

HOUSEHOLD.

A Family Ailment.

It was not among people of mean and vicious lives that this strange disease showed itself, but in a family born to ease and refinement, and scholarly habits of thought. A clergyman's family, noted for their active piety—the father a keen logician, the mother a leader in church work, the daughter and son energetic members of many charitable and civic organizations for the betterment of the degraded classes.

The old doctor, coming up to the city to spend the day with his old classmate, saw the symptoms of this disorder at the breakfast table. There was no smiling greeting, no morning kiss from the children. Dr. X. gave a curt nod as wife and children entered, which was returned in kind.

The sun shone brilliantly, the roses outside smiled joyously in at the windows. The old doctor spoke of them as he would of children who brought him a welcome. The family stared at him with amused contempt.

'I believe the chambermaid takes care of the flowers,' said Mrs. X. severely. 'Life is too busy and serious a thing for me to spend it in growing posies.'

The family all had a talent for unpleasant sarcasm. Dr. X. was noted among his brethren for satire in debate that stung like a poisoned lash. His children each flourished such a little whip, and used it incessantly upon each other. No matter how petty the occasion, the gibe was ready.

John had just come home from the barber, who had cut his hair too short. Father, mother and sister jeered at him until the young man flushed with anger, and he looked an oath if he did not speak it.

Jane had read a paper before the girls' church guild the previous night. The family secretly were proud of it, but each one now had some scathing comment to make on it. The leading articles in the morning paper, Dr. X.'s dyspepsia, his wife's cap, the steak, every subject or thing brought to notice, was attacked with this dry, bitter wit.

The old doctor looked from one refined, intelligent face to the other. 'They are like a nest of hornets let loose,' he thought. 'Is there nothing better for them to do than to sting?'

These people at heart were loyal; they would have given their lives for each other; but to gratify the poor vanity of making a bitter jest, they made home life sour and mean and hard.

The old doctor did not spend the day. He made an excuse and hurried out of the house. He shook his head as he looked back at it.

'It's a common disease, though it has no name,' he said to himself; 'but there's none harder to cure and none that does such deadly work to body and soul.—The Household.'

To Get Rid of Stains.

Here is a list which housekeepers should paste up where it would be ready when the query comes: 'Oh, dear, what is it that takes out mildew stains or peach stains? I've read it somewhere, but I can't remember to save my life.' For fresh tea or coffee stains use boiling water. Place the linen stained over a large bowl and pour through it boiling water from the tea kettle, held at a height to insure force. Old tea and coffee stains, which have become 'set,' should be soaked in cold water first, then boiling.

For peach stains a weak solution of chloride of lime, combined with infinite patience. Long soaking is an essential.

Grass stains may be removed by cream of tartar and water.

For scorch, hang or spread the article in the sunshine. For mildew, lemon juice and sunshine, or if obstinate, dissolve one tablespoonful of chloride of lime in four quarts of cold water and soak the article until mildew disappears. Rinse very thoroughly, to avoid any chemical action upon the linen.

For blood stains, use cold water first, then soap and water. Hot water sets the stain.

For chocolate stains use cold water first, then boiling water from the teakettle.

Fruit stains will usually yield to boiling water; but if not, oxalic acid may be used.

allowing three ounces of the crystal to one pint of water. Wet the stain with the solution, place over a kettle of hot water in the steam or in the sunshine. The instant the stain disappears, rinse well; wet the stain with ammonia to counteract the acid remaining. Then rinse thoroughly again. This will many times save the linen, which is apt to be injured by the oxalic acid. Javelle water is excellent for almost any white goods. It can be made at home or bought at any drug store.—Pres. Banner.

Frightening Children.

Little Arthur, while visiting his grandmamma, came screaming from the yard where he was playing and throwing himself into grandmamma's arms, sobbed out: 'Please, don't let him have me, grandmamma.'

'What do you mean, dear? What has frightened you so?' and grandmamma held the quivering child closer to her bosom, fearing he would go into spasms with fright.

'Oh, grandmamma, the old black dog has come for me; mamma said he would if I was bad, and I broke your plate this morning. Oh, don't let him take me, please don't.'

'No, no, darling, he shan't have you; I will hold you tight. Where is he?'

'Out in the yard, quite close to me when I ran to you.'

'Well, we will shut the doors and keep him out, and then you can come to the window and show him to me.'

Arthur suffered himself to be led to the window, but the sight of the small black dog running around the yard renewed his terror, and grandmamma had to quiet him by assuring him again and again that the dog could not get in while the doors were shut.

After he had slept off some of the effects of his fright, and the dog had been driven out of sight, grandmamma tried to undo the evil wrought by his thoughtless young mother by telling Arthur the dog was too small to carry off such a big three-year-old boy. But it was several days before his nervousness wore away enough to allow him to enjoy a play in the yard unless someone went with him to keep off the black dog.

How many children, like little Arthur, suffer from the dread of bugbears of every kind that can be imagined by their thoughtless mothers and nurses! Their nerves are injured, and, what is far worse, they lose the sweet faith and trust which is childhood's heritage as soon as they learn they they have been deceived. Would it not be much better to return their loving confidence at any cost? It may take more time and trouble to secure obedience by firm and loving discipline, yet it is much better for both child and parent.—Christian Observer.

A Stitch in Time.

The weekly mending is always so much of a bore that the happy thought of applying the old adage, 'a stitch in time,' to this dreaded task, has set me wondering why I have allowed myself to be troubled so long. Upon my dressing table I keep in a little tray a needle, thread and some darning cotton. Every night when I remove my stockings, I look them over—a glance suffices—and I find the little holes that begin to come vastly easier to mend than the yawning caverns that would otherwise be awaiting me on Tuesday. And so it is with other things. Sewing on a button or catching together a tiny rip here and there takes scarcely a minute, but the sum total of these rips and buttons would make a large inroad upon one precious week-day morning, otherwise.—N. E. 'Homestead.'

Selected Recipes.

Maple Sugar Tea Biscuit.—One quart of sifted flour, one teaspoonful of salt, three rounding teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one large tablespoonful butter; milk to make a very soft dough. Sift the flour, salt and baking powder together, work in butter and add milk. Put on moulding slab and pat out with rolling pin. Spread with maple sugar, either the moist kind or the cakes scraped; roll up like jelly roll and cut the biscuits from the end. Bake and serve hot, and eat with butter.

Stuffed Spanish Onions.—Boil six medium size onions for about an

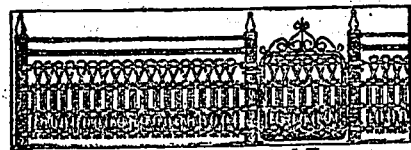
hour. When done take the onions from the fire and with a sharp-pointed knife cut a piece from the centre of each and stuff with the following mixture. One tablespoonful of butter, two of finely chopped ham, three of bread crumbs, salt and a little pepper. Sprinkle bread crumbs over the top and put a small piece of butter on each onion. Bake slowly for one hour. Serve with cream sauce.

Creamed Peas.—Drain and rinse a can of peas with cold water; stew fifteen minutes in a little hot water. Heat two tablespoonfuls of butter in a frying pan, thicken with one tablespoonful of flour, add one half cupful of corn and stir constantly until it thickens. Now add the peas and one teaspoonful of granulated sugar.

Cream of Peas Soup.—Cover two cupfuls of peas with cold water, cook until tender. Rub half the peas through a sieve. Scald one half pint of milk. Rub one tablespoonful of butter and one of flour together. Add the floured butter and milk to the strained peas. When the soup thickens add a cupful of cream, the remainder of the peas, pepper and salt.

Stew of Lamb with Peas.—The neck of a lamb may be used for this dish. The meat should be cut into pieces and sufficient water added to cover it, cook until tender, skimming. Drain the liquid from the peas, add a little cream and also a little piece of floured butter, season with pepper, add to the lamb. Simmer a moment, serve immediately. For a dainty breakfast dish, shape slices of bread with a biscuit cutter, toast, spread with butter, place a poached or baked egg on each and pour the stewed and well seasoned peas around. Peas are often used to garnish chicken cutlets, and are also served with lamb chops, lamb fritters, etc. Peas are delicious used with a plain breakfast omelet as recommended above for tomatoes.

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