

THE HOUSEHOLD.

COMPENSATION.

She folded up the worn and mended frock
And smoothed it tenderly upon her knee,
Then through the soft web of a weaved sock
She wove the bright wool, musing thoughtfully:
"Can this be all? The outside world so fair,
I hunger for its green and pleasant ways!
A cripple prisoned in her restless chair
Looks from her window with a wistful gaze.

"The fruits I cannot reach are red and sweet,
The paths forbidden are both green and wide;
O God! there is no boon to helpless feet
So altogether sweet as paths denied.
Home is most fair; bright all my household fires,
And children are a gift without alloy;
But who would bound the fields of their desires
By the prim hedges of mere fireside joy?

"I can but weave a faint thread to and fro,
Making a frail wool in my baby's sock;
Into the world's sweet tumult I would go,
At its strong gates my trembling hand would
knock."

Just then the children came, the father too;
Their eager faces lit the twilight gloom:
"Dear heart," he whispered, as he nearer drew,
"How sweet it is within this little room,
"God puts my strongest comfort here to draw
When thirst is great and common wells are dry.
Your pure desire is my unerring law!
Tell me, dear one, who is so safe as I?"

Home is the pasture where my soul may feed,
This room a paradise has grown to be;
And only where these patient feet shall lead
Can it be home to these dear ones and me,
He touched with reverent hand the helpless feet,
The children crowded close and kissed her hair—
"Our mother is so good, and kind, and sweet,
There's not another like her anywhere!"

The baby in her low bed opened wide
The soft blue flowers of her timid eyes,
And viewed the group about the cradle-side
With smiles of glad and innocent surprise.
The mother drew the baby to her knee
And, smiling, said, "The stars shine soft to
night;
My world is fair; its edges sweet to me,
And whatsoever is, dear Lord, is right."

INEXPENSIVE FURNISHING.

ALICE CHITTENDEN.

A young friend of mine, who has just gone to housekeeping, has furnished one of her rooms so daintily, and at the same time so inexpensively, that I am sure many will be pleased to have it described. It is a very large room, and is used both as sleeping and day sitting room. The walls, like those of most country houses, are of kalsomine, but these particular walls are tinted a faint robin's egg blue, which serves as an admirable background for the etchings and simple sketches with which they are hung. The floor is covered with matting with a cream ground, showing here and there irregular dashes of dull blue and dull red. A very good quality cost only ten dollars for a roll of forty yards, but even this left a bare spot under the bed which is painted with yellow paint of the same shade as the matting.

An iron bedstead cost six dollars. This is painted with white enamel paint, leaving the brass knobs untouched. The two capacious closets, one of which was furnished with drawers underneath the lower shelves, made a bureau unnecessary. A small pine table is placed between the two front windows for a dressing table. It is draped with cream batiste (a sort of cheese cloth) with a great tiger lily design in dull blue. This cost twelve cents a yard. Small brass screw eyes are screwed in around the edge of the table, a brass wire run through them, and the curtains shirred on, falling just to the floor. They are lined with blue cambric. An old white homespun linen sheet furnished two covers for the top. A design of tiger lily is worked in the corners with blue rope linen thread, and a fringe of the same knotted in the hem. This is made by taking several strands six inches long, doubling them, and with a crochet hook pulling them through the fabric and then through the loop. These covers wash nicely and can be changed every week. A canopy is formed by fastening a brass pole to the wall several feet above the table, and over this fall curtains of the batiste lined with the cambric. A pincushion covered with a finer quality of white linen worked with blue wash silk, a glove and handkerchief case also of white linen em-

broidered to match, a brush and comb box, toilet bottles, and other accessories of the toilet, are placed on top of the table. Above it is hung a mirror, whose shabby old frame, first padded with cotton, is covered with soft folds of blue China crepe with splashes of gilt. It is only an imitation of the real crepe and costs fifteen cents a yard.

The washstand is the cheapest kind of an old-fashioned affair, purchased second-hand, but after Mollie had scraped off the old varnish and given it two coats of white China gloss paint it was as dainty an article as any one could wish. Two large wooden rings of light wood tied with blue ribbons and suspended from a nail above and at the right of the stand serve as a towel rack. The china is white and blue. A tall screen made of a clothes horse, draped with full curtains of the same material as the dressing table, and lined with cambric, stands in front and makes quite a cosy little private dressing-room.

Curtains of white scrim are looped back from the windows with blue ribbons. The bed is draped with blue. The material is a sort of seersucker, which cost four cents a yard. It is the color of the light side of denim or blue jean, but much lighter as well as cheaper. Great conventionalized tiger lilies are worked at intervals over its surface, with heavy white linen thread. The name of this thread at the art stores is Bagarron floss. This spread is trimmed all around with a fall of heavy white antique lace about six inches wide, which cost fifteen cents a yard. It is as easy to wash as a sheet, and will remain clean a long time. It is basted on an old sheet to give it body, and, in working the pattern, the stitches are caught through enough to hold it in place.

The pillows are removed during the day, and a round bolster stuffed with excelsior and covered with the material like the spread is substituted. The divan is nothing more than a dollar cot covered with two comfortable folded and tacked into the shape of a mattress. A rug made of strips of silk and velvet sewed "hit or miss" as for rag carpet and woven in the same way is thrown over it. The pillows are covered with the blue seersucker and embroidered to match the bed spread. The whole effect is pleasing and artistic, and the general air one of comfort.—*American Agriculturist*.

THE WEEKLY CLEANING.

Why a house should require such frequent going over, so much and so regular administration upon in the way of sweeping and dusting, furbishing and polishing, is a never-ending puzzle to the masculine mind. To a man's eye the house is always clean unless it is aggressively dirty. Dust thick enough to form a coating on which one can write his name, muddy footprints on the piazza or the hall carpet, disorderly and dingy apartments evidently in need of the broom, offend his taste if he be in the least fastidious, and he comprehends that soap and water have their uses in emergencies. But the periodical, systematic, and radical cleansing on which good housekeepers insist every Friday or Saturday appears to the ordinary husband a work of supererogation. He passes it over as one of his wife's amiable and womanly weaknesses, pitying her that she wastes her time and strength, as it looks to him, in so unnecessary an effort.

The fact is, however, that if you would have a house clean and sweet and shining and inviting to eye and smell and touch, you must go over it often from attic to cellar. How great the labor of rendering it clean, and keeping it so, depends very largely on the locality of your home.

If your residence be on a public street in a thronged town, you will have to wage a never-ceasing fight against dust; against disease-germs borne on the wings of air-laden dust; against the grime and soot which permeate everything, rob furniture and hangings of their freshness and detract from the impression of beauty you would fain have your house make on your family and friends.

Dust sifts through crannies, drives through windows and doors, lodges in papa's coat and Johnnie's ulster. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and of cleanliness. Only by careful daily dusting and by weekly thoroughness can you rout the foe.

In the country life is, in this regard,

easier; but the temptation here, in houses not warmed throughout, is to shut up a large part, and pay attention only to living rooms. Who does not know the vaultlike mustiness, the damp, as of the grave, in the closed and darkened refrigerator known as the parlor in many a country house. A habit of going over the whole house weekly would do away with the danger which comes of breathing stagnant air.

No; we cannot help what our good man friend may think. The women must clean house every week; and spring and fall, too!—*Harper's Bazar*.

MUTTON SUET A HOUSEHOLD REMEDY.

It is very vexing and annoying, indeed, to have one's lips break out with cold sores, but like the measles, it is far better to strike out than to strike in. A drop of warm mutton suet applied to the sores at night, just before retiring, will soon cause them to disappear. This is also a good remedy for parched lips and chapped hands. It should be applied at night in the liquid state, and be well rubbed and heated in before a brisk fire, which often causes a smarting sensation, but the roughest of hands by this treatment will often be restored to their natural condition by one application. If every one could but know the healing properties of so simple a thing as a little mutton suet, no housekeeper would ever be without it. Get a little from your butcher, fry it out yourself, run it into small cakes, and put away ready for use. For cuts and bruises it is almost indispensable, and where there are children there are always plenty of cuts and bruises. Many a deep gash that would have frightened most women into sending for a physician at once, I have healed with no other remedies than a little mutton suet and plenty of good castile soap. A wound should always be kept clean, and the bandages changed every day, or every other day. A drenching of warm suds from the purest soap that can be obtained is not only cleansing but healing; then cover the surface of the wound with a bit of old white muslin dipped into melted mutton suet. Renew the drenching and the suet every time the bandages are changed, and you will be astonished to see how rapidly the ugliest wound will heal.—*Herald of Health*.

HOME-MADE CONFECTIONS.

Home-made candy is a never-failing source of delight to the youngsters. As an amusement, it ranks above everything else in the domestic catalogue, while as an appetizing and toothsome incentive to good behavior it stands at the very head of the list. To be allowed to "make candy if they are good," is, as a rule, all that is necessary to restrain the most hilarious youngster.

Candy-making may be so arranged that it is fairly clean work, and some of the processes are useful in the way of training for domestic work. Neatness, order and the careful handling of ingredients can be as well enforced in the making of confectionery as in bread-making, and these facts should not be lost upon those who have the amusements of the young in charge; besides, it is quite a triumph to be able to send, in a gift-box, some home-made confections that will be voted quite as fine as the best French importations or the work of establishments with world-wide reputations.

To make a delicious candy, break the white of one egg into a large, flat dish. In one end of the dish put about one pound of the very best confectioner's sugar, carefully sifted. Beat the egg, taking up a little of the sugar at a time and beating steadily for about ten minutes. Before all the sugar is in, add a large teaspoonful of some preferred extract, vanilla, lemon or rose, the first being most generally liked. Beat or stir until the sugar is all in. When done, it should stand up in a firm lump and should settle but very little if left standing. Then dust a little fine sugar on a pastry-board, cut off with a sharp knife a part of the beaten sugar, lay it on the board and roll it under the hands until perfectly soft and smooth, then make into a roll about as large around as a twenty-five-cent silver piece, cut off little round cakes of this about half an inch thick, pat this between the hands until very smooth, then place the half of an English walnut

on the prepared pat of sugar and press it a little to bring the two in close contact. Have ready buttered paper. On this, place the candies as fast as made. They may be set in the oven for a minute or on a shelf above the fire.

Sugar prepared in this way may be used to coat fruit or nut confections of various sorts. Blanched almonds are rolled in little cakes of it, care being taken to press and roll the sugar so that the nut is entirely covered. Various sorts of nuts chopped fine may be mixed in with the sugar or fruits, such as citron shredded, seeded raisins, cut up fine or candied, or preserved fruits of any sort, care being taken that they are not too juicy, as this would prevent hardening.

Fresh fruits may be put up in this way. If grapes are dipped in the beaten white of an egg and allowed to dry, then rolled in this same beaten sugar, they are delicious. Sometimes the confection is made quite soft, then placed in a hot oven for a moment and allowed to remain until thoroughly scalded through, care being taken that it is not browned. In this way it gets the elastic, firm quality so much liked in what are called French confections.

An evening or afternoon at candy-making once in a while is one of the most delightful pastimes for girls and boys, and they may eat to their heart's content, with little fear of unpleasant consequences.—*Ledger*.

NERVES OR TEMPER.

It is like living in a den of snarling animals to live with a person who has this sort of temper, writes Ella Wheeler Wilcox in an article on "The Destroyers of Domestic Edens," in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. Many an Eden is destroyed by it, while the possessor prides himself upon being a good Christian, and doing his whole duty by his family. Yet, if the soup lacks a little salt, or contains a little too much pepper, if a meal is a moment delayed, if a child is noisy in its mirth, if a drawer sticks, or a door slams, or a chair creaks, each trifle calls forth an exhibition of disagreeable temper, which ruins the comfort and peace of the household for an hour. Many a woman is addicted to this sort of temper and calls it "her nerves," and considers herself the most devoted wife and mother in the world. Yet if she is obliged to delay her dinner for any member of the family, if she is called from one task to perform another, if the children scatter their playthings, or leave their school books in the parlor, she indulges in such petulant scolding that a gloom settles over the whole household. She would consider it no difficult thing to die for that household, if it were demanded of her. But to control her irritable temper is a task too great to demand of her. And so the Eden is destroyed, and the children grow up eager to get out of the home where everything is uncomfortable, and the parents wonder why all their sacrifices are so poorly appreciated, why their children, for whom they have toiled and saved, seem to care so little about their home, and why they seem so anxious to seek pleasures elsewhere.

A HOUSE HAMMOCK.

An ornamented hammock swung in the corner of the room makes a pretty article of furniture and a most comfortable seat as well. In fact, wherever the space for it can be had, a hammock is never amiss in the house. It is much cooler and more restful in the summer than the lounge, and if the room is small it is always easy to unhook it and hang the two ends together against the wall when not in use. House hammocks are greatly improved by hanging founcens on the sides and placing piles of pillows in the hammock itself, to be used as needed. One of the most picturesque of house hammocks has a tiger skin thrown over it, the tiger's head forming the pillow.

COLORED ICINGS.—Pink and white, or "rosbud" cake, may be made by icing any white cake with boiled icing, to which a few drops of pink fruit coloring has been added. If this cannot be obtained, take a pinch of cochineal add a few drops of boiling water and when cool, strain, and stir a few drops into the icing. It makes a beautiful pink, and, although objectionable to some, I have used it with no bad effect. After icing with the pink, decorate in waves, dots, or circles, with white. Names or dates may be written in this way, and are very beautiful upon birthday cakes. If fruit coloring can be obtained, very handsome roses, with green leaves, may be designed by a skillful worker.