

Up-to-date Appliances Calculated to Lessen Work in the Farm Home

It is frequently stated that housekeeping is the most backward industry in the world—less progress made in it during the last hundred years than in any other business. There is truth in the statement—so much, in fact, that no one even attempts to contradict it. Yet when we compare the kind of work which the housekeepers are doing to-day with what they did two generations ago, we must admit that the character of the work in the home has changed very materially. One hundred years ago women were doing many things that are now taken out of the house entirely. To-day they are doing a great many other things that were never dreamed of even two or three generations ago. Our grandmothers did the spinning and weaving of cotton, wool, and flax; they made carpets, did the tailoring and dressmaking, some of them made boots, hats, gloves, collars, cuffs, underclothing, mattresses and pillows. Between times, and by way of recreation they made soap, candles, yeast, perfumes, medicines, liniments and cheese. They browned the coffee, dried the fruits and vegetables, and pickled the meat. And yet, judging by family records, we discover that those busy grandmothers had just as much time to be hospitable and entertain their friends as we have to-day. Their entertaining was, perhaps, not accompanied with such a blaze of light and blare of trumpets as in this day, and visitors did not come so often. But when they did, what a good time everyone had—from father down to the small boy, who found it an excellent opportunity to lay in an extra supply of cookies and fried cakes!

There have been many improvements in household equipment since grandmother's time. Instead of candles we have kerosene, gas and electricity—even the last in some country homes. We can send for an electric or steam vacuum cleaner and clean our houses in half a day instead of undergoing the torture of a "regular spell" of spring cleaning lasting for several weeks.

We have sewing machines, but unfortunately have added more ruffles and lace to our garments, and still have a great deal of sewing to do. We have water systems and plumbing in town houses, and in many progressive ones in the country, and these two items simplify labor immensely. Many modern homes, even in the country, are heated with hot air or steam or