

The Farm Home

If Flow'rs Could Sing.

If flow'rs could sing, the poets lays
Would no. be needed for their praise;
They of which men have sung so long,
Would sing their own enchanting song.
What fragrant accents oft would float
From out the rose's velvet throat.
What soulful solace would they bring—
If flow'rs could sing.

If flow'rs could sing, how would they bless
The love that lips dare not confess;
How would they voice the secret throes
Of passionate and utter woe;
How would they thrill the maiden fair
Who wore them in her breast and hair;
What tender tidings would they bring
If flow'rs could sing.

If flow'rs could sing, the birds would die;
What use were it for them to try,
By any means, to e'er disclose
The charms that render sweet the rose?
They lovely colors, have, 'tis true,
But have they lovely fragrance, too?
The birds would die from envy's sting—
If flow'rs could sing.

Indeed, the world would be too sweet,
If carols sang the marguerite
In that fond hour when twilight's ear
Is waiting woodland hymns to hear.
The violet her scent, ere long,
Would squander in the breath of song;
And song would be too sweet a thing—
If flow'rs could sing.

—Frank Leslie's Monthlies.

A Dainty Room.

By Cynthia Doering.

There are some farmers' wives and daughters who possess as elaborately-furnished and beautifully-arranged rooms as their city sisters of like means, but many find unsurmountable objects in the lack of chance to see and purchase and the means of transporting furniture and dainty belongings to their homes. They love pretty surroundings as much as anyone, but so much of the advice about home arrangement is so far over their heads that it is a weariness to the flesh to read it.

Plain fillings in wool ingrain, pretty matting, art squares and rugs, though very reasonable in price nowadays, are far beyond the reach of many a woman who reads these lines; but all can compass a rag carpet. Therefore, my tale of a dainty room may bring the very suggestion you are longing for. Once upon a time a lady wished to "fix up" a very pretty room; so she saved all her white carpet rags for two years, but they were not enough; she traded some of her colored ones for white with a neighbor, who was very willing, because no one likes to color rags. Then she had her carpet woven with all red warp and all white filling. She was very undecided whether to have red and white warp and the carpet woven basket-check, which would have made a white spot and been prettier, or to have plain red, but decided on the latter as more durable.

While the carpet was in process of preparing, she outlined a quilt; making nine blocks of a yard of muslin, she worked a pretty design in outline stitch, with turkey-red outlining cotton on each. Required five yards of muslin, but odd pieces can be utilized. She lined her quilt with bleached sheeting and quilted it, but many leave them unlined, using them like a spread. She also outlined a pair of shams; these can be bought with design already stamped for a quarter, but she used two yards of muslin and marked off the design from a neighbor's. She also had a linen "splasher" bureau and stand scarf outlined in turkey-red.

She made no effort to change the other furnishings of the room, other than to do up some old lace curtains and loop them back with bright red ribbons. The dainty, clean effect of these most serviceable additions to her bed-room you can imagine. I would suggest to anyone who sees a bright idea in the above, that a room with white wall and white paint, or white paint and pretty, light paper (do not, I beg of you, have red in it, or you will spoil the whole effect), would be best and easiest to secure as well.

Scrim or cheese-cloth makes pretty curtains for such a room. A pretty bed-room suite of cherry (imitation), containing seven pieces, can be secured from many of the large firms in the big cities, who will ship it to your nearest station, as cheap as fifteen dollars, and will prove far more serviceable, economical and pretty than home-made contrivances of boxes with draperies, which generally cost as much in the end as if they really were satisfactory, which they never are for long.

Wouldn't a blue room, with an oak bed room suite, be pretty? someone asks. Perhaps, but beware! Blue carpet warp fades gray; blue outlining cotton does not wash well, and there is too much work entailed in the preparation of this dainty room to put in colors that fade.

Mildew and Other Stains.

Mildew and iron rust are almost indelible unless they are taken out at once. One of the most successful methods of removing mildew is as follows: Mix half a cup of soft soap with equal quantities of powdered starch and salt. Squeeze in the juice of a lemon. Spread this mixture on the mildew spots, on both sides; spread the spotted cloth on the grass and let it lie in a strong sun one day and remain until the next morning, then turn it over and let it bleach another day on this side. Take the cloth up and rinse it well. Of course, such

stains can only be removed from white goods, as this stain eradicator would remove the color from any colored goods. Remove iron rust stains with salt wet to a paste with lemon juice. It is said that the juice of a tomato and salt are equally efficacious. Fresh ink stains may usually be washed out in clear water if no soap has been used on them, and the faint remnant of a dark color left bleached out on the grass after moistening it with soda and boiling water. If the stain is obstinate, soak it in sour milk, then wash and bleach it out. An excellent rule for removing the stains of shoeblackening, ink, mildew and other obstinate marks is as follows: Stir and strain through a cloth one pound of washing soda and half a pound of chloride of lime dissolved in one gallon boiling water. Put it into an old jar, not into a bottle, or into anything where the light will reach it, as it takes away some of the strength. Let it stand about an hour, stirring it once in a while before using it. To free any goods or clothes from sweet apple or fruit stains, mildew or blacking, soak the part stained in this solution until it is almost gone, and then rub it with soap and water. This mixture leaves a yellowish spot in place of the other stain, and it will come out easily with good rubbing in soap and water. The soap prevents this strong mixture eating into the cloth. This last stain-eradicator must be used with caution.—*New York Tribune*.

To Boil a Ham.

If you have been having trouble with the boiled ham falling to pieces when removed from the water try this way. After thoroughly washing and cleansing the ham, tie tightly in a bag of muslin (flour sack is good) place a saucer in the bottom of the boiler to prevent the bag from scorching, lay the ham on the saucer and cover with boiling water. Cover boiler closely and cook for ten hours. It is not necessary to boil hard, but keep the water bubbling briskly. In the evening lift the ham out carefully by the mouth of the sack and leave undisturbed until morning, when, upon removing the sack, you will find you have a success of it. This is fine for sandwiches.

Dry Hop Yeast.

Put a pint of good strong hops in one-half gallon of water and let it boil half an hour. Have one quart wheat flour in a jar and strain in boiling hot water on the flour, stirring it well. When cool enough to bear your finger in, pour in one teacup yeast (compressed or home made) and set in a warm place until it rises. When light,