

THE HOUSEHOLD.

SCRAP-BOOKS.

A pretty scrap album for a drawing-room table may be made in this way, and in making will afford a pleasant occupation for a winter evening:

Select a book with colored pages. Keep two scrap boxes, one for poems, the other for all sorts of little pictures and ornaments, monograms, little gilt devices cut from envelope bands, flowers—anything at all that is pretty. And collect diligently, for you will want a great many. Then get some sheets of colored paper at a stationer's—deep red, blue, black, and some plain gilt—and begin. Suppose the page to be gray. Take several short poems of the same general idea, or one long one, and cut out a stanza, carefully following the shape of the lines. Then lay this, right side down, on the wrong side of a sheet of red paper, for example, or of any color that will look well in contrast with the page, and draw the outline of the verse with a sharp lead-pencil. Cut the red paper out a little larger—say the width of the print larger—than the outline. Have ready some boiled starch. Moisten the wrong side of the verse, and paste it on the red paper, leaving an even red line all around. This must be done very neatly, no more starch put on than is absolutely necessary, or the red paper will be spoiled. Cut out and paste each stanza of your poem in the same way, but be careful to number them on the back as you do them, or you may get confused in putting them in your book. These are now ready to be pasted on the gray page. Now find a picture which suits the idea of the poem. If you have none in your box perhaps you might find a small photograph which would do by soaking it off the card-board in warm water. Then paste the picture in the centre of the page; next paste the heading of the poem, cut out and bordered like the verses, at the top of the page, then the verses to suit your fancy, by twos of threes, straight or slanting, only taking care that they follow clearly in order. After this, stick on all sorts of little ornaments, always suiting, if you can, the sentiment of the poem. This will call for great ingenuity and taste, and is by no means so easy to do as it seems. If you are interested in your work, you will find each page a study. Never cover but one side of a page. If you can draw, you may add much to the beauty of the volume by tracing delicate borders, and, indeed, this can be done without much skill. A simple and pretty border in one of my own books was made in this way; a line was ruled lightly around, an inch from the edge of a white page; a penny was placed at the four corners, and circles were drawn by it in each corner. All this was afterward lined over with violet ink, and a little vine thrown in. A photograph in the centre had violet lines drawn around it, and the whole made a pleasing variety in the book with very little labor. Very tiny bright leaves make a pretty border for a page or for a picture, but they are easily broken, and need frequent replacing.

For a plain scrap-book, to read and make a friend of, an old account-book, such as a day-book or ledger, is as good or better than a regular made book, for the size is more convenient to hold while reading, and the paper is generally thicker. The outside can be covered over with bright paper and pictures, to take off the business-like look. The art of pasting smoothly is in doing only one page at a time, and that in a certain way. Cut out two stiff pieces of pasteboard the exact size of the page. Fit your scraps on one of these pieces before beginning. This will make it sure that the page will come out right; and, besides, you can conveniently take the scraps off as you want them. Place the other piece of pasteboard under the page of the book, and wet the whole page at once with warm starch, or better still corn starch; paste on the scraps, taking them off the other pasteboard in order. Wipe off any superfluous starch with a piece of old soft linen. Leave the pasteboard under the page, put the other piece on top, and press the book under a weight until dry. With a little practice the pages will come out fair and smooth; and both sides of the page may be used, only the first must be thoroughly dry before beginning the second, or it will certainly be uneven. Some, who cannot take time to be so careful, fasten the scraps at the edge with mucilage or white wafers; but while this will save and arrange the scraps, it will never make a nice-looking book.

A combination of a scrap-book and journal is approved by a few. The journal is written on the pages and the scraps pasted as they come, with little regard to order; or else the writing is only on one side of the page, and the pasting on the other. In the latter case the pasting must be done first, for the ink, of course, would run if the page were wet afterward.

The pleasure of collecting for a children's book is great, because almost everything comes of use. Any little picture in an advertisement will do to fill a corner; and if you engage your friends to save for you any thing that they may see, the scrap-book will soon fill up with pretty things. A good way to make the book, if it is for very little children, is to cut out the leaves of linen any size you fancy. Bind these by first basting them down the back with stout thread and then covering the bastings with a scarlet braid or ribbon stitched neatly. Then paste on the scraps; and the greater variety you have, the better.—*Harper's Bazar.*

YOUNG HOUSEKEEPERS.

The sooner children begin, after they are eight or ten years old, to make bread and biscuit, to wash dishes, to iron plain pieces, to sweep and dust, to do plain sewing, to set tables and clear them away, the easier will all these things seem to them when they are grown, and the more naturally will they "take to" housework. This programme implies a great deal. It presupposes that much of the work done will be imperfectly done and need supplementary touches; that much crockery will be smashed, and good material will be wasted, that there will be a mighty exercise of patience and forbearance on the part of mothers, of patience and perseverance on the part of little girls, that sometimes everything will go wrong, the fire won't burn, the bread will, or be sour, or heavy, the needle will creak, creak on its way through unwilling folds, and the wheels of routine run through deep sands as well as along smooth, hard roads. But it is a great deal easier in the end for all parties, for the girls certainly, and for their mothers as certainly, since they can transfer from their own to younger shoulders, properly prepared to receive them, some of the daily burden and care that make middle and advancing years so toilsome. It doesn't hurt girls to be made to take a measure of responsibility concerning household tasks; far otherwise, it does them immense good. Let them in succession have, a week at a time, charge of the chamber work, the mending, the cooking, the buying even, for the family, all of course under proper supervision, and their faculties of reason, perception, judgment, discrimination, and continuity will be more developed in one month of such training than in six of common schooling. We all know, who know anything at all of such matters, that often it is a great deal easier for mothers to do the work themselves than to teach young girls how to do it, but when will they learn if they are not taught; and if their own mothers haven't patience to teach them, who can be expected to? It is cruelty to children to permit them to grow up in ignorance of that which it most concerns them to know. Allusion has been made to training girls in buying for the family. It is a pity that girls and boys are not taught more than they are about the prices, values, and qualities of articles, both of diet and dress, in ordinary family use. With a little attention on the part of parents they might learn how judiciously to select their own clothing, and to be able to tell what price they should pay, what qualities recommend one fabric above another, and of what materials the various fabrics are made, and very much concerning their mode of manufacture. They can easily learn how to discern the difference between good meat and bad, sugar of first and of inferior grades, flour that will make bread of prime quality, and flour that cannot be trusted, good coal and poor, and so of all other articles of common use, with their prices. Knowledge of this sort imparted as occasion serves, here a little and there a little, in familiar conversations, and illustrated by reference to the objects under discussion, will prove of immense value to young people when they, self-impelled or by outward necessity, launch out for themselves on the sea of life. Many parents think they cannot afford the expense of mistakes: their children would make if permitted to do their own buying, but let such remember how much both in money and convenience is saved that young person who has learned by ex-

perience, including many mistakes, what he or she should want, and what it should cost. The particular practical knowledge which has been referred to, our young folks are not likely to learn at school. Home is the place where all such branches are best taught, and no teacher should be so good in this department of instruction as the parent.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

CONCERNING WOMEN'S ACCOUNTS.

Why do not women keep accounts? Or, rather, why do not American women, as their sisters in other countries? Because it is usually a matter of pennies instead of pounds; because the sum total may be a ridiculously small one, is no reason. It is not a question simply of knowing where the money goes to, or what things have cost for future reference. It trains the memory and attention, induces care and thought in purchasing, and is a check on heedless shopping. It takes a little time, certainly, but not much, if one's book and pencil are handy and the habit formed of jotting down date and purchase at once.

How many women have any real idea of what they spend on dress? They are apt to think themselves economical and their neighbors extravagant; but a little figuring would sometimes correct this idea. For usually the first result of account-keeping is the revelation of the amount of money that may be put into little things. It is not the staple articles of her wardrobe that surprises her. Of this cost she has some definite idea. But these neck-ties, and ribbons, and gloves, and needles, and pins, and thread, and shoestrings: these are the trifles whose sum total of cost at the end of a year surpasses her wildest imagination. It is not a bad plan to keep items of this description in a separate column. Once persuaded by the sight of her own figures that it is really "by the pennies that the pounds waste," the mistress of the house will be more careful. It is the same in her housekeeping. Not the daily bread, but the sugar on it raises the sum total of each week's expenses. "I have cares enough now," the tired housekeeper says. "Why should I take any burden of figures on me?" But after a little it will not be a burden and the saving will repay the labor. Some women do not want to know how much they cost, conscious, perhaps, that they are not worth it to those who pay the bills.

But, especially, why are not girls trained to do it? Never mind if the daughter has not "a regular allowance," but has her things bought for her on the system of credit, which gives one such a delightful sense of affording all one wants. She can keep account all the same, and when the sum total comes up at New Year's to frighten every one, know just how much of it has come to her. Even the most affectionate of sisters sometimes come to words over the supposed partiality of mamma to one or the other in matters of dress. Account-keeping would straighten that by revealing the truth to all parties. The popular fallacy on the matter is that accounts and allowances go together; and as it is not convenient for the head of the house to furnish the one, he does not think of demanding the other.

Some one complains that money-saving is getting to be one of the lost arts with Americans; that every one, nowadays, lives up to his income, and trusts to luck for the future. His thrifty grandfather lived on two-thirds of his and put the rest by, and these savings were the foundation of wealth in his descendants. These, however, were in the happy days when all investments did not have so largely the character of this transitory life. But accounts might help this disease a little, and it is to the women that their keeping must be entrusted. They will most feel their helplessness should the breadwinner be taken away with no provision for the future. For that possibility every woman must be prepared, and a part of this preparation is to have definite ideas of values. It is the woman who is most often found helpless in the day of disaster, counting on her weary fingers her three resources of teaching, sewing and keeping boarders. Let her learn, at least before that dark day comes, to wisely spend and wisely account for her spendings.—*Ex.*

HOW TO AVOID WRINKLES.

The other day I was expressing my delight in the clear, ringing, sunny voice of a friend of mine, and her smooth, unwrinkled face, though she has had her full share of care and toil. "Is it an accident," said I,

"or a gift of nature, or are you accountable for these things?" "Well," she hesitated, "all three, I suppose. Tones are to me as full of meaning as expressions of the face or attitudes of the body. Harsh, rough, querulous, scolding, fault-finding tones always were utterly repulsive to me, and early in life I began resolutely to avoid such tones, and to accustom myself to speak uniformly in cheerful, pleasant accents. Then, as to wrinkles, they were as disagreeable to me as unpleasant tones, and I wouldn't allow myself to indulge in them, to knit my brows or let the wrinkles come in my forehead. I am training my children to use only pleasant tones, and avoid ugly, wrinkly expressions of the face, and I find if I can keep their voices sweet and their faces sunny, their amiability takes care of itself. Tones are far more infectious than words, and mean vastly more.—*Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly.*

SELECTED RECIPES.

TO KEEP CRANBERRIES ALL WINTER AND EVEN UNTIL MAY.—Put them in a cool room, where there is no danger of freezing, and either spread out on a cloth or so as to give each berry light and air; or, which is a sure way, put them in a barrel under water.

A CHEAP AND FINE SHOE POLISH.—Take a quarter of a pound of ivory-black and half an ounce of oil of vitriol, a table-spoonful of sweet-oil, half a pint of liquid honey or molasses, and half a gallon of vinegar. Apply like any other blacking.

BAKED VERMICELLI PUDDING.—Simmer four ounces of vermicelli in a pint of milk for ten minutes, then put in a gill of cream, a pinch of powdered cinnamon, four ounces warm butter, the same of sugar, and the yolks of four eggs, well beaten. Bake in a dish without a lining.

BAKED TOMATOES.—Take large tomatoes, cut the tops off and remove the seeds (taking as little off the tomatoes as possible), fill the cavities with bread crumbs, pepper and salt, put in a baking dish, then strew the top with a little pure beef dripping or butter.

OATCAKE.—Mix a handful of fresh, coarse oatmeal with a little water and a pinch of salt, rub in a little butter; make it all of a proper consistency to roll out with a rolling-pin. Roll out a round cake about the thickness of a shilling, and put it on the griddle on a clear fire. When slightly browned on the under side take it off the griddle, and toast the other before the fire. The materials for each cake must be mixed up separately.

A GOOD WAY TO MEND GLASS.—Pound flint-glass as fine as it can possibly be made on a painter's stone, and mix it with the unbeaten white of an egg. Rub the mixture on the clean edges of the broken glass, place them carefully together, and, where it can be done, bind together with a string. Set aside for some days or weeks, and one can scarcely discern that there was ever a crack in your bowl or dish.

FOR REMOVING INK SPOTS.—Give the garment a good washing. Then soap and boil. Take out and wring, to carry without dripping. Lay it out on the snow where the sun will shine. Let it remain two or three days, and then repeat the boiling, and put out again. After doing this for a few times you will find the ink gone. I had a white dress spoiled with a bottle of ink bursting, and I completely restored it by this method.

CRANBERRY SAUCE.—Put them into a kettle, with just water enough to prevent burning, and stew until the whole becomes a homogeneous mass, with no semblance of whole berries, stirring all the time. Then add a clarified syrup, previously prepared, in the proportion of one pound of sugar to one of fruit. If haste is required, however, it will do very well to stir in the sugar dry after the fruit has been on the fire for a while, and is boiling.

CRANBERRY DUMPLING.—One quart of flour, one teaspoonful of soda and two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar sifted together. With sweet milk mix into a soft dough, using a spoon for the purpose. Roll the dough out very thin in oblong shapes, and spread over it one quart of cranberries, picked, and washed clean. Add half a pound of sugar, sprinkle over evenly. Fold over and over; then tie in a pudding cloth and put into a steamer, where let it cook over a steady fire for one hour, never looking into the pot. Serve with sweet sauce, or sugar and cream.