

HOUSECLEANING HINTS.

In this season of general upturning and house cleaning it may not be amiss to remember that ammonia in water cleanses glass much better than soap does; that it sometimes cost less to have a badly soiled room repainted, after a moderate use of the mop and brush, than it does to have it scrubbed and scoured, to say nothing of the expenditure of strength; that salt and vinegar brighten brasses as well as any more modern and expensive potions; that a small bag of charcoal hung in a rain water barrel purifies it perfectly; that plaster busts and statuettes may be cleansed, when it is not desired to paint them, by dipping them into thick liquid starch and drying, and when the starch is brushed off the dirt is brushed off with it; that it is a good plan to go over the bedsteads before beginning any of the cleansing, as delay in these days when the sun has become strong is apt to increase the trouble there; that it is wise to open the campaign at the top of the house and in the unused rooms, and so give less confusion and prominence to the affair; that, on reaching their breeding haunts at the bottom of the house, powdered borax mixed with a little powdered sugar and scattered about in spots will prove certain death to cockroaches and to ants, and if that is not handy, a few drops of turpentine sprinkled here and there will be as effective in the case of these nuisances as it is in the case of moths.

WHEN the paint is thoroughly dry and clean, rubbing it over with whiting on a soft cloth will give it a nice polish. Delicate shades of paint that are not much soiled may be cleaned by using a little whiting in the water. Grained wood can be cleaned nicely with tea, having it of medium strength and well strained. This will not remove the gloss, which the use of soap will surely do. Ammonia in the water should never be used for cleansing paint, for, although excellent as a cleanser, it gives the surface of the paint a dull, dead look, as it removes the polish. Where the room is to be re-painted, ammonia water will remove the dirt quicker, and with less labor, than anything else, and will be found excellent for the purpose.

To put paper on a wall that has been whitewashed, first apply hot vinegar and then a thin coat of glue. The paper can then be put on with paste, whether the glue is dry or not.

To CLEAN ENGRAVINGS.—It frequently happens that fine engravings, despite the care taken of them, will in some unaccountable way become stained and soiled to such an extent as to seriously impair their beauty. To those of our readers who own engravings that have been injured in this way, a recipe for cleaning them will be of value. Put the engraving on a smooth board, and cover it with a

thin layer of common salt, finely pulverized; then squeeze lemon juice upon the salt until a considerable portion of it is dissolved. After every part of the picture has been subjected to this treatment, elevate one end of the board so that it will form an angle of about forty-five degrees with the horizon. From any suitable vessel, pour on the engraving boiling water, until the salt and lemon juice is all washed off. It will then be perfectly free from stain. It must be dried on the board, or on some smooth surface gradually. If dried by the fire or sun, it will be tinged with a dingy, yellowish color.

OLD wall paper can be very much improved in appearance by simply rubbing well with flannel dipped in oatmeal. Care must be taken not to overdo the matter by wiping too hard, or the paper will tear. It is not considered healthful from a hygienic standpoint to allow wall paper to remain many years in succession upon the walls. Change often, even if you must economize in quality enough to pay for the putting on.

MOTHS IN WOOLENS AND FURS.—Most persons think it necessary to hang their winter clothes in the open air before packing them away for the summer. Experience has taught us that this method is not only useless, but injurious. The clothes certainly do not need airing, having been in use all winter—most of them out doors—and a moment's reflection will convince anyone that clothing thus exposed is more than likely to be seized upon by the tiny moth millers which fly about in such numbers during early spring. Winter clothing should be thoroughly brushed immediately before being packed away, as it is liable to receive the germs of destruction if allowed to lie about for even a few minutes, and if the tiny eggs of the moth are once deposited, we put them comfortably away in the trunks with the clothes, and irreparable mischief is set on foot. All woollen garments that are worn during the summer—shawls, jackets, gowns, &c.—should be taken out of the closet and brushed regularly, if not kept in constant use.

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