

HOUSEHOLD.

How Jack Helped.

(By Helena H. Thomas, in 'Presbyterian Banner'.)

Blustering winds reminded them that balmy days would soon follow, and then 'house-cleaning!' At the mention of which there was a chorus of 'Oh, dears!' in which all joined except a bride, in whose home everything was 'spick and span.'

'The older I grow, the more I dread this "reign of terror," as it is called in our family,' said the one who prides herself on being a model housekeeper, 'but it is inevitable; so I try to make the best of it.'

'Judging by your long drawn sigh there is no "best" about it,' said the care-free bride. 'Anyhow, I have come to the conclusion that there is no necessity for such annual upheavels, and I mean to prove it, too.'

'Yes, but you will doubtless end in doing like the rest of us,' said the youngest of the experienced housekeepers. 'I took the stand you do when I first arrived at the dignity of home-keeper, and Jack thought he had wedded the wisest woman in all the world, when he heard me talk of the "folly of house-cleaning." Well, I carried out my idea two years—and then—'

'And then, what happened?' queried the bride, eagerly. 'Now don't dash my hopes of escaping such martyrdom, by admitting that experience taught you that it is "inevitable."'

'It is better for you to realize it at the start, however, than to suffer through ignorance, or rather wilfulness, as we did; for we both have careful mothers who warned us against such easy-going ways; but Jack and I were determined to have a model home without anything as nerve-trying as observation had taught us that house-cleaning must be. So the second summer of housekeeping we turned the key on our uncleaned home, early in the season, and did not open it again until so late that Jack at once went in search of flannels; and then he made the discovery that his fine, imported underwear was ruined, because of the ravages of moths. Then followed a hasty examination of our belongings which brought to view such a revelation as to make us heart sick, for neither of us, had the satisfaction even, of saying, "I told you so."'

'Then, what did you do?' queried the long-time model housekeeper, with a 'served you right' air.

'Do! why the sight of ruined coats, cloaks and articles innumerable, aroused all the house-cleaning spirit of my ancestors; and, forthwith, instead of enjoying a round of autumn gaiety, as I had planned to do, I proceeded at once to clean house from top to bottom, and to make both Jack and myself wretched for weeks.'

'I have the advantage of you, there,' interrupted one who had not before spoken, 'for my husband travels about half of the time, and so I always arrange to have the state of "tornupitiveness" when he is away, so he never sees his home upside down, or his wife looking like a fright.'

'But Jack never leaves home without me, so it was hard on both of us to find by costly experience that "mother's way" is a necessity, and not a housekeeper's whim, as we once thought. But after the first trial was well over, and we had made up, for to tell the truth I was so overwrought from start to finish that I provoked Jack into being anything but amiable, we—'

'Oh, that is a part of the programme,' interrupted the model housekeeper, as she considers herself, 'I never saw a man in my life who wasn't as cross as a bear during house-cleaning. My men folk talk as if it was a put up job to make them miserable; but I tell them it is pretty hard to slave as I do to keep our home sweet, and then hear continual fault-finding, because the house is in such an unsettled condition.'

'Why, you frighten me!' said the bride, who had seen housekeeping only through rose colored glasses, 'what with your proof that house-cleaning is a necessity, and cross husbands are sure to be the result, I—I—'

'Just wait until you hear me through, before you begin to regret that you have assumed such responsibilities,' the experience-

taught housewife made haste to say, 'and then I predict that you and yours will try to make the best of the situation, as Jack and I have.'

'Well, to go on where I was interrupted, after the trying ordeal, and while our hearts were still sore over our depleted wardrobe, we talked the matter over and settled once for all, that house-cleaning, at once a year, was to be counted as among the must-be-dones; but we determined that subsequent ordeals should not mar our peace of mind as the first had done. Accordingly, we framed our agreement that in future only one or two rooms should be unsettled at the same time, and, besides, that under no conditions was I to engage in house-cleaning, myself, more than mornings. I also pledged myself not to look like a guy, and also not to become so overwrought as to lose self-control. Jack's part of the agreement was, that he was to help things to go smoothly by giving me loving sympathy.'

'You needn't add that it was a failure!' exclaimed the one who had stated that cross men was a part of the programme. 'I know that without your saying so; "loving sympathy, indeed!"'

'You are greatly mistaken, though,' was the laughing rejoinder, 'for we have both faithfully lived up to our agreement ever since. True I cannot boast of having a clean house as early in the season as some of you, but when the duty is done I am not a physical wreck, nor are there any hasty words to repent of, for Jack has lived up to his part of the agreement so faithfully that it has been easier for me to keep sweet tempered.' 'So take courage, my dear,' added she, glancing toward the bride, whose face lighted up as she listened to the telling of how Jack helped, 'for love surely lightens labor,' especially during the inevitable.

Fresh Air for Clothes.

Thorough airing of rooms and clothing becomes even more essential in summer than in winter. Unfortunately one class in the community lives where pure air, for any purpose, is unattainable; but even where pure air is a drug on the market there is astonishing carelessness in regard to this matter. It is the exceptional housewife whose wardrobes and closets are thoroughly aired every day, and yet the thing is imperative in hot weather; and hanging a garment dusty and damp with perspiration in a closed wardrobe or closet is a sanitary abomination. Beds should be aired to a degree of thoroughness that is uncommon even in wealthy families. Every article of clothing taken off should be spread out where the air can filter through it. Where the item of laundry expense makes daily change to fresh garments an impossibility one should, at least, if he owns two sets of clothing, keeping both going, wearing them alternately, while the one not in use is left exposed to the air, and, if possible, to the sunshine.—New York 'Sun.'

Useful Hints.

Flowers which are kept in water in which a little saltpetre has been dissolved, will remain fresh for a couple of weeks.

To clean unvarnished black walnut, rub it with a soft flannel cloth which has been wrung out of either sweet or sour milk.

Add a little turpentine to the water with which the floor is scrubbed. It will take away the close smell and make the room delightfully fresh.

Marks that have been made on paint with matches can be removed by rubbing first with a slice of lemon, then with whiting, and washing with soap and water.

To remove any dish from a mould when cold, wrap a hot cloth about the outside of the mold for a minute or two. To remove a hot dish wrap a cold cloth about it.

When a kid glove begins to cut at the end, usually over the fingernail, insert a piece of kid to match on the inside, catching it to the seams. If neatly done it will not be clumsy looking, and it will delay the break for weeks.

A recipe for a very superior furniture polish given by a dealer in musical instruments to a housewife, as the cause of the shining surface of the pianos in his rooms, consists of four tablespoonfuls of sweet oil,

four tablespoonfuls of turpentine, a teaspoonful of lemon juice and ten drops of household ammonia. This polish must be thoroughly shaken before using, and apply with an old flannel or silk cloth. Rub briskly and thoroughly, which is at least a third of the merit of all polishes. Use a second cloth to rub the mixture into the grain of the wood, and a third for the final polish. —'Northwestern Advocate.'

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