



Systematic Spring Cleaning.

By CONSTANCE FULLER McINTYRE.

THE men folk of certain families look upon the perennial spring cleaning as a species of prolonged and aggravated "washing day," which stands in their minds, for general discomfort, not only in unpunctual meals carelessly prepared, but in the simultaneous upheaval of the sitting-room and other comfortable nooks in the home. But we are rapidly progressing, if we have not already fully attained thereto as yet, toward a more methodical fashion of managing these matters, greatly minimizing, if not altogether doing away with, the need of enduring any discomfort, even if the housekeeper be scantily provided with extra help during the process of spring cleaning.

Though many housewives prefer to do the whole house as quickly as possible, every room being more or less dismantled at the same time, there is a good deal to be said in favor of a gradual accomplishing of the work. A lady I knew used to take one room at a time, waiting sometimes two or three days, as convenient, before attacking another room. In this manner she managed her spring house-cleaning with efficiency and thoroughness, and with very little discomfort to the family.

Cleaning the Parlor.

In many houses the parlor is perhaps one of the biggest jobs in house-cleaning, because of the many pictures, curios and fragile ornaments, almost priceless to the possessor as mementos of friendship and travel, which if broken can never be replaced. These call for special and personal attention, there being very few servants who, even if they had the time, could be trusted to lean them. They should, of course, be all removed from the room before the carpet is taken up, together with all the furniture, which should be thoroughly beaten and dusted before it is removed, unless it be a heavy piano, which should be well covered over.

Cleaning Painted Woodwork.

LIGHT colored painted woodwork should be dusted lightly with a brush. The great secret in cleaning paint successfully is to do it very quickly and use only a little water, rinsing it as soon as you can in clear water, and letting it dry quickly. The water used may have a little gold dust or similar cleansing agent dissolved in it. Black painted woodwork can be very easily cleaned and brightened by rubbing with a rag dipped in either kerosene or oil and turpentine. This

could also be applied to light paint work if very dirty. The hinges of creaking doors should also be attended to at this time, the defect being easily remedied by applying a feather dipped in oil. This will also ease a stiff lock or door handle.

Furniture Polish.

A GOOD polish for varnished furniture is equal parts of vinegar, sweet oil and spirits of turpentine: the furniture may be washed first with warm water and soap. The little white spots which come on varnished furniture may be removed by holding a hot dinner plate over them for a few moments. For unvarnished furniture of dark wood a coarser oil, mixed with turpentine, does very well; besides improving the appearance and cleansing it, it also preserves the wood and strengthens it. Chippendale or inlaid mosaic furniture should be frequently cleaned with oil, which preserves it from cracking and keeps the inlaid parts from becoming loose and protruding. Anyone who is fortunate enough to possess olive-wood tables or boxes should have them frequently wiped over with olive oil. Canoe chair bottoms may be not only cleansed but made more springy and elastic by washing with hot water, using, if they are dirty, soap also. The chair should be turned upside down and well soaked. Dry it out in the wind and sunshine, and it will be as firm and nice as when new, unless it is broken or injured in any way.

Cleaning Floors and Carpets.

It is much easier to spring-clean a room with a carpet square than one completely covered with carpet, though the latter method gives least trouble during the rest of the year. Stained borders to floors, or even entire hallways stained a dark oak color, require constant attention to be kept nice, and are, moreover, really rather expensive, requiring, to present a nice appearance, to be so often wiped over with linseed oil and turpentine, or kerosene. Carpets are brightened and the colors wonderfully renovated by being sprinkled with salt before sweeping. A more thorough method of cleansing them is, after having them thoroughly beaten and freed from all dust and grit, to secure them with tacks and scour quickly with a new broom in soft water to which oxgall has been added in the ratio of a pint to three gallons.

Exterminating Insects.

ALL insect life is more prolific in hot countries, and therefore it behoves the good housewife in the bright spring days

to use preventive measures, always more satisfactory than remedial ones. One of the best insect exterminators known is alum water. Put the alum in hot water and boil it until dissolved; then apply with a brush to all cracks or lurking-places, of the pests. Ants, cockroaches, bed-bugs and other creeping things are killed in this way, and, not being poison, it has not the disadvantage of being in any way dangerous to use where children are playing about. Little red ants, it is said, will not travel over wool, so that a piece of flannel laid on a pantry shelf will keep them away; branches of sweet fern scattered around will also help in this. A good way to catch them is to sprinkle sugar on a sponge, and when it is full of ants drop it into boiling water. A few drops of oil of lavender sprinkled about a bed is a good thing to keep off fleas. Hellebore, sprinkled over the floor at night where cockroaches are troublesome, will kill those who eat it, and their dead bodies may be swept up in the morning.

Shredded Wheat Biscuit Chocolate Jelly.

One-third box Cox's gelatine, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cold water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cake Baker's chocolate, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup Shredded Wheat Biscuit crumbs or Granulated Wheat-Shred, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, pinch salt, 1 pint milk, 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream whipped, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla. Put the gelatine to soften in cold water, dissolve in boiling water and strain. Put the milk, Shredded Wheat Biscuit crumbs, and chocolate to scald, and cook ten minutes after the milk is scalded. Then add the sugar, salt, and egg, beaten together, and cook three minutes. Take from the fire, stir in the gelatine and flavor, last stir in gently the whipped cream and pour into a mould wet and cooled in cold water, and set away to harden in a cold place. Serve with cream and sugar.

WHEN the bait is worth more than the fish it is time to stop fishing.

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