

household. When the days come round for pickling and preserving, and the domestic force is pressed into service, who so eager and full of interest as she? It is cruel to overrule her decisions, to put her aside because "she will be tired." Of course she will be tired; but she enjoys the fatigue, and rests the sooner for the thought that she is still of some use in the world.

To those whose homes are honoured by the presence of an aged parent, we would say, deal very gently with those who are on the down-hill of life. Your own time is coming to be where they are now. You, too, are "stepping westward." Soothe the restlessness of age by amusement, by consideration, by non-interference, and by allowing plenty of occupation to fall into the hands that long for it. Only let it be of their own choosing, and cease to order them as if they were children. A hoary head at a fireside is a crown of glory to the house in which it dwells. The blessing of the aged is as a dew on the pasture, as the falling of sun-light on a shadowy place.

TURNING GRAY.

Many persons begin to show gray hairs while they are yet in their twenties, and some while in their teens. This does not by any means, says a recent writer, argue a premature decay of constitution. It is a purely local phenomenon, and may co-exist with unusual bodily vigour. The celebrated author and traveller, George Borrow, turned quite gray before he was thirty, but was an extraordinary swimmer and athlete at sixty-five. Many feeble persons, and others who have suffered extremely both mentally and physically, do not blanch a hair until past middle life; while others, without assignable cause, lose their capillary colouring matter rapidly when about forty years of age. Race has a marked influence. The traveller, Dr. Orbigny, says that in the many years he spent in South America he never saw a bald Indian, and scarcely ever a gray-haired one. The negroes turn more slowly than the whites. Yet we know a negress of pure blood, about thirty-five years old, who is quite gray. In this country sex appears to make little difference. Men and women grow gray about the same period of life.

MECHANISM OF THE BEE.

An investigator into the mysteries of animal life asserts that the bee's working tools comprise a variety equal to that of the average mechanic. He says that the feet of the common working bee exhibit the combination of a basket, a brush, and a pair of pincers. The brush, the hairs of which are arranged in symmetrical rows, is only to be seen with the microscope. With this brush of fairy delicacy the bee brushes its velvet robe to remove the pollen dust with which it becomes loaded while sucking up the nectar. Another article, hollowed like a spoon, receives all the gleanings which the insect carries to the hive. Finally, by opening them, one upon another, by means of a hinge, these two pieces become a pair of pincers, which render important service in the construction of the combs.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

HAY water is a great sweetener of tin, wooden, and iron ware. In Irish dairies everything used for milk is scalded with hay water. Boil a handful of sweet hay in water and put in the vessel when hot.

The best way to brighten a carpet is to put a half tumbler of spirits of turpentine in a basin of water, and dip your broom in it and sweep over the carpet once or twice, and it will restore the colour and brighten it up until you would think it new.

SILVER spoons that have become discoloured, in contact with cooked eggs, may be easily brightened by rubbing with common salt. A lump of gum-camphor in the closet where silver or plated ware is kept will do much toward preventing tarnish.

To make pretty napkins for spreading over dishes on the table, cut a yard of bird's eye linen into eight square pieces, fringe one-half an inch deep, overcast with red working cotton, coral stitch a border of same or work a sheaf of wheat, a monogram or initial in the corner. These brighten up a table wonderfully, wash well, and are within the reach of all.

Sets of table mats can be made by cutting oval and round pieces of pasteboard, size one for pattern, two for tureen, three for coffee urn, four for teapot. Cover one side with red or blue worsted cloth, sew agate or any kind of small buttons; an initial in centre of each and a row around the edge an inch apart, trimming them with narrow lace or fringe, lining the whole with cambric. They will look nicely and are very useful.

An apron to be used while hanging out clothes, and with two or three pockets to carry what pins are needed, can be made of any strong cloth. Old bed ticking answers well. Length is not required. Cut a second piece of the same shape as the bottom of the large one, but somewhat wider, so as to gather on a little. This outer piece is to be seven or eight inches deep, when hemmed and sewed on. Divide this into two or three compartments by stitching, so as to prevent the clothes-pins from slipping to one side too much. Put a band at the top, which may be tied or buttoned behind, as may suit one's convenience.

A LOVELY lounge cover or cover for an invalid can be made of cast-off neckties, old bonnet pieces, and scraps of silk. Cut the pattern of a hexagon, five inches from the centre of the outer edge. Put a centre of black silk on velvet about two inches in diameter, and piece around this in log-cabin style, preserving the form throughout. Twelve will make a very good sized coverlet. Put together with squares of black silk or velvet, and lined with bright flannel pinked on the edges, so that it projects a little on the right side. Wool pieces make a very pretty one, too. Mosaic broidery is very effective for mantel drapes, piano covers, and screens, and is quite easily made. Take whatever material is chosen for the ground work, and sew on to it with some fancy stitch odd patterns cut from various coloured plushes.