which should be a kingdom. We owe to our children not alone perfect bodies, but the impress of nobility, in soul, mind, heart and character. The mother without health and nerve and joy can scarcely attempt these things. They come of fresh air, rest, recreation and unimpaired health.—*Babyhood.*

MICROBES AND DIARRHOEA.

We shall confine ourselves in this paper to the diarrhoea of infants. Microbes abound almost everywhere. Several different kinds have their habitat in the secretions of the mouth and throat. Most kinds are harmless, while others are the cause of various infectious diseases. Among the diseases caused by them are cholera infantum and other forms of infantile diarrhoea.

Breast-milk is wholly free from bacteria; therefore it is chiefly bottle-fed babies who have cholera infantum, and such patients are readily cured, if not already too far gone, by being transferred to a healthy wet-nurse.

Breast-milk does not curdle and form hard, cheesy lumps, which keep up a constant irritation of the bowels, as cow's milk does. This curdling is due to microbes which the milk absorbs from the air.

Another kind of microbe effects still more dangerous changes in the milk, producing the violent poison, now known as tyrotoxin, which has so often proved fatal to eaters of ice-cream and milk-pies. This same microbe is believed by some investigators to be the cause of cholera infantum.

Experts are assiduously searching for some effective means of destroying the noxious microbes after their invasion of the digestive tract. Meanwhile the great aim should be prevention. This may be attained by "sterilizing the milk;" that is, by killing the microbes contained in it.

Sterilizing is best done by steaming the milk in bottles. Soxhlet, of Germany, contrived an apparatus for the purpose, which is now extensively used in that country. Dr. T. M. Rotch, of Boston, has prepared an improved apparatus, and tested it in the wards of the Infant Hospital.

Dr. John A. Jeffries, of Boston, who has made a special study of the subject, declares that no expensive and complex process is needed.

Take the flask from which the child is to be fed,—a mere medicine bottle will do upon a pinch,—put in a stopper of cotton-wool, and heat the bottle and the stopper in an oven for thirty minutes at a mild baking-heat, or until the cotton becomes brown. Then pour the milk into the flask, put in the same stopper, and heat in a steamer for fifteen minutes.

When the milk is to be used, take out the cotton plug, and put on a short rubber nipple, without any tube. Milk thus prepared will last a long time. A number of bottles may be prepared at once, enough for a journey of several days, or for a voyage across the Atlantic. If it is desired to sweeten the milk, the sugar—milk sugar is preferable—should be put in before the milk is steamed.

Of course, overfeeding is always to be guarded against, especially during the heated term.—*Youth's Companion.*

PUZZLES.—No. 10.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.

- A is a city in Burmah.
- B is a city in England.
- C is a city in Hayti.
- D is a city in Nevada.
- E is a city in Montana.
- F is a city in Utah.
- G is a city in West Virginia.
- H is a city in New York.
- I is a city in Siberia.
- J is a city in Florida.
- K is a city in Kansas.
- L is a city in Montana.
- M is a city in Arabia.
- N is a city in Arabia.
- O is a city in New York.
- P is a city in Arizona.
- Q is a city in Illinois.
- R is a city in France.
- S is a city in Siberia.
- T is a city in Siberia.
- U is a city in Italy.
- V is a city in Spain.
- W is a city in Texas.
- X is a city in Ohio.
- Y is a city in Long Island.
- Z is a city in Ohio.

SYNCOPIATIONS AND REMAINDERS.

1. Syncope a fruit, and leave a Spanish name.
 2. Syncope to raise, and leave a multitude.
 3. Syncope an exudation from certain trees, and leave to restrain.
 4. Syncope in the centre, and leave a fog.
 5. Syncope in relation, and leave neatness.
 6. Syncope a native of a city in Italy, and leave color with spots.
 7. Syncope a weapon, and leave a round piece of timber.
 8. Syncope a health proposal, and leave throw.
 9. Syncope a weapon, and leave an ornamental fabric.
 10. Syncope a running knot, and leave part of the face.
 11. Syncope a comedy, and leave part of the head.
 12. Syncope hurry, and leave a bad passion.
- The syncope letters form a word—offences not quite crimes.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

- In singing, but not in joy;
 - In manhood, but not in boy;
 - In satin, but not in silk;
 - In butter, but not in milk;
 - In summer, but not in spring;
 - In pushing, but not in fling;
 - In power, but not in might;
 - In virtue, but not in right;
 - In sadness, but not in sigh;
 - In weeping, but not in cry;
 - In cloister, but not in nun;
 - In cheery, but not in fun.
- The word is a fearful cause of evil.

BEHEADMENTS.

1. A rolling circle; do you ride it?
2. A part of him who sits astride it.
3. Long, slender, agile; some have fried it.
4. A Spanish word, you've surely spied it.
5. Fifty; the Romans thus applied it.

SAM'S CHOICE.

Mr Smith called his son Sam to him, and told him that he was old enough to be learning a trade, and he must make up his mind very soon what trade he would follow, that steps might be taken toward securing an apprenticeship for him. Sammie went up to his room and sat down to think. At length he took a pencil and wrote down all the trades he could call to mind; but, in his perturbation of mind, he got the letters somewhat mixed. Below is his list, also his comments:

1. Rent crape.—"No, that sounds too mournful."
2. Err, nipt.—"That seems as if I should go wrong, then all my plans would be nipped in the bud."
3. No, Sam.—"That tells me plainly not to try it."
4. Cheat tric.—"I certainly want nothing of this, for, to be successful, one must avoid cheating tricks."
5. Charm ten.—"This seems more encouraging than any of the others."
6. Thick lambs.—"Ah, here is the trade for me! It sounds like peace and plenty, and I will tell Father at once that it is my choice."

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.—NUMBER 9.

ENIGMA.—Paris.

EASY WORD CHANGE.—1. Late—gate—gnat—gall. 2. Bide—ride—rise—risk. 3. Last—fast—list—fish. 4. Name—lame—lime—life. 5. Cuck—make—Mike—mice. 6. Dame—dale—bale—ball.

SINGLE ACROSTIC.—K head.

- E race.
- A tone.
- T any.
- S late.

UNITED SQUARE WORDS.—

S	A	M	P	E	T
A	D	A	E	H	E
M	A	N	T	E	N
		I	A	I	
		A	L	I	
		T	I	C	
D	O	T	O	A	T
O	R	A	A	S	A
T	R	A	T	A	G