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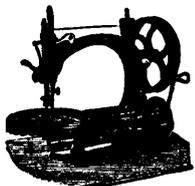
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HOW TO EXTINGUISH FIRES.—Better than all elaborate and costly apparatus for extinguishing fires are constant care and watchfulness, and quick and intelligent action on the part of those who first discover a fire in progress. The fire, which at the beginning could be smothered with a pocket handkerchief, or dashed out with a bucket of water, neglected a few hours lays waste millions of dollars' worth of property. If there is any time in which a person should be cool and calm, in perfect command of himself, it is when he discovers a fire that threatens the destruction of life and property. The first thing to do is to learn precisely where it is; the second to consider the chances of extinguishing it. Of course, in cities an alarm should at once be sent out, but at the same time a vigorous effort should be made to put out the fire with the means at hand; for sometimes what the fire engine is unable to accomplish when it reaches the scene, can be done by one or two persons who act promptly before the flames have had time to gain headway. First, then, do not be alarmed on account of smoke. Frequently there is a great deal of smoke before the fire has made much progress. Remember that one can pass through smoke by keeping his head near the floor or by enveloping it in a wet woollen cloth. On entering a room to fight down a fire single-handed keep the door closed behind, if possible. A pail of water and a tin dipper in the hand of a resolute person can be made to work a miracle at the beginning. If the fire has progressed too far to admit of this course, and it is necessary to depend entirely on outside help, then see to it that every door and window is closed. By so doing, if there is a fire engine in the neighbourhood, it will often be possible to confine the fire to one room. Every person who stops at a hotel should take special pains before retiring to note the location of the stairways, so that in case of an alarm he can find his way out, even though the halls are filled with smoke. Never leave a room where there is an alarm of fire without first securing a wet towel, or, if possible, a wet sponge or piece of woollen cloth through which to breathe. If escape by the stair is cut off, seek an outside window and stay there till help comes. Above all things, be cool and have your wits about you. When a lady's dress takes fire let her fall on the floor at once and call for help, in the meantime reaching for some rug or woollen cloth with which to smother the flames. There is nothing new in this advice; it has been repeated in one form or other hundreds of times, but it will bear repeating thousands of times.—American Builder.



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