

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HINTS ON FURNISHING.

I want to offer a few suggestions with reference to the furnishing of a guest chamber. First, let me advise the housekeeper not to be persuaded to spend money for dry goods boxes, pink cambric and dotted muslin, as such furnishing soon becomes extremely unsatisfactory.

If she lives in the country, there are frequently auctions where a bureau, three or four chairs, perhaps some of them bottomless, a sink, a washstand or a small table that might be used for toilet purposes, could be bought for a trifle. I have known all these articles to be sold for less than a dollar. Perhaps a nail or two, or a little glue, may be needed to put them in proper condition for further use. If she lives in a city or village, the auction room is just the place to find what she wishes. It is a good way to remove every vestige of old paint from them by using hot lye. Put a quart or two of ashes and three or four quarts of water in an old kettle, let it boil a few minutes, and apply hot with an old broom, going over the article several times, frequently heating up the lye. The paint will soon yield to the vigorous use of the broom, then wash and rinse thoroughly, and wipe dry, then wet over with vinegar to kill all traces of the lye. I have just removed the paint from the case of an old-fashioned fall clock that has been off duty for nearly forty years, preparatory to having it painted and gilded, when it will occupy a corner in one of our living rooms. In a few days the furniture will be ready for its new dress, which may be cream color with chocolate bands, edged with gold paint, or a delicate shade of pale green with bands to harmonize, or the bands may be omitted. Give two good coats. When thoroughly dry, varnish with best furniture varnish.

I have no doubt but the furniture may be bought and made ready for use, with less money than the cambric and muslin. When completed you will have something pretty and durable, not requiring to be "done up" every year. Perhaps a mirror may be obtained in the same way. The frame may be painted like the furniture or with gold paint.

A small table may be made of a round piece of board, and three old broom handles painted. Tie a ribbon around where the broom handles cross. The tops of the furniture may be covered with oil cloth which resembles marble, it being neatly tacked on underneath.

The chairs may be supplied with seats of sack or board firmly fastened on, then nicely cushioned with pieces of old bed quilt. The piece bag can scarcely fail to supply materials for a variety of pretty coverings for them.

Window shades of bleached cotton with a trimming of lace across the bottom are neat and economical. Before we had blinds, I used to cut common plain curtain paper the width of the shade and several inches longer and tack shade and paper together on the roller, roll up as high as I wished, cut the paper off the length of the shade, then fasten to the hem at the bottom with a fine thread or a few pins on the back. Of course, the paper is next the window.

For a carpet straw matting is inexpensive or the floor may be painted, the centre light, with a darker border of a color harmonizing with the color of the furniture. Two or three rugs, would be an improvement.—*The Household.*

SOME SIMPLE REMEDIES.

"Accidents will happen in the best of families," is an old saying that can be verified by every housekeeper. When sudden injuries or ailments come to a member of the family prompt remedies are required and they should be kept where they can easily be obtained and applied.

The accidents which most frequently occur among children are cuts, bruises and burns and to this list I will add such diseases as croup, cramp, colic, etc. For all these there are a few standard remedies and appliances which every mother may have in readiness for use.

I will suggest these; a small bundle of cotton or linen rags, a few pieces of flannel, a little cotton batting, for ear-ache, etc., and a rolled bandage; this is made of strips of old muslin two inches wide sewed together with ends overlapped, not seamed, then rolled as tightly as possible. The bandage may

be from three to twenty yards in length, additions being made from time to time as suitable material is found. This must be kept for severe injuries where complicated bandages may be required. For ordinary cut fingers or toes a supply of rags is easily kept ready.

For cuts, besides the wrappings, we need a package of court plaster, and some vaseline or other healing salve.

For bruises, apply tincture of arnica, but if there be laceration with the bruise use glycerole of arnica in preference.

For severe burns cloths wet in a solution of soda should be quickly applied. For slight burns a mixture of lime water and sweet oil brings speedy relief.

For bee stings or the bites of insects use spirits of ammonia.

For cough or threatening croup, a good cough syrup may be procured from your physician. The use of this, with a hot foot bath, oiling the soles of the feet and the chest, and avoiding exposure will usually prevent an acute attack of croup. Should it come, however, grate a teaspoonful of alum, mix it with molasses and sugar and give. Send for a doctor always in cases of croup, if possible.

For cramp, colic, pleurisy, or any severe pain a mustard plaster is often serviceable. To make it, mix flour and water to a thick paste, spread on a heavy cloth, sprinkle mustard over it, then cover with a thin cloth, such as cambric or mosquito net.

For neuralgia, wring flannel cloths from hot water and apply to the part affected, changing for hot cloths frequently.

For greater convenience in reference, I will place the things I have named in a list. 1, soft rags, cotton and woollen; 2, long bandage roll; 3, cotton; 4, one bottle of glycerole of arnica; 5, one package of court plaster; 6, one box of vaseline, or healing salve; 7, soda in a tin box; 8, one bottle of lime water and sweet oil; 9, one bottle of ammonia; 10, one bottle of cough syrup; 11, one large lump of alum; 12, one box of mustard. All bottles should be plainly labelled.

A good plan is to keep all these things in a box which must always be in its place, and which must not be made a receptacle for old bottles, powders, pill boxes, or any other medical rubbish.—*Household.*

PREMATURE DEATHS.

Strong men lose their lives by imprudent acts, while the weak, compelled to take care of themselves, often live to old age. Few men live as long as they should, because few abstain from violating some law of health. The late Dr. Marion Sims, the founder of the Woman's Hospital in New York, said that most men die prematurely, even when they die of old age.

Among these premature deaths he mentions that of Peter Cooper, who imprudently exposed himself at the age of ninety-three, took cold, and died of pneumonia. Capt. Labouche, who died a few years ago in New York at the age of one hundred and eleven, also died prematurely from a cold caused by imprudent exposure.

Dr. Sims says that his own father died prematurely at the age of seventy-eight, because he did what he ought not to have done. One hot day in July, he rode thirty miles in the saddle. Having stabled his horse, he began chopping wood.

Suddenly the axe dropped from his hands, and he was paralyzed. The long ride in the sun had overheated and fatigued his body. The violent chopping overtaxed heart and lungs, and threw the blood too forcibly to the brain. A blood-vessel in the brain gave way, letting out the blood, which, forming a clot, produced paralysis.

"As all this occurred as the result of an imprudent and unnecessary act," says Dr. Sims, "I am justified in saying that my father died prematurely at the age of seventy-eight; for I am sure that without this he would have lived to be ninety-five, as his grandfather did before him."

The strength of the strong is often their weakness, while the feebleness of the weak is their strength.—*Youth's Companion.*

CORN STARCH CAKE.—Half cup of butter, creamed, one and a half cups of sugar, half cup of milk, half teaspoonful of almond, and cup of cornstarch, one and a half cups of pastry flour half teaspoonful of soda, one and a half teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, whites of six eggs. Mix in the order given, and bake in a moderate oven.

USEFUL GIFTS.

There are many useful gifts for a bride who is to go to a new home at once which her humblest friend may prepare, and in the using of which she will be quite as grateful for their thoughts for her convenience as for the more showy gifts she seldom finds it convenient to use. Holders, dusters, nets for cooking vegetables or eggs, dumping cloths with a stout twisted string secured to each one, jelly strainers of flannel, bags for various purposes—I have such a 'pendant for bags—ironing blankets and sheets, clothespins, apron and mittens to wear to hang clothes out in, table covers for use when the table is laid over night, beside many other conveniences, may each be prettily ornamented by some design or letters in Turkey red marking cotton, which will wear well and insure care in laundering.

Bits of flannel left when making up winter clothing can scarcely be classed with linen outfitting, yet they are useful and may be quite ornamental if pinked or notched or bound and provided with cord or braid to hang up by; nothing makes better wash-rags, they hold the warmth of the water, preventing a chill which one sometimes feels in using linen ones; for straining jelly or any liquids requiring straining, flannel leaves a clear, "shiny" appearance, much more tempting than the clouded results often obtained after using cotton for that purpose; for holders and scouring cloths too, and even rolls of flannel and linen and "rags" nicely prepared are very useful in a house where everything is new. I know of a case where in serious sickness a fine flannel skirt was torn up for "flannel cloths" because the house had not any such rolls, of old or new, provided for such an emergency.—*Household.*

BOILED BREAD PUDDING.—A boiled bread pudding is not so common a dish as a baked one, but it is equally nice. Let one pint and a half of milk come to a boil, and pour it over three-quarters of a pint of fine bread crumbs. While this is cooling, beat four eggs very light, add sugar to your taste with a third of a cup of butter, a teaspoonful of currants, cherries or raisins, and half a teaspoonful of grated nutmeg; then when the milk has ceased to be scalding add these to it, beat well together, and put it into a buttered basin or pudding dish; tie a cloth over the top, set it into a kettle of boiling water, and let it boil for an hour and a half. A tin pail is better than a basin; for by its use there is less likelihood of burning your hand. Have the tea-kettle on the stove, so that the water can be replenished, and the boiling of the pudding not for a moment suspended.

If you wish to keep a knife sharp don't put it in hot grease; stir your potatoes while frying, or turn meat with a fork or an old case knife kept on purpose. Don't allow soap to lie in water and waste. When you have enough remove it to its dish, and if the water is hard use lye, a very little, in your dish water, some in wash water always. If you haven't suitable ashes to make it buy concentrated lye and see how much you save in a few weeks. I know a lady who says it takes five bars of soap to do her washing and complains because she can't take a magazine. I could do it with one bar and two cents' worth of lye I know. Don't throw waste paper or rags into your yard, if you can't use them to advantage burn them in the stove.—*The Household.*

The *Journal of Health* asserts that no thoughtful mother should rest until she has taught her daughter to do well the following things: To make a cup of coffee, to draw a dish of tea, to bake a loaf of bread, to cook a potato, to broil a steak or chicken, to cut, fit, and make a dress, and to set a tidy table, and say "no" when asked to drink wine. The success and permanence of the temperance cause depend largely on women. How necessary therefore that they should be well trained in right views about alcohol.

BEEF TEA.—To one pound of leg or shin of beef, minced up small, add three half-pints of water and let it stand all night; in the morning put it in a nice clean saucepan and let it come slowly to the boil, watching that it only simmers gently; then put in a little salt to flavor, and a top crust which has been toasted a dark brown. Keep the lid close, and simmer gently for three hours then pour it off, and when cold remove the fat; it is then ready for use.

PUZZLES.

ENIGMA.

In heap, not in pile;
In frown, not in smile;
In album, not in book;
In eye, not in look;
In bound, not in free;
In island, not in sea;
In bell, not in flute;
In lyre, and in lute;
In emblem, not in sign;
Whole a gift of love divine.
Let it be thy guide by day,
Lest thy footsteps go astray.

A SQUARE WORD.

1. To correct. 2. A magistrate. 3. A nest. 4. Knots of wool. 5. Habit.

JUMBLE.

Apesk lgetny! sit' a tellti ghnit
Peddorp ni het 'sehatr epde lewl
Het ogdo hte oyl cwith ti amy gurib
Ternitye slahl lelt:

PHONETIC CHARADE.

My first is to suit, and my last is a fuss;
My whole you will find to be very fa-mous.

SYNCOPIATIONS.

1. From raising take an organ of sense and leave to sound a bell.
2. From the act of depositing for safe keeping take a conjunction and leave a place for acting.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

ANAGRAMS.—Matrimony.
Understanding.
Orchestra.
One word.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.—Wolf Island, Bear Lake (Me.), Troy (Me.), Ware (Mass.) Canterbury (N. H.), the Horseback Mt. (Me.), Sandwich (N. H.), Chesterfield (Mass.) Camels Hump (Vt.), Gray Head (Martha's Vineyard), Lyme (Conn.) Braintree (Mass.), Guildhall (Vt.), Woodstock (Vt.), Saybrook (Conn.), China (Me.), Ipswich (N. H.), Unity (N. H.), Haystack (Me.), Wilton (Me.), Mt. Washington (N. H.), Derby (Vt.), Plainfield (Conn.), No Man's Land (south of Martha's Vineyard), Fairfield (Conn.), Sheffield (Mass.), Orange (Mass.), Windsor (Vt.), Long Meadow (Mass.), Eagle (Me.), Dead River (Me.), Springfield (Mass.) Baldwin (Me.), Warwick (R. I.), Smithfield (R. I.) Marblehead (Mass.), Mt. Holy (Vt.).

EASY SQUARE.—R A T E
A G E D
T E N D
E D D Y

DECAPITATIONS.—1. Shark, hark. 2. Hark! ark. 3. Whale, hale. 4. Hale, ale. 5. Rice, ice. 6. Zany, any. 7. Will, ill. 8. Pape, ape.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from W. Tweedle Terice, Samuel Cameron, and Stanley Wainwright.

LATE HOURS.

The habit of writing and reading late in the day and far into the night, "for the sake of quiet," is one of the most mischievous to which a man of mind can addict himself. The feeling of tranquility which comes over the busy and active man about 10.30 or 11 o'clock ought not to be regarded as an incentive to work. It is, in fact, a lowering of vitality, consequent on the exhaustion of the physical sense. Nature wants and calls for physiological rest. Instead of complying with her reasonable demand, the night-worker hails the "feeling" of mental quiescence, mistakes it for clearness and acuteness and whips the jaded organism with the will until it goes on working. What is the result? Immediately, the accomplishment of a task fairly well, but not half so well as if it had been performed with the vigor of a refreshed brain, working in health from proper sleep. Remotely, or later on, comes the penalty to be paid for unnatural exertion—that is, energy wrung from exhausted or weary nerve-centres under pressure. This penalty takes the form of "nervousness," perhaps sleeplessness, almost certainly some loss or depreciation of function in one or more of the great organs concerned in nutrition. To relieve these maladies, springing from this unexpected cause, the brain-worker very likely has recourse to the use of stimulants, possibly alcoholic, or it may be simply tea or coffee. The sequel need not be followed. Nightwork during student life and in after years is the fruitful cause of much unexplained, though by no means inexplicable, suffering, for which it is difficult if not impossible to find a remedy. Surely, morning is the time for work, when the body is rested, the brain relieved from its tension, and mind power at its best.—*London Lancet.*