

Ladies' Department.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Good flavoring for sauces is made by putting half an ounce of watercress seed into one quart of vinegar. The seed should be crushed before putting it in, and it will then be soon ready for use. Celery vinegar is made in the same way.

Par-nip balls are excellent for an entree. Par-boil six large par-nips, and let them get quite cold, then peel them and grate them, beat two eggs until very light, and mix with the grated par-nip, adding enough flour to give coherence to the mixture; flour your hands, and make small flat balls. Have hot lard in a shallow kettle, and drop the balls gently into it; fry them until they are well browned on both sides. Send to table very hot.

A pretty banner for the wall is of black satin with a cluster of wheat and a few daisies embroidered upon it; it has tassels in three colors across the bottom, and one tassel on each end of the pole at the top; in the right hand corner is a bow of narrow ribbon; it is almost like a rosette, so many loops and ends compose it.

A lovely needle-case, in which a thimble and small scissors may be carried, is made of a strip of white flannel a trifle over two inches wide and about thirteen inches long. This is ornamented with five rows of gilt braid, put on lengthwise, with feather stitching in crimson silk between each row, and outside of the outer rows; the strip is then lined with crimson and satin, and it is bound with satin ribbon to match. There is a little pocket of satin at one end which is square; in the middle are three leaves of white satin button-holed with crimson silk, and in three sizes, the smallest on the outside, of course; there are two bands of satin ribbon stitched to the lining, through which scissors and tape, needle, etc., may be slipped; the case folds twice, the end which is left on the outside is pointed, to this point is fastened a narrow satin ribbon, which ties the case together. This is a very convenient article, and is also ornamental, it is so bright and unique in design.

Honor a guest by making some addition to the table adornment, no matter how trifling. An old lady who adopted that theory and really acted upon it, not long ago insisted upon a caller remaining and taking a cup of coffee with her. The guest felt honored indeed when presented with the coffee served in a cup out of which no one had drunk "since my brother died," ten years before. The coffee was good, but judge of the lady's surprise when she saw in the bottom of the cup half a dozen hooks and eyes, and two or three small buttons; the cup had been used as a receptacle for such articles for some time, and the old lady in the exercise of unwonted hospitality had overlooked the fact that the cup needed washing. Possibly other people have had the experience of attempting to help themselves to sugar, which was firmly fixed in the depths of a best china bowl, and which had evidently thus hardened since the family last had guests. It is just the watchful care over such details as this that marks the difference between the slovenly and thoughtless housekeeper and that other, so worthy of all honor, the successful housekeeper, whose refinement is exhibited in everything that pertains to her home. One might forgive the old lady for the hooks and eyes, but could not respect her, or cherish even a faint desire to be again seated at her table. The sooner all women recognize the fact and accept it to make the best of it, that constant care, eternal vigilance is the price of a well regulated home, the sooner will the faces of our friends wear calmer looks, and the disfiguring little wrinkles over the nose cease to be transmitted to posterity.

An agreeable flavor is sometimes imparted to soup by sticking some cloves into the meat used for making stocks; a few slices of onions fried very brown in butter are nice; also flour browned by simply putting it into a sauté-pan over the fire, and stirring it constantly until it is dark brown.

Bands of velvet called armlets are worn outside of the sleeves near the top, and fastened with an ornamental clasp.

Every lady must have a shawl. They are absolutely necessary, but select one with an Indian name—Dacca, Kashmir or Dhawar.

What Girls Should Do.

Do be natural; a poor diamond is better than a good imitation.

Do try to be accurate, not only for your own sake, but for the sake of your sex; the incapacity of the female mind for accuracy is a standard argument against the equality of the sexes.

Do be exact in money matters; every debt you incur means loss to some one, probably to some one less able than you to bear it.

Do answer your letters soon after they are received, and do try to reply to them with some relation to their contents; a rambling, ill-considered letter is a satire upon your education.

Do, when you talk, keep your hands still.

Do observe; the faculty of observation, well cultivated, makes practical men and women.

Do attach as much importance to your mind as to your body.

Do try to remember where you put your gloves and card-case; keep the former mended and the latter filled.

Do recollect that your health is more important than your amusement; you can live without one, but you'll die early without the other.

Do try to be sensible; it is not a particular sign of superiority to talk like a fool.

Do put your hair-pins in so that they will stay; it looks slovenly, to say the least, to see them half dropping out.

Do be ready in time for church; if you do not respect yourself sufficiently to be punctual respect the feelings of other people.

Do get up in time for breakfast.

Do avoid causes of irritation in your family circle; do reflect that home is the place in which to be agreeable.

Do be reticent; the world at large has no interest in your private affairs.

Do cultivate the habit of listening to others; it will make you an invaluable member of society, to say nothing of the advantage it will be to you when you marry; every man likes to talk about himself; a good listener makes a delightful wife.

Do be contented; "martyrs" are detestable; a cheerful, happy spirit is infectious; you can carry it about with you like a sunny atmosphere; do avoid whimpering; it is as bad as giggling; both are to be condemned; there is no excuse for either of them; if you have anything to say, say it, if you have not, hold your tongue altogether; silence is golden.

Do be truthful; do avoid exaggeration; if you mean a mile say a mile, not a mile and a half; if you mean one, say one, and not a dozen.

Do, sometimes, at least, allow your mother to know better than you do; she was educated before you were born.

Do sign your full name to your letters.

Table Covers.

The tendency of the taste of the present day is toward an increase of color, a tendency to be encouraged, since brilliant touches here and there blend into harmony the discords of the most ill-conceived homes.

A room may be plain in its appointments, with a wall paper hopelessly dull and old-fashioned, and yet look bright and attractive if there is a mass of glowing red in the table cover and the borders of the curtains. Indeed, a rich, beautifully bordered cloth for the centre table works of itself an effective transformation.

Imagine, for instance, the charm added to a parlor by a table cover composed of a yard of peacock blue flannel, two and a half yards of creamy linen crash (the coarsest kind) and half an ounce of blue worsted to match, put together in this wise: First cut a large square of the flannel as the goods will admit. This forms the centre piece.

Then divide the crash into halves, and the halves into two equal lengths, thus making

four strips. Sew these as a border around the centre piece, joining them diagonally at the corners. Separate this bordering into accurate thirds by pencil lines; leave the upper thirds plain, fringe the lower third as a finish to the cover, and draw out all the lengthwise threads of the middle third. Through the up and down threads left run in and out a strip of blue flannel the requisite width, and as a last dainty touch head the fringe with a blue feather stitching of worsted.

A still handsomer cloth of peacock blue is cut from the soft, double-width, double-faced Canton flannel that resembles plush—though but a dollar a yard—and has a border of real peacock feathers, each one overlapping the other, and lightly held in place by numerous invisible stitches.

Another tasteful cover of the same material is a deep wine red tint with a border of golden half moons. These are shaped out of flannel, and must measure five inches from tip to tip. Baste them on the cloth about an inch apart, and button-hole all around with yellow floss.

A plain, broad band of old gold flannel, fastened each side with loose slipstitches of dark blue is also effective, especially if there are curtains to match, with similar bands across the top and bottom.

Very elegant covers are fashioned of plush or velvet in rich, quiet shades, ornamented with the popular applique designs of poppies, sunflowers, cat-tails, and meadow grasses, arranged as borders or large corner pieces and held in place by the simple button-hole and herring-bone stitches.

Small, gay covers can be made at a trifling cost of two unbleached Turkish towels sewed together and trimmed with narrow, parallel rows of bright ribbon or black velvet, embroidered with bugs, bees and butterflies; and evenly bound and tacked along the edges with many brass-headed nails, they form extremely pretty patterns for square footstools or the quaint little cross-legged chairs of oak and walnut.

Hints on the Care of Plants.

In the event of house plants getting frozen, they should, says the *Garden*, be immediately placed in a low temperature, only a few degrees above the freezing point, and kept in the dark until the frost has altogether left them, and for some days afterward they should be kept cool and away from sunshine.

If the soil in the pots is frozen hard, bury the plant, roots and stems, in earth or sand in a cool cellar so that it may thaw out gradually. Should heliotropes, coleuses, or other tender plants get "burned" by frost, it is utterly impossible, no matter how soon we "catch" them, to restore to health the leaves and shoots that get frozen; but geraniums, century plants, and many others bear slight frosts without apparent injury.

Do not overwater the plants. Carnations, callas, justinias, and other fast growing plants now in active growth or coming into bloom require plenty of water. Succulent plants of all kinds need very little. Evergreens need merely to be kept moist, and plants being wintered over for next summer's garden merely water enough to keep them from wilting. If any of the house plants are sick keep them dry rather than wet, and never, under any circumstances, give liquid manure or other stimulents to a sick plant.

Dyeing Gloves.

Any lady may dye her soiled gloves without difficulty, says *Science Notes*, at a very trifling cost, by the following recipes:

For black, first brush the gloves with alcohol; when dry, brush them again with a decoction of logwood; when this is dry, repeat the logwood wash, and, after ten or fifteen minutes, dip them into a weak solution of green vitriol.

If the color be not jet black a little fustic may be added to the logwood. The gloves should be thoroughly rubbed with a mixture of pure oil and French chalk as they begin to dry to give them a smooth, soft, and glossy appearance; they should then be wrapped in flannel and placed under a heavy weight. Should there be any holes

in the gloves they must be carefully mended before commencing the dyeing process, and the tops should also be sewed up to prevent any of the dye getting on the inside.

Gloves can be dyed brown by using a decoction of fustic, alumn, and Brazil wood; this should be applied in the same manner as the foregoing. A decoction of sumac and a very weak solution of green vitriol produce gray, greenish gray being obtained by the addition of logwood and fustic to sumac. Fancy shades can be produced by using the aniline colors in solution, they can be simply applied with a sponge. Thus soiled gloves may be made as good as new.

Domestic Virtues.

Every mother ought to teach her daughter practically how to keep her house in order; how to make bread and do all kinds of cooking; how to economize so as to make a little go a great way; how to spread an air of neatness and comfort over her household; how to make and mend her husband's clothes; in a word, how to be a good housekeeper. Then, if she has no domestics, she can make her family happy without them; if she has domestics, she can effectually teach them to do things as they ought to be done, and make them obey her. She can then direct her domestic affairs, and be mistress of her own house; which, sad to say, too many in these times are not. Domestic soon ascertain whether their mistress knows how to do things, and if she does not, they have her in their own power, and almost always take advantage of it. But do not get the false notion that the domestic virtues of a woman preclude the highest and most accomplished education. Some of the most intelligent, refined and finished ladies have been the most excellent housekeepers.

Cleansing Wool or Silk Fabrics.

If, among the innumerable benzines and cleansing fluids afloat, one does not happen to have anything satisfactory to obviate the effects of any overwhelming accident, as, for instance, getting wagon grease on some costly fabric, try the yolk of an egg. We have used it for years, and like it still. Separate the yolk from the white as perfectly as possible. Then stretch the fabric on a board, and with a soft clothes-brush dip into the yolk, and rub the spot till the grease seems loosened. The yolk will not injure the most delicate colors, but the rubbing may, if too severe. Then rinse with warm rain water, rubbing the edges with a damp cloth and clapping the whole between dry towels. If the stain is not quite gone repeat the process. It will not do so well for fabrics mixed with cotton or linen.

Insight in Women.

Those who have suffered sharply see keenly; and it is difficult to conceal much from women. They have the strangest facility in reading physiological language—tones, gestures, bearing, and all those countless signs which make the face and eyes such tell-tales of the soul. They will look into your eyes and see you think, listen to your voice and hear you feel. The coy and subtle world of emotion—now infinitely reticent, now all gates flung down for the floods to pour—is their domain. They are at home in it all, from the ray of feeling to the twilight borders of intelligence.

The first requisite for a clear, pleasing complexion is good health, though there may be good health without a fine complexion. But give this and a proper care of the face, and every woman may banish from her toilet table every sort of cosmetic. And sometimes, even when the general health is not of the best, the only unpleasant effect upon the complexion is that it will lack that healthful tone which forms one of the chief elements of beauty. However, there are few women who cannot possess, with the exercise of a little care and trouble, a complexion more beautiful and pleasing than any that can be got out of a box, and which will have the inestimable advantage of being always ready for use in an emergency.