

Selected Papers.

STAINS AND THEIR REMOVAL.*

IT is, perhaps, hardly necessary to say that stains should be treated as speedily as possible after their first appearance. When once dry they are more difficult to remove, requiring both time and perseverance. Paint should be instantly wiped off; grease on wood, stone or carpet should be congealed before it has time to penetrate, by throwing cold water over it. Tea, coffee, ink, wine and fruit stains will disappear in a quarter of the time if they can be attended to while wet. Spots on colored material must not be rubbed, but dabbed over and over again until they disappear. Rubbing roughens the surface, and often leaves a whitened circle almost as unsightly as the original stain. The dabbing is best done by covering a finger with an old handkerchief, frequently changed, and great care should be taken to confine the operation to the area of the stain itself, and not to extend the damage by damping and dabbing the surrounding material. In the treatment of stains, to know what you mean to do, and to do it quickly and neatly, is more than half the battle. We will take stains on white washing materials first.

WHITE WASH GOODS.

For acids, tie up a bit of washing soda in the stained part, make a lather of soap and cold soft water, immerse the linen, and boil until the spot disappears.

For anilines, wet with acetic acid, apply diluted chloride of lime, and wash out carefully.

Apple and pear stains may be removed by soaking in paraffin for a few hours before washing.

Blood, if fresh, is removed by soaking for twelve hours in cold water, then washing in tepid water. If the mark still remains, cover it with a paste made of cold water and starch, and expose to the sun for a day or two. Old stains require iodide of potassium diluted with four times its weight of water.

For coffee or chocolate, pour soft boiling water through the stains, and while wet, hold in the fumes of burning sulphur.

Fruit stains can be treated in the same way, if fresh, but if old rub them on both sides with yellow soap, cover thickly with cold-water starch, rub in well, and expose to sun and air for three or four days. Then rub off the mixture and repeat the process, if necessary.

Grass stains are removed by alcohol.

Ink requires milk for its removal; the spot should be soaked and gently rubbed. A fresh stain will disappear quickly, but an old one may need soaking in milk for twelve hours.

For iron mold, spread the stained part on a pewter plate set over a basin of boiling water, and rub the spots with bruised sorrel leaves, then wash the article in soft warm suds. Or, cover the spots with a paste made of lemon juice, salt, powdered starch and soft soap, and expose to the sunlight.

Mildew can be removed by the above paste, or by simply wetting the spots, covering them with powdered chalk, and bleaching on the grass.

Paints must disappear before oil of turpentine and perseverance.

Scorched linen can be restored if the threads are not injured. Peel, slice and extract the juice from two onions, add half a pint of vinegar, half an ounce of curd soap, two ounces of fuller's earth; boil these well, and when cool spread over the scorch, let it dry on, and then wash out the garment.

Tar can be taken off with petroleum.

Tea stains yield to the action of boiling water poured through them from a height, or to glycerin.

Wine stains, if old, treat like old fruit stains; if fresh, table salt spread over the spots while wet will neutralize the damage.

Nature of stain unknown.—Stains of which the cause is unknown will frequently disappear if held in a pan of milk boiling on the fire, or by dipping them in sour buttermilk and drying in the sun. The articles should then be washed in cold water, dried, and the process repeated several times in the day. The following bleaching liquid will effectually remove any trace that may still remain after the garments have been through the laundry. It may be called an instantaneous ink and stain extractor, but requires to be used with care lest the fabric suffer. Put a quarter of a pound of chloride of lime and a quart of soft water in a wide-mouthed bottle and shake it well. Cork tightly for twenty-four hours, then strain through cotton and add one teaspoonful of acetic acid to every ounce of the mixture. Damp the stain, apply the extractor, and wash well in clear, soft water.

COLORED GOODS.

For the removal of stains and spots from colored materials and carpets ammonia takes the first place. Almost any mark, new or old, will yield to its persevering use, and if dabbed on (not rubbed) it will itself leave no trace of its use. It can be applied to woollens, cottons and silks. It will remove ink stains from marble, paper and wood. Grease flies before its application, and when diluted with water, spots caused by orange or lemon juice or vinegar are removed by it from the most delicate materials. For very nice fabrics some people like to use the old-fashioned javelle water, to be obtained from the chemist; but ammonia, delicately applied,

* Dyer and Calico Printer.