

HOUSEHOLD.

Household Conveniences.

(By Carrie May Ashton.)

The most expensive houses are by no means the most convenient ones. Fabulous sums are spent every year upon new homes, many of which are neither beautiful in appearance nor conveniently arranged. Frequently a house is artistic from the architect's standpoint, but when one comes to live in it, it is found to be anything but convenient. It is never well to decide on plans or build hurriedly for it is much wiser to study designs and visit houses for weeks and even months before accepting the final plans.

No matter how large and pleasant the living rooms are or how desirable the location may be, unless there is a good bathroom, a convenient kitchen, plenty of closet room, a good attic and cellar the house is by no means what it ought to be.

Many conveniences can be added to an old house which will greatly reduce the work necessary in caring for it. A model closet recently seen was 5x7 feet. On two sides were fastened a number of black hooks. At one end was a stationary chest containing three deep drawers for dress waists, underwear, etc. Underneath this chest was a space about eighteen inches in height which was divided into three boxes or compartments and was intended for hats, bonnets, etc. Two shoe bags, made of brown linen, each large enough to hold four pairs of shoes, a pair of slippers, one of rubbers and one of overshoes were fastened on the wall, also an umbrella case made of the same material. The shoe bags and umbrella case were bound with linen tape.

A particularly convenient sewing-room has a chest of deep drawers for unfinished work, a large cutting table, and a high work box or case with innumerable compartments labeled Hooks and Eyes, Tape, Elastic, Lace, Embroidery, Linings, Needles, Pins, Buttons, etc. A unique case for thread and sewing silk was also noticed here. Spindles fastened into a large wooden box varied in size for the different numbers of silk, twist and thread.

A useful article for those living in limited quarters is a large flat, wooden box supplied with casters which fits under the bed and makes an admirable receptacle for dresses and fancy waists. Such a bed must be draped to the floor. Dimity, either white or a pretty delicate tint, makes an inexpensive and artistic cover. Any husband, son or brother who is skilful in the use of tools can fashion many useful and attractive pieces of furniture. Wooden boxes when fitted with a hinged cover and casters, can be padded and neatly covered with cretonne, denim, or some other fabric and answer nicely for a combination piece of ottoman and shoe box. Such boxes can also be used for towels in a bath room. In a small cottage where there was no china closet or sideboard a long box was covered and lined very neatly and held the table cloths and napkins. Where the hat tree or rack is small and inadequate to the family's needs a number of metal hooks can be procured at a hardware store and screwed into a strip of moulding which is securely fastened to the wall in a convenient place. A medicine chest or cupboard with ample space for rolls of old linen, cotton, flannel and ready-made bandages, together with other articles necessary for emergencies is quite important in every house.

These few suggestions carried into effect will add much to the comfort and convenience of the home and go far towards saving the valuable minutes which are so easily wasted. —Presbyterian Banner.

Happy Households.

The happiest households are those that do not let die out the sentiment connected with various anniversaries. Although gift-giving or recognition of such events in a suitable way may be out of the question, owing to the straitened circumstances of those within the gates, there can yet be a little air of festivity when mother's or father's birthday comes round, or some wedding anniversary is to be celebrated. An extra dish, a little bunch of flowers, or some special music prepared for the occasion, will show the kindly

spirit and the loving remembrance that count far more than the money value of any gift.

As the children grow up, if these festivals are encouraged, they will have much to look forward to; and much more to remember in the years to come, when they go out to do battle with the world, and find that sentiment is crushed under foot and affection is regarded only as a side issue.

Life is full of beauty if we only know how to gather it into our bins and store-houses. There need not be great wealth nor worldly honor, but a loyal clinging together of parents and children, marked by happenings that have a direct bearing on each one's individual history, will join the circle closer together and make home life the ideal thing that it ought to be.

Do not, we beseech you, plead that you are too busy or too seriously occupied with worldly affairs to waste time on such trivial matters as birthday parties and wedding celebrations. Such use of time is not a waste, and will prove among the sweetest memories of childhood and old age long after the little chain has been broken, and one member after another gone to that long rest from which there is no awakening. —Ledger.

Useful Hints to the Housewife.

To clean oil-finished paint or hard wood use weak tea, almost cold, to remove the dust and discoloration, and then rub it over with a flannel cloth dipped in furniture polish made of one-third linseed oil, one-third turpentine and one-third vinegar. Shake it well together in a bottle, pour it into a saucer and rub hard. It is a very satisfactory polish. To revive gilt frames, take of the white of eggs two ounces and of chloride of potash or soda, one ounce; mix well, blow the dust off from the frames and apply with a soft brush. To take fly specks off gilt frames, moisten them with the white of an egg; let it remain about fifteen minutes, then wipe off with a silk cloth. Plaster busts and statuettes may be cleaned, where 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. Old leather covers of books may be freshened by first wiping clean with a flannel rag, then rubbing lightly with the well-beaten yolk of an egg applied with a soft sponge, and, lastly, by pressing a hot iron over a piece of thin paper laid over the surface of the cover. Oxalic acid diluted with water will remove ink stains from the pages. Apply with a camel's hair brush. Marble figures, statuettes, etc., can be cleaned by using a paste of whiting and water, allowing it to dry and brushing off with soft cloth. Smoke made from burning a piece of gum camphor will clear a bedroom of mosquitoes. Wall paper may be cleaned if wiped with dry Indian meal on a dry cloth. Do not rub colors. Grease stains in carpet may be removed while fresh if coarse brown paper is placed over the stain and ironed with a warm iron. Or cover spots with Indian meal; remove when grease strikes through. Use ammonia in water for washing wood work; or, better still, use kerosene oil instead of water to remove finger marks or stains, then wash. Very little force is necessary and varnish, oil or paint is not injured. Use

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