THE HOUSEHOLD.

CARE OF BEDROOMS.

BY MRS. C. T. HERRICK.

To begin with, the maid must be informed that because bed-making is a daily recurring duty is no cause for its being slurred over or hurried through. Rather is it a demand for added attention. She must learn that the right way to make a bed is not to straighten the under sheet with a few vigorous twitches, bring up the other covers with an energetic sweep of the arm, smooth up the spread, and adorn the completed work with a pair of gorgeous pillow-shams pinned on over mussed or musty pillows. Nor can the neatness of the rest of the chamber be achieved by half a dozen flirts of a feather duster, the filling of the pitcher with fresh water, and the emptying the slops. Yet this is all that many bedrooms receive even from the girl who engages herself as a "professed cham-ber-maid." One may possibly tolerate such treatment in a hotel or boarding-house, but in one's home better things may surely be expected.

The first item of the bed-making is demanded from the occupant of the couch. Her duty it is, immediately upon rising, to throw back the covers over the foot of the bed on to a couple of chairs placed there for that purpose. They should never be tossed in a heap on the floor to gather dust from the carpet or matting. The mattress should then be half turned, that the air may get at both sides of it, and the windows opened at top and bottom, admitting a sluice of the fresh outer atmosphere. Even in the coldest weather this should be done for a few munutes, while in summer the bed should stand uncovered for at least an hour before making. The habit of leaving one's room in perfect order when one goes to breakfast is not commendable as far as the bed is concerned. The other re-arrangement necessary may be done then, but the couch should be left stripped until the unpleasant vapors generated by the body during the night have been dispersed and the bed thoroughly sweetened.

When the bed is made, the mattress should be laid with the side above that was below the night before. Over this comes the mattress cover of unbleached muslin, with its filling of a single layer of cotton batting. This must be drawn very closely over the mattress, and snugly tacked in at thesides, top, and bottom. The undersheet can hardly be pulled too tightly. Upon this smooth drawing and firm binding of the bed by the covers depends the symmetry of the whole. Not a wrinkle must be suffered to show. What seems but a slight fold in sheet or blanket is a serious blemish as outlined under the white spread.

The ordinary housemaid is with diffi-culty deterred from putting on the blan-kets upside down. By what process of the uncultured mind the idea is evolved that the opening should be at the bottom rather than at the top it would be hard to say. The spread that covers all may be of plain white cotton or an expensive combination of satin and lace. Whatever it is, it should be clean and unrumpled, and to preserve these qualities it must be removed every night, neatly folded, and laid aside. Added warmth may be furnished by the misnamed comfortable, or by a duvet or afghan, laid folded across the foot of the bed in the daytime and drawn up at night. Cheap blankets of mixed cotton and wool, or the simple coverlets made of cream or colored cheese-cloths, filled with batting and tufted with worsted in the style of the little duvets

washings. They lose thus that stiffness which shows a misfold nearly as plainly as would a sheet of paper, and renders it all but impossible to draw them smoothly and evenly across the bed. The counterpane and consequent stain. The bowl must be and sun bath of half an hour. should never be spread up over the bolster, scrubbed clean of the grease that gathers. The chamber-maid should be instructed should never be spread up over the bolster,

turbed to protect the sleeper's face from contact with the unpleasant woolliness of the blankets. Nor should the lower sheet serve as an excuse for dispensing with a bolster-slip. This is as necessary to comfort as are pillow-slips, and should never be omitted.

In old Virginia a "bed-stick" was considered an essential. A little longer than the couch was wide, it was used to smooth up the coverings from the foot to the head. broomstick answers the purpose tolerably, and aids in producing a trimness of finish otherwise hard to attain.

On the question of shams there are vary ing opinions. They are ornamental, but troublesome, and only serve, so say some, to conceal untidiness. Many housekeepers prefer to keep two pairs of pillow-cases and two bolster-slips in use, employing one set for day and the other for night, while other women have day pillows and night pillows, either laying the latter on the foot of the bed in the day-time, or keeping them out

night, and the top of the sheet left undis-|should be scalded out with beiling water | if necessary replenish the stock of towels. and washing soda or household ammonia, and set in the sun uncovered for an hour or two. The top of the wash-stand should be spread with a cloth, towel, or bamboo mat. The towels, which should have been left opened out until dry by those who used them, should be folded neatly and hung in their places on the rack.

A dust-pan and brush or a carpet-sweeper will be required nearly every morning in a sleeping-room. The dust must be brushed from the corners, and the rugs shaken from the window. If a thorough sweeping is required, all articles that cannot be carried from the room should be protected by cheese-cloth sweeping sheets. In dusting, a cheese-cloth duster should be used, and all bric-a-brac and furniture carefully wiped. Loose hairs, scraps of paper, etc., should be removed from the bureau, and the cover of this shaken and replaced. No pieces of clothing should be leftlying about the room.

Each chamber closet should have a shoe-

THE INVENTOR'S HEAD. Prize Puzzle.

of sight in a closet. If shams are used, thag hung on the inside of the door. Nothhowever, the sheet sham is as valuable as those for the pillows, concealing the top of the sheet when it has become tumbled. The sheets, by-the-way, should be long enough to be drawn up over the shoulders.

been bestowed upon the bed. The washstand requires especial care. The pitchers must be washed and wiped out every morning to prevent an accumulation of sediment

ing detracts more from the tidiness of a room than the sight of boots and slippers scattered about the floor. By the bureau or in the closet should hang a small laundry-bag for soiled handkerchiefs, collars, enough to produce nightmare.

Tastes differ as to the style of counterpane to be used. The white is always neat, and is in reality the most serviceable, because it may be made to look as good as new by its passage through the hands of the laundress. Indeed, Marseilles spreads, if properly done up, improve with repeated

the windows are open, to rid them of possible lurking disease germs. When the room is swept, it is well to unhook the curtains from the rings and give them an air

should never be spread up over the bolster, but turned back neatly just below this, and the upper sheet folded back over it. By this method the spread may be taken off at house-maids. The grease that gathers a rare action among this method the spread may be taken off at house-maids. The grease that gathers are action among the close the blinds, bring in fresh water, and the covers half down, the bed and turn the covers half down, the bed are the bed and turn the covers half down, the bed and turn the covers half down, the bed are the bed and turn the covers half down, the bed are the bed and turn the covers half down, the bed are the bed

The mistress will find an occasional glanco at the work not amiss.—Harper's Bazar.

PLAIN PUDDINGS.

By Catherine Armstrong.

PLAIN PUDDINGS.

By Catherine Armstrong.

Take one coffee-cup full of sago, rinse off in cold water, then add one pint of cold water, and heat moderately over the fire, stirring frequently, adding boiling witter as it may require, till about the consistency of thick starch, and very transparent. Then add one cup of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, a little grated nutneg, a little butter, and pour all over the quart of tart apples, that have been pared and quartered, into a pudding-dish. Bake nearly an hour, or until the apples are soft. Serve with milk or cream, and sugar. This dessert is good either hot or cold, and the cost will not be over twenty-live cents.

Every family is apt to accumlate stale bread. Some of it can be disposed of in this way: crumb with the hands about four slices, put a layer of sliced, tart apples in the bottom of a pudding-dish, then a layer of bread-crumbs, then a sprinkling of ground cinnamon, bits of butter, a large spoonful of sugar, and a little salt; then another layer of apples, bread and seasoning, till the pudding-dish is full, having bread on the top. Over all pour one pint of boiling water, and bake in a moderate oven one hour. Some use milk in preference to water, but water gives the most desirable result. It is important to cover this while baking, and it is very good without succe. The cost is less than twenty cents. To a pudding-dish half full of stale bread-crumbs add one egg, two-hirds cup of sugar, a little salt and nutneg, and half a cup or more of raisins. Over all pour one quartof boiling milk, and bake forty minutes in a quick oven. This will hardly cost fifteen cents. Take six good-sized sound apples, pare and half a cup or more of raisins. Over all pour one quartof boiling milk, and bake forty minutes in a quick oven. This will hardly cost fifteen cents. Take six good-sized sound apples, pare and halve and core them, and rolly up each half in a good crust paste, same as for pies, and hake till brown, and serve with a good surce, and you have a dessert that reall

light and good. The apples red from slow, long steaming.

A most satisfactory molasses cake, or "ginger-bread" is made after this wise: To one spoonful of melted butter add one ball pint of molasses (not syrup) and two teaspoonful of ground einnamon. Dissolve one level teaspoonful of carbonate of soda in half a pint of boiling water. Mix with the molasses and stir in half a pound (half a pint) of flour. Line a cake-pan with buttered paper, pour in the mixture, which will be very thin, and bake about half an hour, or until a straw can be run into it, and drawn out clean—a good-sized cake, coasting not over ten cents.

To Drive Away Rats.—Chloride of lime is an infallible preventive, as rats flee from its odor as from a postilence. It should be thrown down their holes, and spread about wherever they are likely to come. It should be renewed once a fortnight.

PUZZLES-No. 13.

PRIZE PUZZLE.

Some sixty years ago, the story goes, a young draughtsman in Philadelphia named William Mason who devoted himself to the work of making drawings to accompany applications for patents, set to work to make himself a sign that would attract the attention of inventors to his office. In a little while he produced the above curious conglomeration which ho placed in his window under the title of "The Inventor's Head," and we can well believe that it answered its purpose most admirably. How many of our young people can name all the articles of which this wonderful inventor's head is composed?

To the boy or girl under eighteen who sends us before the 20th of August the most complete list of all the well-known mechanical implements comprising this strange head we will give a handsome illustrated copy of the

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JAMES NASMYTH the man who revolutionized the mechanical world by his invention of the steam hammer. The volume cannot be got in bound form for less than \$1.50 and it will prove a most valuable addiion to the library of the boy or girl who wins it.

The answers must be written on one side of the paper only, and contain the sender's full name, age, and address in the upper right hand corner of the first page.

In judging the answers good penmanship and neatness will be taken into consideration as well as correctness. For instance, suppose two sets of answers should be quite correct. If one is well written and neat, and the other badly written and untidy, and carclessly addressed, of course the judges will award the prize for the first.

All answers should be addressed, "Prize Puzzle" Northern Messenger, John Dougall & Son, Montreal.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES-NUMBER 12.

A LONG SLEEPER.-Coal.

CHARADE.-Bug-bear.