

with oilcloth. That is what I intend to do with mine when it gets too shabby. I do not want to go back on this cabinet. As it was one of our fair sex that designed it, we ought to stand by it, and where there is a defect, try and remedy it by making some new suggestions and sending them to the company. Would like to know the best way to clean oilcloth and linoleum. Will send recipe for oatmeal cookies that are fine.

Dundas Co., Ont.

DAWN.

Do not use soap, ammonia, nor any other strong cleaning agent for linoleum. Wipe it with a cloth, moist with warm water, or with skim-milk and water mixed. Once or twice a year, give the linoleum a rub of good furniture polish. . . . We shall be pleased to have the oatmeal cookie recipe.

A Suggestive Letter.

Dear Dame Durden and Chatterers All,—Last fall I wrote to the Ingle Nook for information regarding stencilled curtains, and, now that I have the curtains up, I thought I'd write and tell what success I had. I used a linen scrim for the curtains. It comes 36 inches wide, and costs 18 cents per yard.

I hemmed them down one side and end, and put the pattern just back of the hem. I used the Greek-key design, in blue.

For the color I used Prussian blue and flake white, mixed to get the right shade, and thinned with turpentine. It does not take long to do them, and the work is very interesting.

For rods, we got two pair of small, brass rods, on one pair of brackets.

On the stencilled curtains we sewed small brass rings (the kind used in fancy-work), and hung them next the window. The curtain is much more easily drawn on the rod if hung with rings. On the outside rod we shirred a printed scrim valance about sixteen inches deep. They are very simple and dainty, but I wish I had gotten Madras instead of the printed scrim. I think it would be prettier, particularly if in blue, to match the blue in the stencilling.

As to whether the curtains will wash, I think they will not fade if carefully done. I painted some stripes on a strip of the scrim and washed it, for a sample.

Someone was enquiring how to treat butter utensils so that the butter would not stick.

We pour boiling water over the print, ladle, butter-worker, etc., and then rinse in cold water. Leave the print in the cold water until ready to use. We never have the least trouble, and consider it more convenient than scrubbing with salt.

Have any of the Chatterers used wild clematis as a vine for verandas? It is every bit as pretty as clamatis paniculata, which it much resembles. It blooms earlier (in August), and is followed by a white, fluffy down, which is also attractive. It transplants easily and grows rapidly. A strip of poultry netting fastened near the ground and up to the top of the veranda, is a very good screen for this or any other clematis.

Does anyone know how long it takes Chinese primrose seed to germinate? We have seed sown over two weeks and it is not up yet. Does it require any more particular care than other seeds, such as pansies, marguerite, carnations, etc.

I am afraid some of the Chatterers will soon be saying, "Is she never going to stop?" so I'd better not write any more. Thank you ever so much for your kind advice about the curtains, and also for the many other helpful hints we get from the dear Ingle Nook.

Perth Co., Ont.

MARGARET.

My dear, if I were you, I would use the printed scrim valance for some other window, door, shelf, or bookcase, and make a valance of the plain scrim, like that used in the curtains, with a Greek key border to match along the lower edge. Your window would then look lovely; everything about it would be in perfect keeping. I imagine a room with curtains such as you have described, an "old" blue rag-rug or Japanese matting in cream and old blue, cushions of blue denim on the couch, etc., etc. How pretty it would be! Many thanks for writing us.

I cannot find any record as to how long it takes for Chinese primrose to germinate. Prof. Bailey says in regard to it: "It requires about seven months

from date of sowing to bloom. For fall flowering, sow in March. Soak seeds 24 hours in water, then sow in pans filled with light, sandy soil, covering the seeds very thinly with sand; temperature 70 degrees F. Keep pans always moist and shady. In two or three weeks, prick out the young plants into shallow boxes filled with two parts peat, one part garden soil. Keep shady and moist. When plants are large enough, put in small pots, shifting into larger pots as necessary, and making the soil heavier at each transplanting. At the last shift (five or six months after sowing), make soil rich with cow manure and bone meal. Throughout the summer, syringe twice a day. In fall, get them accustomed to the sun, and in winter, keep at a temperature of 50 or 60 degrees F.

Perhaps your seeds are slow because they were not soaked, or perhaps they were not fresh ones—a most important matter with this plant.

Our Scrap Bag.

An otherwise attractive face is often spoiled by thin, colorless eyebrows. Massaging with good vaseline, night and morning, is said to remedy the deficiency.

Fireless cookers are now for sale in nearly all of the cities where, as savers of gas, they are becoming very popular. They are made on the principle of the hay-box which has been mentioned in these columns so often, and are, of course, neater in appearance, though not more effective.

When baking cookies or ginger snaps, invert the pan and place them on the bottom. They will not scorch on the under side, and are much more easily taken up.

When frying or boiling ham, add just a little sugar to improve the flavor.

To restore the color to ivory knife-handles, try rubbing them with turpentine.

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Haldane Macfall, writing in a British weekly on the framing of pictures, pleads strongly for the use of plain and—except in case of very large pictures—rather narrow frames. In general, he favors dark wooden, rather than gilt frames, even for oil paintings. "Avoid, like the plague," he says, "the framing of watercolors that prevailed in early-Victorian days. Particularly avoid a large, flat or elaborate gold frame, enclosing a wide, white or colored mount. The only frame that can be tolerated with a wide, white mount, is a very narrow one, with a dainty ornament at the corners. This may be used for delicate water-colors and black-and-white prints. . . . When mounting prints, keep the mount as near the tone of the paper on which the print is made as possible, but lighter rather than darker. Never use the ghastly thing called a gold mount." For prints, photos, and water-colors, Mr. Macfall quite favors passe partout. This will be welcome news to those who have already availed themselves of this method of framing, which is quite the least-expensive method yet devised for small pictures.

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Scientists—among them such eminent scientists as Metchnikoff, Tissier, Combe and Bourget—are beginning to recommend strongly the use of sour milk and buttermilk as a curative. It has been found that the lactic-acid germ found in all sour milk makes war upon the microbes of putrefaction, which multiply, often to staggering numbers, in the colon or large intestine; also that these microbes of putrefaction give rise to a condition responsible for many ailments. It appears, then, that a very valuable, though very inexpensive, medicine has been too long overlooked.

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Dr. J. A. Gilbert, writing in "Medical Record," sets forth the value of skim-milk as a food, appraising it even above whole milk. "The milk which is richest in cream is not, therefore, the most nutritious," he says, "for the very simple reason that a rich milk is less easily digested and absorbed than a milk in which the fat percentage is low. As far as its other constituents are concerned, a milk poor in fat is as valuable a food as a milk rich in fat." Upon the whole, he argues skim-milk, also buttermilk, form a valuable source of food which should not be slighted. The removal of the cream

lessens somewhat the power to give energy and heat, but the proteid element, the element that produces muscle and builds up the body, has by no means been eliminated.

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A writer in London (Eng.) Lancet says there is danger in the dust disseminated by the annual spring housecleaning, dust of necessity laden with germs. He writes as follows: Spring cleaning, after all, amounts to the application of aseptic principles to the dwelling-house, and modern refinements teach that unless the process is well done it might as well be left undone. The accumulation of dirt in a house is repugnant to sanitary ideas, but the process of cleaning should not be an annual ceremony, but one carried out at more frequent intervals. Few householders, however, would find it convenient, we imagine, to submit the house to a kind of aseptic process more than once a year, and yet the fact that it is commonly done only once, means that an accumulation of some depth and intensity has to be dealt with. Theoretically, no materials that may probably contain dormant disease-producing entities should be allowed to accumulate their forces, and therefore spring cleaning as an annual aseptic process applied to the house is wrong in principle. According to this view SPRING CLEANING SHOULD BE ABOLISHED IN FAVOR OF A REGULARLY - CONDUCTED CLEANING PROCESS KEPT UP ALL THE YEAR ROUND AT COMPARATIVELY SHORT INTERVALS. This is the course pursued by many careful citizens nowadays, and the public would do well to follow their example."

Some Laundry Hints.

Several methods are given to prevent wash materials from fading. Before washing, treat by one of following methods: (1) Add 1 teaspoon spirits turpentine to each 4 gal. cold water. Wet the goods in this very thoroughly, wring dry, and hang in the shade in a place exposed to the wind. Afterwards launder as usual. (2) Soak in salty water for 20 minutes, then hang in a shady place, without wringing, to dry. Afterwards launder, and when rinsing (for pink, green, or lavender), add a cup of vinegar to the rinsing water. (3) Before washing blue materials soak for half an hour in cold water, in which 1 ounce sugar of lead to each gallon of water has been added.

Black goods are not likely to run or fade if turpentine, 1 tablespoon to the pail, is used in the rinsing water.

When washing colored goods of any kind, have the water merely lukewarm, and make into a lather with white soap before putting in the clothes. Never rub soap directly on the material. Wash as quickly as possible, as no colored articles should be left long in soapy water; rinse through two cold waters, and hang in the shade where there is breeze enough to dry the clothes quickly.

Instead of starch, use the following for black and dark colors: To every quart water allow 1 ounce gum arabic. Dissolve the gum in a very little cold water, then pour the required quantity of water, boiling hot out of the kettle, over it. Let cool to lukewarm before starching the clothes. Dry the clothes, sprinkle lightly, fold away until damp enough, and iron on the wrong side with an iron that is not too hot. About 2 ounces gum is enough for an entire gown. Sometimes when starching dark blue goods, the ordinary starch is made very blue with bluing.

Re Bacteria Essays.

The result of the "Bacteria" examination will appear next time, if possible. Many thanks to the numbers who took this subject up in such good earnest.

"Mother, does Doctor Smith wear his everyday clothes under that long white gown when he preaches?" asked a little girl who had seen the edge of the minister's trousers under his robe.

"Yes, dear," was the reply.

"Well," she continued, "now I know why it is called a surplus."

The Beaver Circle.



China's Three-year-old Emperor.

His august majesty, Pu-yi, is seen standing, holding tightly to the hand of his father, Prince Chun, who holds in his lap the Emperor's younger brother. It need hardly be said that Prince Chun is the real ruler.

The Lost Pup.

He was lost!—not a shade of a doubt of that,
For he never barked at a sinking cat,
But stood in the square where the wind blew raw
With a drooping ear and a trembling paw
And a mournful look in his pleading eye
And a plaintive sniff at the passer-by

That begged as plain as a tongue could sue,
"O, mister! please, may I follow you?"
A lorn, wee waif of a tawny brown
Adrift in the roar of a heedless town.
Oh, the saddest of sights in the world of sin
Is a little lost pup with its tail tucked in!

Well, he won my heart (for I set great store
On my own red Bute—who is here no more),
So I whistled clear, and he trotted up,
And who so glad as that small lost pup?
Now he shares my board and he owns my bed,
And he fairly shouts when he hears my tread.

Then if things go wrong as they sometimes do,
And the world is cold and I'm feeling blue,
He asserts his rights to assuage my woes
With a warm red tongue and a nice cold nose
And a silky head on my arm or knee
And a paw as soft as a paw can be.

When we rove the woods for a league about
He's full of pranks as a school let out;
For he romps and frisks like a three-months' colt,
And he runs me down like a thunder-bolt.
Oh, the blithest of sights in the world so fair
Is a gay little pup with his tail in air!

—James Clarence Harvey, in Fruitman's Guide.

Our Letter Box.

Dear Puck,—This is my first letter to the Beaver Circle. I am in the Junior Fourth Book. I like going to school in the summer time because we can play ball. I can skate, and we have quite a lot of ponds of ice in the winter. I have got some wild flowers in the woods this spring. I help my father to harrow, my oldest brother can plow, seed, harrow and cultivate. I take music lessons from Miss Patterson. I have taken twenty-three lessons. My brother is taking music lessons also. My sister is going to High School in Erin, just about three miles from where we live. She boards in Erin and I go over for her every Fri-