

Household Suggestions.

Continue in Well-doing.

The true Christmas spirit of love, of service, of giving, is carried far into the year—yes, through it, by many a generous soul who finds constant joy in doing for others.

But still the blessed joy-time of the year is sacred unto thoughts of all the heart holds dear.

The house is beautiful with cheer, It is the gay time of the year—

Let us, every one of us, belong to the by no means small army who do not cast aside the Christmas spirit with the Christmas greens. Who cares to escape his cares, his duties? Who is not ready to serve? Mrs. Gaskell writes: "Thinking has often made me very unhappy, acting never has. Do something, do good if you can, but do something."

Start a Christmas Club Now.

Who is ever ready for Christmas? A group of women who never were, decided to form a Christmas Club last year. The membership was limited to 12. Meetings were held twice a month from 2 to 5. Each woman brought Christmas work and worked diligently. The time passed pleasantly. Refreshments were not served except as birthdays occurred. Ideas were exchanged at the meetings, and sometimes materials were bought wholesale. The club was organized in January, and by December every member had a box well filled with gifts for her friends. Having Christmas in mind all the year, they made most appropriate gifts, and there was no distressing rush in the last few weeks.

To Keep the Feet Warm in Bed.—Fold a single blanket and place it between sheets well toward the foot of the bed. The blanket makes a nice pocket in which to put the feet, and is much warmer than the sheets.

Making Children's Night-Drawers with Feet is not a very easy matter. One mother has solved the difficulty by using the feet of stockings. She cuts the stockings—those that have been worn out at the knees—well above the ankles, and hems the drawers to ankle length. The stocking feet are then basted to the drawers, or attached by buttons and buttonholes and taken off to be washed separately.

One Way to Keep Children Covered at Night is to take two pieces of elastic about half an inch to an inch wide and about six inches long, and fasten one end of each piece with safety-pins to the sides of the mattress near the head of the bed. Fasten the other ends, also with safety-pins, to the bed coverings on each side. There is so much "give" to the elastic that the sheets will not be torn by the safety-pins, as they would if they were pinned directly to the mattress.

A Notebook, Pencil and Scissors attached to a belt by tapes will be of great service to the busy housewife, saving time, and preventing many things from being forgotten. The advantages of each article are too many to enumerate, but a trial will prove the usefulness of this plan.

To Help the Bread to Rise in Winter a hot-water bag will be found convenient. Fill the bag with hot water and place it under the covered bread-pan, finally covering all with an old blanket. Two flatirons, heated, and put on each side of the bread-pan (covering all as before), may take the place of the water-bag.

A Help in Hanging Clothes to Dry in Cold Weather is to have at hand a folding clotheshorse, with rope instead of wooden bars, to connect the wooden standards. All the small articles of clothing may be pinned to the rope with clothespins in the house, and the clotheshorse taken outdoors and placed in the sunshine. When the clothing is dry, the horse may be brought indoors and the articles taken off. Another way is to have in the kitchen two hooks to which to fasten a piece of



Master Kenneth McEwen of Medicine Hat and his Poultry Farm of 500 birds.

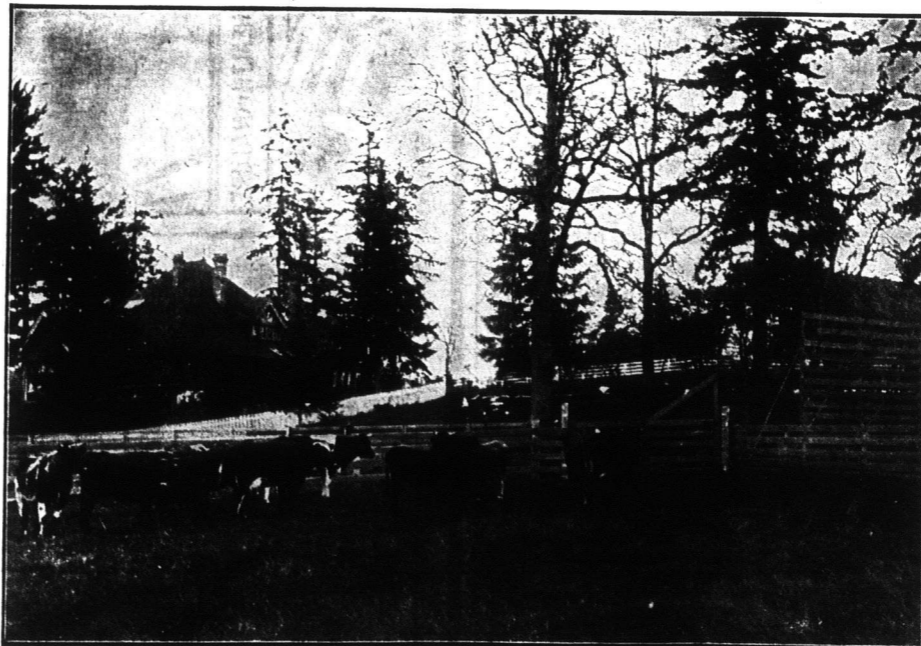
clothesline, having a loop at each end. Outdoors have hooks on posts exactly the same distance apart as those in the house. Put up the line indoors and hang up the clothes; then take it down, carry it out in a basket, and put the line, with the clothes still pinned to it, over the outdoor hooks. Do not have the line too long or it will be too heavy to carry when the garments are wet.

When Washing Clothes in Cold Weather try putting a handful of salt in the last rinsing water. While not entirely preventing freezing, it will nevertheless make the clothes easier to handle.

To Thaw Out a Frozen Water Pipe pour into the pipe a cupful or more of common salt. Usually the drain will soon be all right after this has been done.

Hanging Clothes Outdoors on a Cold Day may be made easier by pinning small articles, such as collars, handkerchiefs, etc., to a sheet before taking them out to the clothesline.

Heat the Clothespins in the Oven in Cold Weather and they will retain sufficient warmth to keep the fingers comfortable during the process of hanging out clothes on a cold winter day.



In the Twilight

Sewing-machine Conveniences

A Pincushion for the Sewing Machine.

When sewing on a machine one often needs to use pins or needles or have a handy place in which to put them. Cut an oblong piece of flannel two inches by four, and at one end cut a hole the size of a pea. Slip this over the spindle where the spool of thread belongs, before the spool is put on; then you will have a place right before you in which to stick a pin.

Keep a Pair of Scissors at the Sewing Machine and you will be well repaid for taking the trouble. The safe-

est way to make certain that the scissors will not be missing just when most needed is to attach them to the machine by a cord or small chain.

A Short Hatpin is Useful at the Sewing Machine as with it one can guide and place the work. Keep the hatpin in the sewing machine drawer.

A Small Rug for the Sewing Machine made to fit the treadles, will keep the feet warm when using the machine in cold weather.

Good Coffee.

Coffee Should Always be Freshly Ground.

The royal road to making good coffee lies in the use of an ordinary percolating pot; by this I mean a pot so arranged that the grounds of the coffee are never allowed to remain in the infusion. The upper portion of the pot may be metal, glass or even a bag—anything that will hold the ground coffee above the water. The coffee must be of good quality, nicely browned and freshly ground. Allow one rounding tablespoonful to each half-pint of freshly boiled water. Soft water makes better coffee than hard water, but the water itself must be boiling and must be taken at its first boil. In boiling, water parts with its gases and becomes a little flat, and does not so easily draw

out the flavoring of the coffee. The coffee may be drained off, and poured over the grounds a second time. Remove the grounds from the pot and keep the coffee boiling hot. Always scald the pot before putting in the coffee.

Breakfast coffee is better served with scalded milk; this does not mean boiled milk, but milk put over hot water until it steams. In cold weather heat the coffee-cup by pouring hot water into it; then put in the milk, then the coffee; if cream is added it should be added after; but not before, the coffee goes into the cup.

An artist may make good coffee by putting it into the saucepan and boiling it, but nine out of ten cups of boiled coffee are not only unpalatable, but they are also unwholesome. Allow one tablespoonful of coffee to each half-pint of water; put the quantity of coffee into the pot and add a tablespoonful of the white of an egg and sufficient cold water to moisten the mixture; mix thoroughly and pour over the given quantity of freshly boiled water; put the pot over the fire and cover it; at first boiling put in a tablespoonful of cold water; let it quickly return to the boiling point; put in another tablespoonful of cold water; let it come again to the boiling point and boil for not more than a minute; then put in half a cupful of cold water and stand it aside to settle. Put the coffee into a china pot which has been thoroughly heated with hot water, and serve at once.

Coffee is not spoiled by being kept one or two hours provided the grounds are removed and the coffee is kept always at boiling point. Warmed-over cold coffee is always objectionable and should never be used.

She Meant Well.

The young son of a western family was away from home for his first year in college. His mother had been to visit him, and upon her return met a friend, who asked if her boy was home-sick.

"No," said the doting mother. "I was afraid he would be, so I saw that he was located in one of the best maternity houses of the college."

The Butler Broke the News Gently.

On his return from an extended trip abroad an English squire was met at the steamship wharf by his old and trusted butler. Thinking it strange that the old man should have come to meet him, the squire asked if there was bad news.

"Yes, sir," replied the butler, "very bad news. The old magpie is dead, sir."

"What did the bird die of?"

"Too much horseflesh, sir."

"Too much horseflesh, John? Where did it get it?"

"The carriage horses, sir."

"What, are they dead, too?"

"Yes, sir. Died from over exertion drawing water the night of the fire."

"What fire?"

"The mansion, sir."

"You don't mean to say that the mansion is burned, John?"

"Yes, sir; it burned the night of the funeral, sir."

"Who's funeral?"

"Your poor mother's, sir."

"What, mother dead, too?"

"Yes, sir; she never held her head up after your poor father died."

"Great Heaven! Father dead as well? I never heard a word of any of these misfortunes. What was the cause of my father's death?"

"Well, sir, it was this way. He received a telegram telling him that the ship had gone down that had the whole of his fortune on board, and the shock of it killed him."

"John, I am entirely ruined!"

"That you are, sir."

A Sure Corrective of Flatulency.—When the undigested food lies in the stomach it throws off gases causing pains and oppression in the stomachic region. The belching or eructation of these gases is offensive and the only way to prevent them is to restore the stomach to proper action. Parnee's Vegetable Pills will do this. Simple directions go with each packet and a course of them taken systematically is certain to effect a cure.