

Household Information.

THE GUEST-ROOM.

WHEN furnishing the guest-room, there are many little things which would greatly add to the comfort and "at homeliness" of any guest; these little things should not be forgotten, nor considered of little importance. On the pin-cushion should be a goodly supply of pins of several sizes, in both black and white. If the cushion be too fine to be useful, a smaller cushion should surely be reckoned in with the bureau furnishings to be used as a pin-cushion, and not merely for looks. An extra paper or two should be placed in reserve in the upper drawer, for we all know how pins do take unto themselves wings and fly away. Another important item is a hair-pin box or basket well filled. A comb, brush, a fine comb, clothes-brush, hat-brush, hand-mirror, button-hook, and glove-buttoner are among the must-haves. A dainty work basket, well fitted up, with a needle-book, a pair of sharp scissors, thread, both white and black, a spool of black silk, and one of black linen for sewing on shoe buttons; a few buttons,—pearl for underwear, shoe-buttons, glove-buttons, and a few pants-buttons should also be added, and a thimble. Provide, also, for the use of your guest letter paper, envelopes, a few postals and stamps, a calendar and a blotter, with pens and ink. A scrap-basket is also a necessity as well as an ornament to the room. A tray for burnt matches will be of much use, and certainly has very saving qualities concerning the pretty bureau-covers and fresh paint; so many people throw burnt matches around anywhere, leaving an abominable black mark on the dainty furnishings.

A match safe, well filled, may be fastened up on the wall near the head of the bed convenient to reach. A soft dozer made of cheese-cloth, lightly wadded, and laid rolled up at the foot of the bed, or a knitted afghan may be a cause for gratitude; also an extra quilt conveniently placed, in case of need. Plenty of towels, good soap, and hot and cold water should be daily attended to. Do not let your guest suffer from cold or from too much heat either day or night, if possible to keep the temperature of the room comfortable according to your friend's feelings.

If convenient, a lounge, on which are placed two or three soft cushions, may be placed near one of the windows, where your guest may enjoy a quiet resting or reading hour before dressing for the afternoon or evening, or returning fatigued from some pleasant outing, or when the hostess may be busily engaged with domestic duties. A few small bottles containing camphor, cologne, and ammonia may be provided, and prove refreshing. Two or three of the latest magazines may be placed upon the table, with perhaps a couple of the best late novels; and should you know your friend's taste, add one or two of good standard works, with perhaps a choice book of poems. Of course you will also place your library at the service of your friend, as you may not have divined her preferences; neither would you wish to give her the idea that all reading should be done in her own room.

Always provide your guest with a pitcher of cold drinking water morning and evening.

Among the articles we have mentioned there will be several that our friend will bring with her; yet sometimes in the hurry of packing, even the most necessary small articles may be overlooked and forgotten; so that when she finds them already provided for her use by the kindly forethought of her hostess, how she will bless that dear woman in her heart for saving her the discomfort of having to ask for them, which, unless she may be an intimate friend, she would hardly like to do.

Don't imagine that the extra conveniences, in shape of work-basket, etc., should be supplied for ladies only. Our young or old gentlemen guest may require them as well, for we wives do sadly realize how buttons will snap off from some of man's apparel at the most inconvenient times. And surely every man should know how to sew on a button, as such an accomplishment would stand him in good stead many times.

Every mother should teach her boys how to use a needle and thread, to sew on buttons, mend rips, and also to darn stockings, even though he may never need to do it for himself. Most of the articles mentioned above can be ornamental as well as useful, and in looks alone will add much to the attractiveness of "the guest-room."

BLACKING STOVES.

Every good housekeeper dislikes to see a grimy stove, yet often dreads equally the grimy hand acquired in the process of blacking. A pair of thick gloves is, of course, a necessary part of the outfit of any woman who does kitchen work, and yet desires, as she should, to keep her hands dainty. As a rule, far too much blacking is used on stoves. A cake of blacking such as is sold for eight cents ought to last a year for blacking one stove. If more blacking is used, it will not be rubbed into the surface of the stove as it should be, but remain as a fine dust to be afterward blown about the kitchen and cause a generally grimy appearance, so often seen in uncared-for kitchens. A fresh coat of black should not be applied oftener than once a month, when the flues should also be cleansed out and the interior of the stove thoroughly brushed out. Before putting on new blacking, the old blacking should be washed off. The new coat must now be applied and the stove thoroughly polished.

The edges of the stove, if they are of polished iron, should not be blacked, but cleaned like a steel knife with sapolio or brick dust. The nickel knobs and other nickel parts of the stove must be rubbed bright with a chamois skin or old shrunken flannel. An ordinary paint and whitening brush is one of the best things with which to apply blacking to a stove. A stiff brush, such as is used for this purpose, is the best brush for polishing. During the month, polish the stove with the polishing-brush each morning, just after kindling the fire. Keep an old cloth always on hand in cooking, to rub off any grease spot as soon as it occurs. If the spots are obstinate, a few drops of kerosene oil put on the stove cloth will remove them. The ground edges and nickel work of the stove should be rubbed off at least once a week, besides the monthly cleaning when the stove is blacked.

WINE stains on linen should be washed out in cold water mixed with a few drops of ammonia and spirits of wine. If, unfortunately, the cloth has been wetted before the stains are discovered, wet the stain on each side with yellow soap and lay it on some thickly made starch. Rub well and expose to the sun until the stain vanishes. Sometimes, when space is available, the linen is laid on the grass and salt is substituted for the starch, when the stains will disappear in two or three hours.

In washing clothes, grass stain is particularly obstinate to remove. It will sometimes disappear by dipping the spot with molasses, and letting it lie a few moments. Rinse the molasses out in clear water, and the stain will disappear with it. A more effectual method, however, is to dip the spot in a solution of tin chloride, and immediately wash it out in an abundance of clear water. Many stains which are too firmly set to yield to the treatment of boiling water will come out by dipping the spot in warm chlorine water.