

Ladies' Department.

Hints For Housewives.

So much information about everything is now so easily obtainable, that there is little excuse for enduring many of the small domestic worries to which housekeepers and others are often subjected. Why, for instance, need any one be inconvenienced by damp cupboards, when we read that a bowl of quicklime placed therein will speedily absorb the moisture? Some of us are nervous about beds not being well aired, and yet we have only to fill a large stone bottle with boiling water and put it into the bed, pressing the bolster and pillows round it in a heap. By this simple contrivance, it is comforting to learn, no one need fear giving a friend a damp bed, even if this is done only once a fortnight.

Flies are a familiar nuisance; but we are told of a foreign remedy in laurel oil, which, better than fly-catchers and others, will not only rid us of these pests, but preserves looking-glasses and picture-frames when coated with it. Jane the 'help' should derive satisfaction from the assurance that beetles may be effectually got rid of by sprinkling once or twice on the floor a mixture of pure carbolic acid and water, one part to ten.

It is not frequenters of restaurants only who wonder why the simple precaution of throwing red pepper pods or a few pieces of charcoal into the pan—said to prevent odors from boiling ham, cabbage, &c.—is not oftener observed. Cooks are further reminded that in roasting meat, salt should not be put upon the joint before it is put in the oven, as salt extracts the juice; and that lime-water will improve the condition of old potatoes in boiling.

Eggs could be purchased with greater confidence if the German method of preserving them by means of silicate of soda was generally followed. A small quantity of the clear sirup solution is smeared over the surface of the shell. On drying, a thin, hard, glassy film remains, which serves as an admirable protection and substitute for wax, oil, guin, &c.

Economy in housekeeping would be facilitated by the better observance of what are known in common parlance as 'wrinkles.' For example, why purchase inferior nutmegs, when their quality can be tested by tricking them with a pin? If they are good, the oil will instantly spread around the puncture. It is worth recollecting that bar-soap should be cut into square pieces, and put in a dry place, as it lasts better after shrinking. If we wish to keep lemons fresh for some time, we have only to place them in a jar of water and change it every morning. In selecting sugar, we are advised to look to the color. If it is white with a yellowish straw-color tint, we should buy it, but if it is white with a bluish cast, or with black specks, we should refuse it.

Broken china can be mended with a useful solution made with a piece of old cheese mixed with lime; and the wooden palings of the garden may be preserved from the weather by coating them with a composition of larded linseed oil and pulverized charcoal, mixed to the consistence of paint. In this way wood can be made to last longer than iron in the ground. If we consult our health, we should plant the garden with odoriferous plants such as wall-flowers, nigonette, and other old English flowers and herbs, which have a remarkable power of developing ozone and purifying the atmosphere from miasmatic poisons.

Amateur joiners may derive comfort from the knowledge that nails and screws if rubbed with a little soap are easily driven into hard wood. The same household commodity, of a fine white quality, if rubbed over new linen will enable it to be more easily embroidered, as it prevents the threads from cracking.

A deal of breakage amongst glass and crockery can be prevented by the simple precaution of placing lamp-chimneys, tumblers, and such articles in a pot filled with cold water to which some common table-salt has been added. Boil the water well, and then allow it to cool slowly.

When the articles are taken out and washed, they will resist any sudden changes of temperature.

Crape may be renovated by thoroughly brushing all dust from the material, sprinkling with alcohol, and rolling in newspaper, commencing with the paper and crape together, so that the paper may be between every portion of the material. Allow it to remain so until dry.

A better plan for removing grease spots than by applying a hot iron is to rub in some spirit of wine with the hand until the grease is brought to powder, and there will be no trace of it. Every schoolboy is not aware that ink-spots can be removed from the leaves of books by using a solution of oxalic acid in water; nor does every housemaid know that 'spots' are easily cleaned from varnished furniture by rubbing it with spirit of camphor.

The elasticity of cane-chair bottoms can be restored by washing the cane with soap and water until it is well soaked, and then drying thoroughly in the air, after which they will become as tight and firm as new, if none of the canes are broken.

Marks on tables caused by leaving hot jugs or plates there will disappear under the soothing influence of lamp-oil well rubbed in with a soft cloth, finishing with a little spirit of wine or eau-de-Cologne rubbed dry with another cloth. When the white piano-forte keys become discoloured, we should remove the front door, fall, and slip of wood just over them; then lift up each key separately from the front—do not take them out and rub the keys with a white cloth, slightly damp with cold water, and dry off with a cloth slightly warm. Should the keys be sticky, first damp the cloth with a little spirit of wine or gin. Soap or washing-powder must not be used. It is worth while keeping a supply of ammonia in the household, in case we wish to remove finger marks from paint, or require to cleanse brushes or greasy pans. A teaspoonful in a basin of warm water will make hair brushes beautifully white; but care must be taken not to let the backs of the brushes dip below the surface. Rinse them with clean warm water, and put in a sunny window to dry.

Egg-shells crushed into small bits and shaken well in decanters three parts filled with cold water, will not only clean them thoroughly, but make the glass look like new. By rubbing with a damp flannel dipped in the best whiting, the brown discolorations may be taken off cups in which cutarials have been baked. Agam, are all of us aware that emery powder will remove ordinary stains from white ivory knife-handles, or that the lustre of morocco leather is restored by varnishing with white of egg?

Nothing, it is said, is better to clean silver with than alcohol and ammonia, finishing with a little whiting on a soft cloth. When putting away the silver tea or coffee pot which is not in use every day, lay a little stick across the top under the cover. This will allow fresh air to get in, and prevent the mustiness of the contents, familiar to hotel and lodging-house sufferers.

Bed-Covers.

While our winter is such as to demand warm clothing, it does not necessarily follow that bedding should be heavy to insure warmth. Comforters so weighty as to weary the person using them should be avoided, as it is better to have several light coverings than one heavy piece. These lighter comforters may be quilted in large squares tied in the center and finished closely about the edge. They can then be readily washed.

A useful and pretty sofa quilt can be made with cheese-cloth and sheet-wadding. Take three breadths of the cloth, each two and one-eighth yards long. After running the breadths together, cover one-half the size with wadding; then placing the edges of the cloth carefully together, fasten them neatly with thread, turning in the raw edges. Tie with blue or rose-colored zephyr in squares or diamonds of about four inches in size making a little tuft on the upper side. Button-hole the edge with the same. It is better to sew the edges of the wadding together before laying between the coverings. In smaller proportions this makes a very pretty crib-quilt, which can be much improved by adding a crocheted edge of pink Saxony. The creamy tint of the cheese-cloth and the pale pink wool

make a delicate combination, though of course one can suit the taste in the shade of wool. The edge I refer to is about three inches wide.

First Appearance of Women on the Stage.

It is a significant fact that it was during the reign of the second Charles that women first made their appearance on the stage. Previous to the Restoration, female characters were enacted by boys or effeminate looking young men; and perhaps this circumstance may palliate much of the coarse language with which most of the earlier plays abound. Colley Cibber relates an amusing story of the time when men enacted the parts of women on the stage. On one occasion when the king had arrived, the play was not begun, which annoyed his Majesty, and he sent for the manager to inquire the cause of the delay. The poor man lost no time in presenting himself at the royal box, and thinking it safest to tell the truth, he respectfully informed his Majesty that, "the queen was not yet shaved," which so tickled the king as to furnish him with subject for jest during the rest of the evening. Under date January 3, 1661, Mr. Pepys chronicles: "In the theatre where was acted 'Beggars Bush,' it being very well done and here for the first time, I saw women upon the stage." This, however, was not the first venture of ladies upon the boards. It is said that in December, 1660, the part of Desdemona was acted by a lady for the first time.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A correspondent asks for a cure for water-brash. We know of none.

MISS L. B., Mt. Morris, N. Y.—All right. The mistake is now rectified.

A. H. P., 1009 Grayson St., Louisville, Ky.—Many thanks for offer, but we cannot accept it now.

Mrs. B. E. Menden.—Thanks for story I hope it will meet with the approbation of the Committee.

C. A. R., Box 218, Picton, Ont., writes.—The almanac (1859) mentioned in your paper. I can send, if you still wish one of that date.

G. E. HUTCHINSON sends TID BIT and does not give his post office address. The envelope is postmarked with Dresden and Chatham.

MARY S., KINGSTON STATION, N. S.—That was a "bull" and big one, but no doubt you are right. Many thanks for good words about TRUTH. Hope your story will be one of the successful ones.

PATRICK GUTHRIE, BLAIRSBURG, HAMILTON Co., IOWA, says.—I noticed in notes to correspondents, one under the name of Ceylon, requesting an almanac for the year 1858. I can supply you with such.

N. OWEN SOON.—The total area of the British Empire is 8,990,211 square miles; the population is 307,725,000; the revenue \$1,016,395,000; the debt \$5,195,797,700; and the imports and exports \$5,194,361,000.

L. D.—Parcels are carried by the Post office to places within the Dominion at the rate of 6 cents for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof. No parcel must exceed 5 lbs., or have any letter enclosed, and must be prepaid by stamps.

MUSIC AND FASHIONS.—In answer to several inquiries we may say that TRUTH will hereafter contain a piece of fresh music each week, the best and most popular attainable. Fashion plates will also be published again from time to time. Great pains will be taken to obtain the very best possible, such as will be of real value to every lady reader.

WM.—Yes, you can send photographs, or maps or prints by book post at the rate of 4 ozs. for a cent. The parcel must be open at the ends or sides, and must contain no letter, and further, it must not exceed two feet in length, or one foot in width or depth.

B.—The present Canadian tariff of customs can be found in the Canadian Almanac for the present year, page 40. Any one can have a copy of that very useful book for, we suppose, 15 cents. Those who have not been in the habit of buying it could not invest 15 cents better.

MISS W., St. CATHERINES.—If stories are intended for competition the necessary dollar for a six months subscription must accompany them invariably. One only need be sent, unless six months, subscription

accompanies each one. Stories may be either written or printed; printed ones are more in favor with our printers.

A SUBSCRIBER TO TRUTH, Hamilton.—Could you give me any information of wood engravers, and if there are any establishments of the kind in Toronto? Having a son seeking for a situation as improver, you would oblige me by giving me any information on the subject.—Yes, Ralph Smith & Co. are probably the best.

G. E. F., Halifax, N. S.—If TRUTH fails to reach Halifax at its usual time the fault must be in the mails somewhere, and is entirely beyond our control. The mails are despatched from here every week at the regular time. There has not been one failure about that in this office in many months. Possibly the late storms may have had to do with it.

G.—Yes. Married women can carry on business, sue and be sued in the same manner as if unmarried. They are entitled to hold property free from debts and control of husband, but cannot convey away real estate without husband's connivance. They are entitled to dower on the real estate owned by husband during marriage, and on such secured real estate as the husband may die entitled to.

M. F.—Sorry for you, but never despair. When you know the folly and wickedness of your conduct, the evil ought to be half remedied. A great many young men are in lunatic asylums just through similar courses, and you will go too if you don't take care. No sacrifice is too great, no mortification too severe in order to get quit of the fascination. But if you will go on, you must take the consequence. They that sow inequity reap the same.

I. I.—Newfoundland was discovered in 1500 A. D. It has an area of about 40,000 square miles, and in 1874 had a population of 161,359. In expenditure it keeps well within its means, and has only about \$1,500,000 of debt. At one time it was thought that Newfoundland would soon ask to be received as part of Canada. The people, however, are now greatly off the idea, being persuaded that they are better as they are.

I. C. T., BRIDGEWATER, O.—The Princess Beatrice was born on the 14th of April, 1857, and is consequently nearly 28 years of age. Whether or not she is becoming crusty from incipient old maidhood, as the newspapers affirm we cannot say. We are equally ignorant about the way her coming marriage is being received by the royal circle and if we were to speak the honest truth we might add that we did not care at all how it went. Those concerned can settle the difficulty among themselves.

JACK.—The Marquis of Lansdowne was born in 1845, and is consequently in the fortieth year of his age. He is Earl of Kerry and Shelburne in the Irish peerage. His oldest son, whose courtesy title is Earl of Kerry, was born in 1872. The title is not an old one, it being only a hundred years since the first Marquis was raised to that honor, and the Irish title only dates back to 1722. Still, considering the number of what are called *New Men* in the House of Lords this family may actually be reckoned among the old if that is any recommendation.

E. F. D., SHERYVILLE, OHIO.—Pleased not to get too angry. You surely don't think that the U. S. ought to harbor and defend "all the rascality of Europe." No one would even think of saying that all the people of the United States were of that category. We wish the States ten fold more prosperity and wealth than they have. Still we say it is not for them to make their territory a safe base for rascals devising schemes against the peace of other countries. If our correspondent thinks they ought, we beg to differ from him and always shall.

GEO. ROGERS.

346 YONGE ST.

Is showing a very large assortment of Gentlemen's Woolen Underclothing, Ribbed Wool Shirts and Drawers 40c. up. Shetland 1/2 Wool Shirts and Drawers \$1.25 up. Cashmere Wool Shirts and Drawers, Merino Shirts and Drawers \$1.00 up. 1- small, medium and large men's sizes. Boys Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, Boys Plain Shirts and Drawers, Boys Merino Shirts and Drawers, all sizes. Prices Very Low.

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