

About the House.

HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

There are a few Christmas gifts that are regular stand-bys and yet they are as useful and as popular every year as if they had never been given to you before.

A very acceptable gift for the woman who has many patterns to keep is a pattern bag made of stout brown holland linen. To make them take a piece of linen thirteen inches wide, line this with old rose satin, or any color you like, and stitch on linen pockets, formed of a straight strip laid in a box plait at each pocket, to give the required fullness. These pockets are put in each side, not meeting in the center by about two inches; all the edges are bound in satin ribbon to match the satinised. The foundation piece of pattern cut out and a quarter long, and the pockets stop at about eleven inches from one end, this end is rounded, and long satin ribbons are fastened there to tie the bag when it is filled and rolled together. A monogram or initial letters are worked on the outside of the rounded end in bright colored silks. This is just the very nicest present you can make a mother who has to keep a dozen different patterns for family use, and it is useful all the year around. Everything about it washes without fading.

Another sensible present made at home is the hemstitched towels with the initial worked above the hem and in the center. Embroider in white rather than colors. A dozen towels hemstitched and a worked initial, with a dozen Turkish wash-rags with the friend's initial worked as on the towels, only make the latter smaller, is a nice present for old or young. It is suitable to give a bachelor friend or cousin. Wash rags only cost 5 cents a piece and the towels a dollar a pair, or cheaper even.

Another pretty dainty little present which will make fragrant the giver and the donor is little sachet pads for a lady's chiffonier drawer or handkerchief box or trunk lids. Make them of white silk, and embroider a monogram or initial letter—some of pale blue silk embroidered with white letters. Fill them with the pure Italian orange root that is imported in large jars. They are dainty to lay away with your gloves or cloaks; pin them inside your wraps, and they impart a delicate fragrance almost imperceptible.

Cream Caramels—Vanilla, maple or rose. It takes very little time to get such presents as these ready—a day is sufficient for the rags—and a few days enough for the towels.

HOW TO TREAT A SOFT WOOD FLOOR.

A soft wood floor may be made truly artistic with a little labor and a small outlay for paint. Clean the floor of all dust, grease spots, etc. Fill the nail holes and cracks with soft, smooth putty, being careful not to allow the putty to extend above the floor. The floor should be perfectly dry before the paint is applied, as moisture will repel the oil and prevent the paint from adhering. Best results are obtained when the weather is clear and warm. Paint applied in very cold weather is liable to scale off.

Do not attempt to mix the paint yourself. Buy the ready mixed paint or have a professional painter mix it for you. If the floor has been previously painted, two coats are sufficient; if not, apply three. After the floor has been properly prepared, mark off a margin of 15 inches across the ends and down the sides of the room; then mark off the border into five-inch squares. Paint one square a rich dark maroon and the next a rich terra cotta and the next a maroon, and continue thus with the two colors. Paint the main body of the room a solid color of gray. A gray color will not show the dust and footprints as a more decided color does, and will contrast beautifully with the colors in the border.

Stir the paint thoroughly before using, and apply with a flat brush, with long, even strokes lengthwise of the boards. If the paint is too thick to spread evenly, thin it with a little boiled linseed oil or a little turpentine. Turpentine will make the paint dry quickly, but if it dries too quickly it will crack and peel off. Allow each coat sufficient time to dry and harden before applying the next.

This artistic floor should never be scrubbed with soap and hot water, or washed in a slovenly manner with dirty or insufficient amount of water, but frequently wiped with a soft cloth and plenty of warm water. When it becomes so badly soiled that warm soap and hot water, and then apply a thin coat of paint. The border will outwear two centers.

SUGGESTIONS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

A correspondent recommends giving straw matting a couple of coats of varnish after it is laid, saying that to do so not only renders it much more durable but also keeps the dust from sifting through. We have never heard this scheme proposed before.

A connoisseur says asparagus should be cut of exactly equal lengths and boiled standing, as it grows, in a deep pan. About two inches of the head should be out of the water, the steam sufficing to cook them while the stalks require from thirty to forty minutes. In this way the heads are not boiled to pieces, and the longer boiling makes more of the stalk succulent and edible. Ordinarily the tender heads

are boiled to pieces before the stalks are sufficiently done.

White flannel, it is said, will not turn yellow if a teaspoonful of powdered borax is put in the water in which it is washed.

Somewhere has discovered that a rough and sticky flatiron can be polished by rubbing it on a cedar twig. A housekeeper who wanted a couch cover got together all the scraps of silk, ribbons, etc., she could find among her own belongings, begged some of her relatives and friends, sorted out the hopelessly faded and soiled, colored them dull shades of olive, blue and red, cut them like carpet rags and sent them to the weaver. For the sake of a stripe at each end she sacrificed some breadths of two old silk gowns, one a brown, the other a changeable red and black silk. She received a strip a yard wide and a little over two yards long. For this she bought a very pretty mixed fringe, which bordered it all round, it covered her divan very prettily and provoked many admiring inquiries.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

Cream Caramels—Vanilla, maple or chocolate may be used for these. Pour the candy into two pans of the same size, having lined about one quarter of an inch thick in each pan. When cold melt some fondant, flavor with vanilla and spread onto one layer of caramel, then take the other layer from the pan and lay on top of the first. Let stand a few minutes, then cut into squares, being careful not to press too hard, and thereby forcing the fondant from between the layers.

Nut Caramels—Have one cupful of chopped nuts in a buttered pan and pour over them either vanilla, maple or chocolate caramel.

Molasses Taffy—Four cups granulated sugar; one cup molasses; one teaspoonful cream of tartar; or three tablespoonfuls of vinegar; one tablespoonful of butter. Boil all ingredients, excepting butter, until it will make a hard ball when tried in water. Pour into a buttered pan and pull as soon as you can bear it in your hands. Break or cut with shears when cold.

Peppermint "Kisses"—Use same ingredients as for molasses taffy, and add two or three drops of peppermint oil and cut with sharp shears. Wrap in paraffine paper.

Butterscotch—Two cups granulated sugar; one cup "Golden Drop" syrup; one half cup butter. Cook all ingredients until they make a hard ball when tried in water. Pour into buttered pans, having the candy about half an inch thick. Cut into squares when cold and wrap in paraffine paper.

INDOOR AMUSEMENTS.

During the long cold or wet days when it is not wise that the little ones should go out doors to play, home amusements and occupation should be found for them. It is best to teach independence in the matter of finding their own amusements, but they very often need to be helped to this, they must be unconsciously stimulated to take an interest in some bit of work or play, and they must feel that the mother is interested with and for them in their pursuits.

By intelligently planned plays a great deal of instruction can be given to the child. Possibly the best and truest education is that of the play with a purpose.

A good way of amusing children of ten or over is to draw a plan of some great battle, getting them to put pieces of putty for landmarks, a scrap of red being used for one army, blue or another color for the other. The story as told by an elder person, simply and interestingly, is eagerly worked out by the child, who does not consider this as a lesson. Boys, especially, delight in anything military, and a species of musical drill on a wet day is useful in keeping active children happily amused. In every house there are various old scraps of silk, velvet, satin, etc., not likely to be of much use except for patchwork. If, when there is a long day indoors, Mama would look up some of these scraps for her little girls to do what she will, it would give them much pleasure. Children are particularly fond of color, and the sorting over the various pieces will please and interest them greatly, while they grow in pride in their own work. The question of the wonderful costumes to be devised by little brains and deft fingers for their dolls. In the choice of a doll's dress a little girl is unconsciously learning how to choose later for herself, and the tiny garments, which, if shown how to make properly by a kind elder sister, mother, or nurse are a source of the greatest pleasure and pride to the small worker and models for the embryo housewife of the future.

A pretty child's book of large, good type, with a number of colored illustrations in which the subjects are simple and plainly portrayed, will amuse little children for a long time. They like better to have a story told them than to hear one read, if the narrator knows how to tell a story well; but they will not listen to any one who cannot command their attention and interest.

Carpentering, especially for boys, is an excellent amusement, and they might be allowed to try and make various little things for the house. Drawing slates, books and material in painting pictures. The great thing to be considered is to provide a variety of suitable and amusing occupations and not to allow a child to enjoy any one for too great a length of time, or it will tire of it. A child's power of concentration is not great and should not be too much taxed. If parents interested themselves in their children's amusements and realized the importance of the, as they think, trivial doll's-house, doll, miniature garden and other things, the question of how to amuse children would find its answer in the training in play of the future landholder, householder, father, husband, and public citizen; the mother, wife and teacher.

NOT TO BLAME.

The Elderly Lady—They say his wife has money.

Not that isn't his fault. They've only been married a short time.

AN EMERGENCY CALL.

A Doctor's Devotion to Duty and What came of it.

The physician, like the soldier, must respond, to the call of duty without always waiting to discover the why and wherefore. A doctor who is evidently the soul of devotion to his profession, was recently put to the test, and much to his subsequent irritation, was not found wanting. It befell in this wise, according to the doctor's report:

One day last week I was just sitting down to a most excellent dinner when I received a call from a little five-year-old girl whose father lives in the adjoining block. She was out of breath, but she managed to gasp out for me to come up to the house right away.

Thinking it must be something serious that should cause the little girl to be sent my way, I seized my medicine-case and hurried off.

"Who is sick?" I asked, picking her up in my arms and carrying her, so that I might get along faster.

"Elizabeth," she answered.

"Is she very sick?" I asked.

"I think it is typhoid fever," she replied.

This gave me a scare and quickened my steps. We were not long in arriving at the house, and I was surprised that no one met us.

"This way," cried the little girl, seizing my hand.

I was dazed for a moment and only came to when I heard the little girl inquiring anxiously if I thought Elizabeth was going to die.

I assured her that she wasn't and all that she needed was a spanking. I meant the little girl—not Elizabeth. But from what I heard as I came away, I am afraid that my advice was not understood and that Elizabeth got it.

DON'T BLAME THE CHAIR.

Reasons given by a Doctor Why We Do Not Live Longer.

It is strange how much dynamic force we throw into all our movements," remarked a physician. "We think we are moving gently and deliberately, but we are really wasting enough power to run an engine. Sit down on a chair that is an inch lower than you expected, and you come near going through the seat. It's the same when one encounters any unanticipated obstacle. The other day one of my patients attempted to light a cigar, and in carrying the match to the weed he struck the chair, and a splinter of wood broke his index finger. Not long ago I was called to attend a lady who had miscalculated the height of the bottom step in descending a flight of steps. She thought it was similar to the others, but it was only half as high, and the result was that she landed on the pavement with a jar that sprained her knees. She was laid up for a couple of weeks."

Occasionally I was myself knocked almost senseless by bumping my head against a rafter in the basement of this building. I thought I was moving along very cautiously, because it was quite dark, but I nearly fractured my skull. When you total up the amount of vitality you lose in this manner during a year you begin to see why people only live to fifty instead of one hundred.

THE LONGEST DAY.

It is Very Much Longer Some Places Than It Is Others.

It is important, when speaking of the longest day in the year, to say what part of the world we are talking about, as will be seen by the following list, which tells the length of the longest day in several places:

In Stockholm it is 13 1-2 hours in length.

In Spitzbergen the longest day is 3 1-2 months.

In London and in Bremen the longest day has 16 1-2 hours.

In Hamburg and in Danzig the longest day has 17 hours.

In St. Petersburg and in Tobolsk, Siberia, the longest day is 19 hours, and the shortest 5 hours.

In Tornea, Finland, June 21 brings a day nearly 22 hours long, and Christmas one less than 3 hours in length.

In New York the longest day is about 15 hours long, and in Montreal it is 16.

In Warburg, Norway, the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 22, without interruption.

LIPTON MUST WED.

London society is very busy finding Sir Thomas Lipton a wife. Ladies go to him constantly with the question: "Why are you not married?" The reply of the owner of the Shamrock is characteristic. He says: "The truth is I have led such a busy life and have been so much occupied that I have never had time to marry!" Society in the meantime attaches his name to that of Miss Stanley, a charming young lady, tall, brunette and slender, of whom he has been a great deal, and who was at his dinner party recently. She is the daughter of Lady Jeanie by her first marriage.

TRYING TO MAKE UP.

Mrs. Muggs—What are you drinking whisky for?

Mr. Muggs—Th' grip, in dear.

Mrs. Muggs—You got over the grip a month ago.

Mr. Muggs—Yes, m' dear; but I didn't know 'bout whisky being good for grip then, m' dear.

Among the graduates "capped" at the graduation ceremony in connection

DON'TS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Don't pay more for the Christmas tree than you pay for the fruit.

Don't send your gentleman adorer a gold toothpick. He may have false teeth.

Don't send your pastor embroidered slippers. To travel the strait and narrow path requires hobnailed shoes.

Don't buy your daughter a piano and your wife a washbowl. If you reverse the order, you will do justice to both.

Don't place your expectations of a Christmas gift too high. You may have to put your foot in your stocking to find anything in it.

Don't make your friend a present and be disappointed because he doesn't give something. Perhaps you have surprised him.

Don't give presents to people not quite so prosperous as yourself and tell them not to reciprocate because they can't afford to make presents. Be just before you are generous. Pay your debts before you buy presents. Your creditors may consider that they have received an unexpected gift.

Don't give your boy a drum and forbid him beating it, nor your daughter a horse and order her not to take it out of the stable without your permission.

IMMENSE WOODEN BUILDING.

The Parliament Building in Wellington, New Zealand, is the largest wooden structure in the world. In Wellington, and some other New Zealand towns, almost every house is constructed of wood. Large churches and important business premises are built of the same material.

THE INDOLENT GARDENER.

Mrs. Suburb—No more milk? What's the matter?

Gardener—The cow has stopped giving in milk, mum.

Godness me! Why?

Because she's dry, mum.

Then why in the world 'n't you give her a drink?

GIVES FITS.

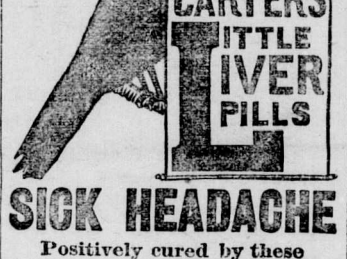
Hoax—There's only one way to get decent clothes from a tailor, and that is to never pay him.

Joak—How does that work?

Why, then he gives you fits.

HIGH HEELS IN PERSIA.

High heels, it is said, were their origin to Persia, where they were introduced to raise the foot from the burning sands of that country.



CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Headache, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

See you get Carter's, Ask for Carter's, Insist and demand Carter's Little Liver Pills.

A. A. Leslie

Marriage Licenses

MURRAY'S BANK

OR HIS PRIVATE ROOMS AT THE KENNEDY CENTRAL HOTEL.

AGENT FOR

ETNA

AND OTHER FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Assessment System—Mutual Principle

OFFICE OF THE

Mutual Reserve Fund

Life Ass'n.

FRANKHOLD BUILDING

Toronto, October 14th, 1898.

I am authorized to announce that in future payment of all death claims in the Dominion of Canada will be made by check in Ontario Bank, Toronto; or the Montreal Bank, Montreal, thus making the Mutual Reserve practically a home company.

W. J. McMURTRY,

Manager for Ontario

FOR SALE.

100 acres, lot 4, in the 2nd con. Township of Bayham, 20 acres cleared, balance well timbered, sandy and clay loam; go 3 bearing orchard, fair buildings, convenient to church, blacksmith shop, stores, etc. Will take a small payment down, and balance on time to suit purchaser. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Land Agent, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—For sale or good land, with comfortable buildings, located about two miles south-west from Brownville, one of the best agricultural districts in the Township of Aylmer, being the north-west quarter of lot 26, and north-east quarter of lot 27. Offered cheap, or will exchange for a small farm, and on reasonable terms. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—100 acres, being the north half of lot 11, in the 7th con. all well drained, about ten acres of timber, buildings in good repair, located between the villages of Burton and Wainacotta. This is a choice farm and is offered cheap and on easy terms. Only a small payment required down, balance on long time interest at five per cent. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE.—Brick and tile yard, with a capacity of doing an extensive business. All modern machinery; two large kilns in good shape; engine room, 24 x 41, shed 24 x 100 feet, 200 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, 100 ft. long, situated at the Village of Corbin. Will be on the market only for a short time. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE.—75 acres of choice land, all cleared and in good state of cultivation, fair buildings, being south part of lot 28, in the first concession of Malheur, convenient to church, school, and post office; also choice farm, blacksmith shop and a lot of other small fruit. The above property is on about the highest point in Malheur, overlooking the city. Reason for selling is on account of the owner's health. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—40 acres of choice land, all cleared, and clear of stumps, with comfortable buildings, good orchard of choice fruit, on a good road, and within one mile of the Village of Elmer, Sandwich County, Mich., being the south-east quarter of the north-west quarter of lot 10. The above property is offered cheap and on easy terms; or will exchange for a small piece of land in good locality. Apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—The beautiful house known as the Arkle residence, on the north side of Water Street, in the Town of Aylmer, 1 1/2 miles from the village of Elmer, and a large white brick house, good barn, fruit of various kinds, and a lot of other small improvements. The house is in excellent condition, and is offered cheap; or will exchange for good property in the City of Toronto. For further particulars apply to C. O. LEARN, Real Estate Broker, Brown House Block, Aylmer, Ont.

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