

## HOUSEHOLD.

## Concerning Floors.

Until the last few years no question ever arose as to what we should do with our floors; it was carpets, of course, the best our money and taste could buy. With the revival of art in household furnishings, and the increase of knowledge about germs, bacilli, and all that sort of thing, the use of the waxed hardwood floor with rugs is much in vogue—only a return to older custom of course. It is a question about which much may be said on both sides.

Nothing could be more satisfying to the eye than a well polished hardwood floor, inlaid, if you like, with handsome rugs. This, however, is only for the few; those of limited means who have bought homes ready built, or who live in rented houses can seldom attain to this: the wood carpet in this case is the best substitute, though not an inexpensive one. To many the polished floor is objectionable; it looks cold, and it is slippery, and shows the dust too easily. All true, yet to my mind the least of the two sets of evils. Also, if the room is small, as is apt to be the case in city houses, the patched effect on the floor of a number of rugs is not pleasing, it makes the room appear smaller.

On the other hand may be said in favor of the bare floor, waxed, polished, or painted, as taste or necessity decide, that it is more easily kept clean. Though showing the dust plainly, the dust is easily removed without filling the lungs of the sweeper and the air of the room, and leaving a thick coating on all the furniture—the inevitable result of sweeping day where there is a carpet. A yearly or semi-yearly polishing, though hard work, is not equal to the work of taking up, shaking and laying the carpet. The carpet is apt to become worn in places, and necessitates ripping and sewing to put it in proper condition for relaying; if small rugs or strips of carpet are used this irksome labor is saved; their position is changed weekly; if larger ones, which of necessity are fastened down, it is only the work of an hour or so to take up and lay down again, and the worn places can easily be shifted or the position reversed.

One of the most important reasons in favor of the bare floor is, however, not an aesthetic, nor yet an economic, but a sanitary one. No matter how well a carpet is cleaned, or how clean it looks when once down, it is still fuller of dust and germs than the smaller rugs, squares, or strips, whatever they may be, which are thrown out every week or every month, shaken, swept, and beaten. — Canadian Home Journal.

## All Numbered.

Many years ago a working man, who had previously lived in almost heathenish darkness, was induced to enter a place of worship. He supposed that all who frequented such places were true Christians; and he thought, to use his own words, 'that the very heavens would blush to see a creature like me enter such a place.' The Gospel was soon welcomed by him as glad tidings, and ever since he has been seeking to communicate the good news to persons with whom he came in contact. One day he entered a barber's shop to have his hair cut. Being thick and long the man handled it rather roughly.

'You must take care of my head,' said he, 'for all the hairs have been numbered.' 'Surely you don't mean to say so,' said the barber. 'Yes, I certainly do,' said he; 'now can you guess who counted them?' The barber commenced guessing. 'Wife? Sister? Sweetheart? Ah, now I think I have got it, your mother?' All his guesses being wrong, the way was open for our friend to pour into the listening ear tidings of the loving care of the heavenly Father.

The barber confessed his ignorance of Scripture, and said he was so confined with his work on a Sunday that he never entered a place of worship. They then arranged to canvass the town, and see if all the barbers would agree to close their shops on a Sunday morning. With the exception of three or four, all agreed to do so.

To reach the hearts of our fellow creatures, and awaken their interest in better things, object lessons often succeed more

'Let a man tell you his story every morning and evening,' said a famous Englishman in characterizing the newspaper, 'and at the end of a twelve-month he will have become your master.' What if the man is brazen-faced, a chronic liar, one who rejoices in iniquity, and is utterly reckless in principle, who is thus welcomed daily to the home circle? Ought not a newspaper that is indifferent to truth, is self-seeking, and has no regard for individual rights or for public morals, to be treated as you would deal with a scoundrel who seeks admission to your room and company? Let an unprincipled journal tell you its daily story, and by an inexorable moral law you will in due time have an 'evil spirit' for your master.—Youth's Companion.

'The Witness' is the only paper that reaches my idea of what a newspaper should be—impartial, just, sincerely seeking to advance whatever is for the nation's or the individual's good. Its bold stand for Prohibition, for honesty on the part of politicians, and for civic and national rights, make it well worthy the regard and confidence of every lover of his country. In respect of ability it takes no second place in Canada.'

REV. W. C. BROWN.

South Farmington, N.S.

Cut this out and hand it to a Friend,—  
or enclose it in the next letter you write to a Friend.

effectually than abstract statements of truth. Probably not one of our Saviour's numerous exhortations to his disciples to love and serve one another would come with such force to their memories and hearts as the last act of service He rendered to them in washing their feet.—The Christian.

## Game of Clothes-Pins.

A very funny game for little folks, or older ones who wish only to be amused, is that of passing clothes-pins. The players are drawn up in two lines facing each other, and about five feet apart, so there is plenty of room. At the end of each line is a table upon which are a dozen clothes-pins for each of the respective lines. Now the first player nearest the table takes hold of the left-hand player's wrists (crossed) with his own left hand, and picks up a pin with his neighbor's right hand. The second player keeps the pin in his right hand while with his left hand (hands still crossed) he takes hold of his left-hand neighbor's wrists, and passes the clothes-pin as did the first one, on down the line to the lower table. The game is more complicated if the whole line takes hold of wrists at once before the pin is started. If a pin is dropped, it goes back to the first table to start again. An umpire sees to that. The line which lands all its clothes-pins upon the lower table first is the winner. Only one pin should be passed at a time. As no player uses his own hand to work with, it is a most awkward and very jolly game. No stiffness can exist when it is played, for every one gets to laughing heartily.—Michigan Advocate.

## A Genius For Helping.

'There is a man,' said a neighbor, pointing to a village carpenter, 'who, I really believe, has done more good in this community than any other person who ever lived in it. He cannot talk very much in public, and he doesn't try. He is not worth two thousand dollars, and it is very little he can put down on subscription papers.

'But a new family never moves into the village that he does not find it out and give them a neighborly welcome. He is on the lookout to give strangers a seat in his pew at church. He is always ready to watch with a sick neighbor. He finds time for a pleasant word for every child he meets, and you'll always see them climbing into his one-horse waggon when he has no other load. He has a genius for helping folks, and it does one good to meet him in the streets.'—Michigan Advocate.

## Poisonous Plants.

It is not generally understood that a large number of plants with which we are familiar contain poison more or less deadly according to the quantity consumed. A very small piece of the bulb of a narcissus may cause death. The leaves, flowers, roots and bark, of the oleander are deadly, indeed the entire plant is dangerous to life. The jonquil and hyacinth are poisonous. Peach and cherry pits contain prussic acid

enough to kill, and yew berries are responsible for serious loss of life. Most people know that the lobelias are dangerous, but that the lady slipper poisons in the same way as ivy is known to but few. The bulbs of lily of the valley are poisonous. Crocuses must be handled with care by certain persons. The catalpa has poisonous qualities, and to poppies, especially the partly ripened seed pods, are ascribed many deaths among children.—N. Y. Ledger.

## Sugar and Onions.

Onions, which are regarded by the food authorities as one of the most valuable vegetables that we have, are unfortunately also found by many persons very difficult to digest. A suggestion that has been tested, its giver says, by long experience, and tried by many persons always with success, is to add a little sugar on the onion salad to prevent any discomfort after eating it. Anything which will encourage the consumption of onions is to be recommended. Physicians say that they are wonderful rejuvenators, and possess as well remarkable healing powers. The raw Bermuda onion is the variety that is most palatable and the most efficient, and if, with a little sugar, it is also easily assimilated, the knowledge becomes valuable.

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