

Bread Making.

Who does not remember their small efforts at bread making? What a world of manipulation the piece of dough received from our small hands, and what a dull grey color it was in comparison with Sarah's large white loaves. The workmanship on ours was by far the most elaborate. If mothers would only try to study more the varied tastes of their children, they would find themselves well repaid for their trouble. Too often she is forced to dismiss the little enquirer with, "Oh, I am too busy now; you must go and play." So the wee mite has to content himself, and try to find amusement. But how? for that which would attract one child will not amuse another. A pencil, paper, and transfer patterns to copy will amuse many a child by the hour; while a train of cars, a steamboat on wheels or a small steam engine will prove a source of delight to a child of mechanical tastes. And they are never too young to have their tastes developed, and mothers could not do better than study them, for their own comfort. A small pet, such as white mice, pigeons, rabbits, or a little puppy or kitten, is no end of delight to children, but they must be taught to be kind to them. If they show a disposition to be cruel or neglectful, take the pet away. Few children care to read, but all love to listen; so make the reward of each day. A story read aloud—something short, so it will not weary—this will teach them to think, and cultivate the taste for readings, and try to select such stories as will be instructive as well as amusing.

A Youthful Cook's Soliloquy.

When sister Sue was married,
Not quite three years ago,
She couldn't make a single thing,
Nor broil nor bake nor stew.
She looked like an angel,
In her pretty wedding dress;
And Fred looked gay and happy,
And felt so too, I guess.
But when they went to keeping
house,
And Bridget ran away,
She couldn't get a breakfast,
And Fred looked glum all day.
Their pretty home with gloom was
filled,
She cried till her nose was red,
And all the things she tried to cook
Were fit for pigs, she said.
So things went on from bad to worse,
Till Charity Jones came in
And staid and showed her day by day
How and where to begin.
And all Fred's smiles came quickly back,
And all his pleasant ways;
And Sue can cook like mother now,
Whether Bridget goes or stays.
But one thing sure I'll settle at once—
I never will risk such a chance;
I'll learn to bake and broil and stew,
And everything else in advance.
I'll make some cookies this very day,
And a merry tune I'll hum;
And if Jimmy don't flatter the other girls,
May be I'll give him some.

Washing Oilcloth.

To keep oilcloth looking nice it is essential that proper attention shall be given to the washing of it. Nothing will ruin it quicker than carelessness in this, and it will take but very few washings of this kind to do it. A good housewife is more careful of her oilcloth than of her best carpet, for the latter, not being in use as

often, she knows does not require as much care; while the former, being in constant use, needs to be looked after very carefully, in order to have it present as good an appearance as possible. An oilcloth that has been neglected, aside from its not looking as well, will not last as long as the one that has been cared for carefully.

Too frequent washing, no matter how well it is done, will not improve oilcloth in the end. Usually this is the kind of treatment it receives, for few housewives seem to recognize the difference between a dusty oilcloth and a dirty one, and treat both the same. After it has had a thorough sweeping, if it looks dull and dusty, go over it, a little at a time, with a dry mop cloth, frequently shaking the cloth outside to relieve it of the dust collected in its work, and it will look as bright as though washed, and will wear a great deal longer. Frequent dustings of the oilcloth

that only a very soft one should be used then. When an oilcloth has been neglected, and by faulty washings or dryings the water or suds has been allowed to settle and dry between the rough surfaces, a brush is the only thing that will thoroughly remove it; but it should be a soft one and used as lightly as possible, but just enough scouring done to loosen and remove the sediment.

Use clean, warm water, or milk and water, which is much to be preferred when it can be conveniently obtained. With a clean flannel cloth wash as large a space as you can without doing much reaching. Have a dry cloth of flannel or coarse crash for a wiper, and after wiping as well as the wrung out damp cloth will admit, go over it again with the dry cloth, being careful that no sediment is left in the corrugated surface, and wipe thoroughly dry. Go over the whole floor in this way, then let it stand until all the dampness has disappeared

and it is perfectly dry. Warm some linseed oil, and with a flannel cloth apply it while yet warm to the oilcloth. The trouble with most housewives when using oil is that they use too much, when a little is all that is necessary. Rub a very little into the oilcloth, just enough to give it a nice gloss. If too much is used it will be worse than none, for the cloth will be sticky, and catch and keep every particle of dust touching it. If linseed oil is not convenient, kerosene will do very well, but even this should be used sparingly, or like the linseed it will do more harm than good. In the country, skim-milk is often used for washing oilcloth, and is an excellent thing for this purpose, as it gives the cloth a beautiful gloss and dispenses with the use of oils altogether.



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will save it many washings and the housewife also some extra time and strength. A long handled mop is just the thing for this work, for with its aid the floor can be gone over in one-half the time, or even less, than if done by hand, and look every bit as bright and clean.

Never use soap in the water when washing oilcloth; it is good for a great many things, but this is not one of them. It will, to be sure, remove any grease or dirt there may be; but with it, it will also remove the paint and fade the colors. An oilcloth that has been always washed in soap and water is easily discovered by its faded look. Ammonia should never be used in the water, which is one of the few things for which it cannot be recommended, although some women use it for this work. It may not injure the colors nor remove the paint, but deadens the lustre and gives to the cloth a dull, dead look. There are very few housewives that do not know that a brush should be used on oilcloth only on rare occasions, and

leaving a space for strings on each side. Use satin ribbon two inches wide of two contrasting colors. Olive green and red look pretty. Make a large bow of the two colors, tie it and sew it on the side of the bag. Run the ribbon in at each end so that it will form strings to hang by of the two colors.

ANOTHER BAG.—A bag suitable for gentlemen can be made by covering a piece of pasteboard with satin or any material not too heavy. The board must be about nine inches deep, eighteen inches round. Gather a pretty strip of silk and sew to the covered band of pasteboard, run the edges together, and draw the end together to form a bag. Sew a tassel of silk to the end. The silk must be about seven inches in depth. Make three points of velvet six inches in width, and seven in depth. You can line these scallops, and work them in button hole stitch, or trim them with pretty tinsel cord. Sew these to the top of your bag to form a lambrequin. Hang by strings formed of cord or ribbon ten inches long. Sew the cord around the edge of the bag. Make a plain bag for the lining of any thin material and baste to the inside. If you use ribbon, use more ribbon and form a bow.