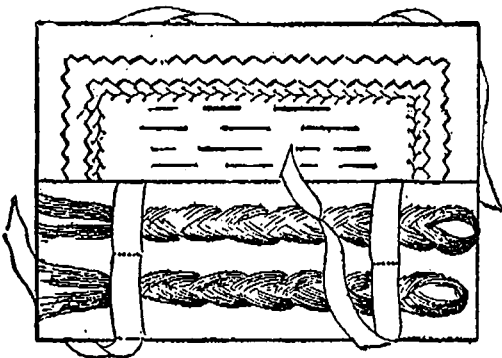




Darning Cotton Book.

THE ever ready materials for "mending the holes and preserving the soles" encased in a compact form as here illustrated, will be found particularly convenient to carry about in the satchel or for the big brother that is out of home reach. The dimensions of the book are six and a quarter by six inches. For the cover



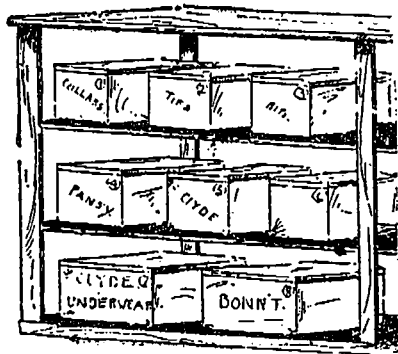
cut two pieces of cardboard the above size, cover them neatly with gray linen, fasten two bands of golden brown ribbon across the inside of one and the outside of the other half, and over-hand the remaining space together on the back. Attach a couple of leaves of light brown flannel on the opposite side. Decorate the cover with fanciful gilt lettering and circles and tie it together.

The Home Counter.

"THOU shalt not covet."

I know it, of course; but notwithstanding I think I have never beheld the inside arrangement of a storekeeper's counter without experiencing some such feeling as the one forbidden! Hence it was that, while waiting in a country store for the clerk to find an article among the varied assortment ranged along his counter-shelves, an idea was borne to me. This I shortly carried into practical working, and hasten to explain, that others, who may have the same wants, may obtain the same relief which came to me from the adoption of a new piece of household furniture.

I call it the "home counter," by way of contradistinction to the merchant's counter; and yet serves the same purpose in household "business," and is as much a necessity, I conceive, as in a store.



The counter shown in the engraving gives a very clear conception of the manner of its construction. A long table on "legs" might explain it, the top being a board or boards, thick enough and kiln-dried to prevent warping. The supporting pieces need not be wider than three inches, and about three-quarters of an inch thick. The same material may be used for shelving, this being covered with screen

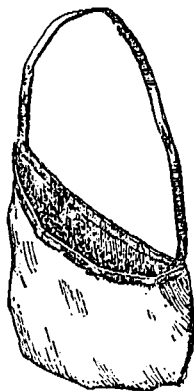
wire. The wire is better than boards, because dust cannot collect on it.

The boxes shown may be utilized in a thousand and one ways. I got the medium-sized green pasteboard boxes used by milliners for laces, hats and such things, and on the corner I placed a figure, numbering from one up. Now whatever I place in one of these receptacles can be easily kept track of by indexing in a small blank book. If the garret admits of it a counter may be made to extend its entire length, and boxes of all sizes made to serve various purposes, which will suggest themselves to one bent on systematizing things. I venture to warn her to begin in a small way and see which is the wisest way to expand.

The top should be built to project in front and under it a curtain may be suspended to cover all from the dust; the ends being boarded in and the back covered by tacking paper over it, or by setting the counter snugly against a wall. Underclothing, wraps and other winter goods may be stored in these boxes (in company with camphor), paper being pasted around the cover cracks, if desired. If there are several children in the family, each may have his or her own "number" in which to keep the "clean change," etc. Or a small section of counter may be made for the different rooms, as most convenient. The application of this idea may be varied, the object of my article being to put the reader to inquiry and experiment.

An Improved Clothes-pin Bag.

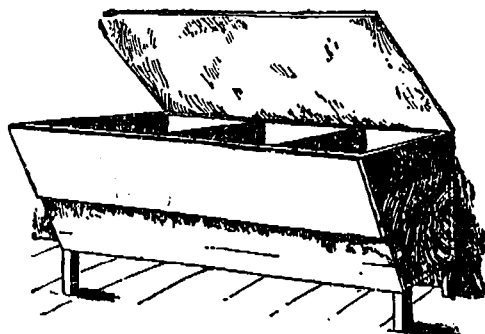
THE accompanying illustration shows a clothes-pin bag which has two distinct improvements over the apron bag usually used for this purpose. It has a shoulder strap, so that its



weight can be supported by one shoulder, as a postman supports his letter bag. The weight of a clothespin bag, when full of pins, is too great to be supported in the usual fashion about the waist, while great inconvenience is experienced in attempting to put clothespins with one hand into a bag whose "mouth" is continually closing.

Tubs and Ironing Table Combined.

Set tubs make easier the weekly washing day, and they can be made by a carpenter at no great expense or by the man of the house

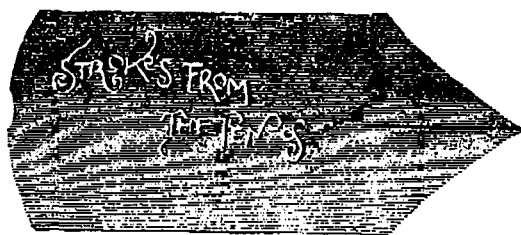


himself, if he be handy with tools. The illustration shows a combination of tubs and ironing table, the space on the top of the tubs being increased by the raising of a hanging shelf

which is hinged to the top of the front so as to come flush with the cover proper when raised to a horizontal position. To secure solidity, two legs can be inserted under this shelf when it is to be raised. The three compartments make it possible to put the clothes through the customary three waters without first emptying one compartment to make room for the final rinsing. If there is not running water in the house the tubs should be fitted with stop corks at the outer corners to draw off the water.

Design for a Pen-Wiper.

THE two outside covers of the pen-wiper shown in the engraving are made of bark cloth, each two inches wide and four long, cut in the shape of a pen. Four thicknesses of



chamois skin are cut to match, and fastened between the covers by a few invisible stitches at the point of the pen. The lettering is done in silk, and the name of the person to whom it is to be presented is added below.

Hints for Housekeepers.

Old kid gloves make excellent penwipers.

To clean papered walls tie a soft cloth to a broom and gently brush.

When the hands are stained, use salt and lemon juice; this will take off stains and render the hands soft and white.

TO CLEANSE BLACK CLOTHES.—All traces of mud can easily be removed from black clothes by rubbing the spots with a raw potato cut in half.

Light curtains have a vexatious way of flying out open windows, or across the room; this may be remedied by small weights sewed into the hem.

HUSKINESS.—If the throat is husky from dust or weariness, an excellent gargle can be made of a teaspoon of spirits of camphor in a glass of hot water.

If grease or oil is spilled on a carpet, flour or fine meal should be sprinkled over it as soon as possible, and let remain for several hours, and it will absorb the grease.

Steel knives which are not in general use may be kept from rusting by covering the steel portion with mutton tallow, then wrapping them in paper and putting away.

Lard will remove wagon grease. Rub the spot with the lard as if washing it, and when it is well out wash in the ordinary way with soap and water until thoroughly cleansed.

NEW brushes that are an improvement on the feather duster have long handles with the brush of lambs' wool, which gathers the dust and holds it. These brushes can be washed after using, whereupon they are again made as white and soft as wool.

RUBBER RINGS.—The rubber rings of preserve jars will recover their elasticity if soaked for a while in weak ammonia water. This is quite an item when canning is being done, and the rubber rings are found to be stretched out of shape.

Wash your cans clean if you want the creamery butter sweet. A scrub brush is much better than a cloth to get the sour milk out of the creases where it sticks so. Try it once, if you don't believe it, then take a good smell of your can after it is scalded out.