

Keep the Kitchen Clean.

Here is a recipe that should be cut out and pasted in one corner of the kitchen, where it can be seen, for it will save many dollars' worth of time and strength. Shave five cakes of good, hard soap into just enough boiling water to dissolve them nicely. Stir constantly until the soap is dissolved, then add two tablespoons of powdered borax, and a scant teacup of kerosene. Remove the mixture from the stove before adding the kerosene. Stir it well, then pour it into a covered stone jar, and use it whenever anything very dirty, either cloth, tinware, woodwork, or iron utensils, is to be cleaned. Apply a little to the outside of your teakettle, while it is hot, using a flannel cloth for the purpose, and see how quickly you can clean it, and how bright it will be. Use a little, also, when cleaning your windows, and you will never again regard that task as something to be put off as long as possible. For cleaning sinks, wash-basins, and slop-jars there is nothing that can equal it, and by its use the dish towels can be kept nice and white without rubbing. Put them into a pan of cold water, add enough of the compound to form a good suds, and let them come slowly to a boil. Let them boil until they are sufficiently clean, then rinse them and hang them out. Such work will almost do itself, while one is attending to other duties, and the task of keeping clean is thus robbed of more than one-half its terrors.

How to Choose Beef.

The grain of ox beef is loose, the meat red, and the fat inclining to yellow. Cow beef, on the contrary, has a looser grain, a whiter fat, and meat scarcely as red as that of ox beef. Inferior beef, which is meat obtained from ill-fed animals or from those which have become too old for food, may be known by a hard, skinny fat, a dark-red lean, and, in old animals, a line of horny texture running through the most of the ribs. When meat pressed by the finger rises up quickly, it may be considered that of an animal in its prime; on the other hand, if the dent returns slowly, or remains visible, the animal has passed its prime, and the meat consequently must be of inferior quality. Veal should be delicately white, though it is often juicy and well-flavored when rather dark in color.

A Harmless Shoe Varnish.

Nearly all, if not all, varnishes used on shoes harden the leather. To remedy this, rub the leather with sweet oil, or any good, suitable oil. An excellent home-made shoe polish is made as follows: Mix three ounces of ivory-black, two ounces of treacle, one ounce of sulphuric acid, and one ounce of gum arabic; dissolve it in a little water, just enough to make it a liquid. Add a tablespoonful of sweet oil and a pint of vinegar. This makes a liquid polish. Half a pint of vinegar makes a paste. Put the blacking or

liquid in a wide-mouthed bottle, and apply it with a piece of sponge stuck on the end of a heavy wire attached to the cork. Oil shoes well in winter to prevent dampness penetrating the leather. Calfskin made with the outside of the leather on the outside of the shoes, if kept well oiled, is nearly as damp-proof as india-rubber. Such shoes, however, should not be worn over carpets, as they wear them out, and leave behind the tracks of mud.

The Way to Fold a Coat.

To fold a man's coat, lay it out perfectly flat with the wrong side down; the sleeve should be spread out smoothly, and then folded back to the elbow until each end of the sleeve is even with the collar. Fold the revers back and then double the coat over, folding it directly in the centre seam and smoothing it out carefully so that there may be no wrinkles. The coat is then ready to place in the trunk or on the closet shelf. Unless space is limited, do not turn up the tails when folding a coat.

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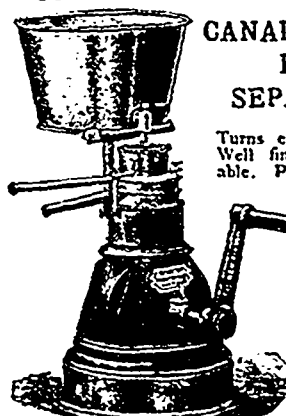


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