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JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal, Canada.

HOUSEHOLD.

Rug Making.

(By Elsie Gray.)

The majority of housekeepers appreciate the good qualities of rugs. Many of the home-made variety combine beauty with serviceableness in a marked degree, and that is especially true of those made of old ingrain carpet. Their pretty colors, soft texture and handsome nap give them a decidedly Oriental look.

The carpet should be thoroughly beaten, then ripped apart, and the worn portions discarded. Cut the pieces lengthwise the carpet, three-fourths of an inch wide. Fringe the strips to the depth of an inch on each side, lap the ends together, one over the other, and stitch firmly with strong cotton thread, so that neither end will show in the weaving, then wind in balls. The rugs are woven like rag carpet, and much of their durability depends upon the strips being thoroughly beaten together. They are very desirable for centre rugs or crumb cloths, and two or more widths can be used to make it wide enough. The seams will not be discernible after using a little while. Rugs three-fourths of a yard wide are often preferable to wider ones. A strong warp, matching in color the carpet used, should be chosen, and a strip of the same woven in at the ends for hems.

In point of beauty and durability no other home-made rug can compare with those made by drawing strips of soft cloth through burlap, and trimming off the loops evenly on top, provided the colors are pretty and harmoniously blended. Draw a geometrical design all over the burlap foundation, put it in a frame made of four pieces of wood, similar to a quilting frame. Figures or scrolls are pretty, and flowers have always been favored by those who want this kind of rugs. Old cloth will do as well as new, and if you have not the colors desired, dye them with diamond dye. Soft cashmere, flannel or other woollen dress goods can be used in this way. The loops should be placed as closely as possible to make the rug pretty and durable. When finished, cover a piece of strong cloth with good flour paste, press it smoothly upon the back of the rug, and allow it to dry. This prevents the loops from drawing out.

Rugs are often knit in blocks, diamonds, oblong pieces, and gores of different colors joined together to make them the proper

shape. Those made of half circles cut from heavy cloth and pinked at the edges, or buttonhole stitched with gay colored yarn upon a strong foundation, are pretty when the work is neatly done. So also are the braided rugs of our grandmothers' time, or even those woven like hit or miss carpet. For the latter, the strips should be two or three times as wide as if intended for a carpet, which makes the rug heavy.

A nice rug to lay beside the bed is made of old stockings, knit of coarse yarn. The brighter the color of the stockings the prettier it will be, and red, blue, green and yellow diamond dye can be used when they are faded. Cut the stockings lengthwise into strips three inches wide. Commencing at the end of each piece, ravel the yarn out on each side, leaving a strip half an inch wide in the centre. Lay them on a foundation previously cut out and hemmed the size you wish your rug to be, and stitch with the machine through the centre of the knit strip. Place the strips as close together as possible until the foundation is covered. The ravelled fringe will be tightly crimped, making it very pretty and warm. A heavy woollen fringe across the ends improves the appearance very much. —'Christian Work.'

Recipes.

Plain Pudding.—To a pint of rich, fresh buttermilk, add two tablespoonfuls of cream, one teaspoonful of dissolved soda, a pinch of salt, and flour enough to make a very stiff batter. Turn into a well-buttered mould part of the mixture, then add some bits of jelly, then some more of the batter, then jelly, placing it evenly over the surface, and lastly covering and finishing with the butter. Steam two hours or until it bursts open at the top. Eat with sauce.

Scalloped Fish.—Put two pounds of halibut or any firm white-fleshed fish in a deep frying-pan; add a stalk of celery, four cloves, one-half of a bay leaf, one slice of onion, one tablespoonful of vinegar and sufficient boiling water to cover. Simmer until the flesh draws away from the bone; then drain, and set aside until cold. Remove all skin and bones, and with a fork break into large flakes. Make a white sauce with one tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of flour, one-half of a tablespoonful of salt, one quarter of a teaspoonful of pepper, and one cupful of milk. Have ready one pint of hot mashed potato, well seasoned, and add to it the stiffened whipped whites of four eggs. Cover the bottom of a well-greased baking-dish with a thin layer of the potato. Turn in the flaked fish and pour over it the sauce. Spread over it the remainder of the potato, leaving the top quite rough. Brown in a hot oven.

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