

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HAPPY WOMEN.

Impatient women, as you wait  
In cheerful homes to-night, to hear  
The sound of steps that, soon or late,  
Shall come as music to your ear.  
Forget yourselves a little while,  
And think in pity of the pain  
Of women who will never smile  
To hear a coming step again.

Babies that in their cradles sleep,  
Belong to you in perfect trust;  
Think of the mothers left to weep,  
Their babies lying in the dust.

And when the step you wait for comes,  
And all your world is full of light,  
O women! safe in happy homes,  
Pray for all lonesome souls to-night.

—Phoebe Cary.

CARE IN SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet fever is spread by contagion—by the transfer of particles of living matter from a person suffering from the disease. These particles of living matter come from the skin, from the membrane lining the mouth, nose, and throat, and perhaps also from the intestines and urinary organs.

It is a disease which it is especially desirable to prevent the occurrence of in young children, partly because the susceptibility to its cause diminishes greatly with increased age, and partly because it is much less dangerous in adults.

There is reason to question the wisdom of using costly and troublesome methods of preventing the spread of measles, because the susceptibility to the cause of this disease remains in adult life, and it is, if anything, more liable to result in dangerous lung complications in advanced age than in children; but there can be no doubt as to the wisdom of restricting the spread of scarlet fever as much as possible.

The precautions to be taken when a case occurs in a house are in many respects the same as for a case of diphtheria, viz., to isolate the patient in an airy room having the least possible amount of furniture. The room should have no carpets or curtains, and no upholstered furniture, such as lounges, sofas, stuffed chairs, etc.

All the secretions and excretions, and all articles soiled by them, should be disinfected thoroughly and promptly while they are yet moist.

A special and important precaution is to keep the whole surface of the body thoroughly anointed with some bland fatty matter, such as camphorated oil, vaseline, or cosmoline, and especial care should be taken to do this when convalescence has set in, and the peeling off of the skin has commenced.

All toys, books, etc., handled by the child are dangerous and had best be destroyed in the room by fire or by putting them into a vessel containing a strong solution of bichloride of mercury or of chloride of zinc.

No clothing, bedding, towels, or other woven stuffs should be taken from the room while dry; they should be placed in a tub or wash boiler containing scalding hot water, and thoroughly boiled before they are allowed to dry.

When the peeling of the skin has entirely ceased, the patient should be thoroughly bathed, using warm water and soap—be dressed in entirely fresh clothing, and the room and its contents should be thoroughly disinfected.

The average period during which complete isolation of the patient is required, and during which he should not go out of his room or receive any visitor is five weeks. Usually six weeks will be required to secure absolute freedom from danger.

The walls and ceilings of the rooms should be rubbed with damp cloths, which should be at once burned or boiled. The floor and all woodwork should be thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water.

The windows, fireplace, doors, and all other outlets of the room should be tightly closed, and sulphur be burned in the room in the proportion of one pound of sulphur to each thousand cubic feet—that is if the room is fifteen feet square and eleven feet high, about two and one-half or three pounds of roll brimstone will be required. Put the brimstone in

an iron kettle, and place the kettle on a tray of sand three inches thick, or burn in an old basin floating in a tub of water; pour a wineglass of alcohol on the brimstone and set fire to it, leaving the rooms immediately, as the fumes are dangerous. Let the room remain tightly closed for twenty-four hours, then open all windows from outside and let the fresh air circulate in it for from twenty-four to forty-eight hours.—*The Sanitary Engineer.*

A BABY COSTUME.

There is a costume for babies so vastly superior to the old-fashioned pinning blanket and band system; that every mother of a young baby should know of it. This costume consists of three garments. First, a slip of fine white cotton flannel made like a sack nightdress, opened down the back far enough so that baby can easily be slipped into it, and fastened with one button at the back of the neck. Second, a flannel garment made exactly like the first, except that it has no sleeves, the arm-holes being faced. Third, any baby dress.

When baby is to be dressed, the first garment should be placed inside the second, and the sleeves thrust through the arm-holes of the flannel garment. The dress should be drawn over these, and the cotton flannel sleeves drawn through the dress sleeves. The three garments are put on the baby at one time; he is turned over once, and each garment buttoned at the back of the neck. It is the work of a moment. The buttons should be set back from the neck opening at first, and moved out as baby grows.

If a mother wishes to use cambric skirts under the thin dresses, they should be made like the flannel garment. Old-fashioned skirts can be improved by sewing to a long yoke instead of to a band. Socks long enough to pin to the napkin render a pinning blanket unnecessary.

The advantages of this way of dressing baby to the mother are, a great saving of time and trouble in making the clothes, and in dressing baby each morning, and the pleasure of knowing that he is comfortable in his clothes; to the baby, being so quickly dressed that it does not spoil the pleasant effect of his bath, having no tight bands to hurt him, or loose ones to slip out of place and be uncomfortable, no pins to prick, and nothing to trammel the free action of his kicking little legs.—*Francie Dean in Household.*

THE ROOM OF THE INVALID.

The invalid's world is bounded by the four walls of his room, and the veriest trifle occurring within its limits is of far more importance to him than the most stupendous events of the outside universe. A picture hanging awry makes him thoroughly miserable; a twisted rug or a misplaced chair causes discomfort. If his room is stiff and bare, badly arranged, or dingy, creation to him is shrouded in gloom.

Any one waiting on an invalid knows how the monotony of meals taken in bed destroys the appetite and induces disgust of the most delicate fare, and this in spite of all the care which can be taken to make the appointments of the table dainty, and the bed clothing pretty and bright as well as perfectly pure and sweet. In the same way the embellishments of an invalid's room will become hateful to him, and the daily sight of the same furniture and wallpaper a burden greater than he can bear. At this state of weakness and enforced idleness the strong man cries out more than against bearing the most acute pain. It might, then, be a good idea to introduce occasional changes, as far as possible, into the room of the sufferer. To bring in new articles of furniture, and remove those already there to other parts of the house. That the furniture is older or not so handsome is slight matter; it is new and interesting to the weary eyes watching from the bed. A fresh table will become quite an object of curiosity, and afford conversation for days; and a differently shaped bureau will be an exciting circumstance. A novel arrangement of chairs or pictures might have a good effect, and often an entire change of mantel ornaments would be a perfect godsend to the sensitive nerves on which the old ones have grated so long.—*Eva Lovett Carson, in Harper's Bazar.*

USEFUL HINTS.

Buttermilk, it is said, will take out milk-dew stains.

To clean knives, cut a small potato, dip it in brick dust and rub them.

New iron should be gradually heated at first; it will not be so likely to crack.

Paint splashes may be removed from window panes by a very hot solution of soda, using a soft flannel.

Tubs will not warp or crack open, if the precaution is taken to put a pail of water into each, directly after use.

If soap is purchased in large quantities, and kept in a warm, dry room, half the usual amount will be required.

Chloride of lime should be scattered at least once a week under sinks, and in all places where sewer gas is liable to lurk.

To extract paint from clothing—saturate the spots with spirits of turpentine, let it remain several hours, then rub it and it will drop off.

To destroy moths and other vermin: dissolve alum in hot water, making a very strong solution; apply to furniture or crevices in the wall with a paint brush. This is a sure destruction to those noxious vermin, and invaluable because easily obtained, is perfectly safe to use, and leaves no unpleasant traces behind. When you suspect moths have lodged in the borders of carpets wet the edge of the carpets with a strong solution; whenever it reaches them it is certain death.

COMFORT IN SHOES.

A retired shoe dealer, whom mercenary considerations no longer deter from giving advice as to the proper care of shoes, says: "A pair of shoes made of good leather will last much longer if properly cared for than when neglected. When shoes are only blacked the leather soon becomes hard and dry, the best fitting pair will be uncomfortable, and here and there little cracks will appear, which will become chasms. Every week or two the blacking should be wiped off with a damp cloth, the shoe should be allowed to dry, and then be rubbed with the best harness oil."

Every part, including the sole and the seams, should be oiled, and the oil given a chance to soak in. The toughest leather can be made soft in this way, and good leather will, after this treatment, feel like kid. The shoe will wear three times as long and be much more comfortable.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

CLEANING OIL BARRELS.

The question is asked if coal oil barrels can be cleaned for meat. A friendly farmer writes to *The Mining and Scientific News*: "I have used them for fifteen years with perfect success. Knock out the head, set fire to a piece of paper and put it in the barrel. The fire will burn with a loud roar. Roll the barrel round so it will burn out even, and when it is burned one-eighth of an inch deep turn in about a pint of coal oil, roll around until it is spread all over the inside, then fire again. Scrape off most of the charcoal and wash it out. It is not necessary to burn over one-eighth inch deep. I will guarantee there will never be the slightest taste of coal oil in the meat. I have used these barrels for ham, pork, beef, lard and honey. Old, musty or tainted barrels I treat in the same way by using a pint or so of oil. Have treated linseed oil barrels the same way."

ALWAYS KEEP WARM.

If you are getting a cold, and feel the chills creeping stealthily over you, beware! and get warm at any cost. Heat your room to eighty degrees if necessary, drink a cup of hot tea or chocolate, and put on all the wraps you please, even if you are laughed at for so doing. Better a small laugh at your expense than a severe cold, lasting for weeks, perhaps ending in a doctor's bill, certainly spoiling your comfort, and your good looks as well. And when the chill is averted and normal warmth and health restored, you will then need the extra heat no more than the waggon needs a fifth wheel. But never sit and chill, for fear of "coddling yourself." It is almost suicidal.—*Natalie Bell, in Housekeeper's Weekly.*

HINTS ON DISINFECTION.

What is the best and cheapest disinfectant? is a question frequently asked. For answer, we give the following from the *Century*, which has been tried by many persons and found to be as good, if not better, than those disinfectants which cost twice or three times as much.

First. Corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride), sulphate of copper, and chloride of lime are among our best disinfectants, the first two being poisonous.

At wholesale drug houses in New York single pounds can be obtained, mercuric chloride costing seventy-five cents, the others ten cents a pound.

Second. A quarter of a pound of corrosive sublimate and a pound of sulphate of copper in one gallon of water make a concentrated solution to keep in stock. We will refer to it as "solution A."

Third. For the ordinary disinfecting solution add a half a pint of "solution A" to a gallon of water. This, while costing less than a cent and a half per gallon, is a good strength for general use. For disinfecting choleraic or typhoid fever excreta, use about a gallon of "solution A" to one gallon of water.

Fourth. A quarter pint of "solution A" to a gallon of water is used to wash woodwork, floors, and wooden furniture after fumigation and ventilation.

Fifth. Soak sheets, etc., in chloride of lime solution, wring out and boil.

Sixth. Cesspools, etc., should be well covered on top with a mixture of chloride of lime with ten parts of dry sand.

Seventh. In all contagious diseases, isolate the patient in an upper room, from which curtains, carpets and stuffed furniture have been removed.

Eighth. The solution of mercuric chloride must not be placed in metal vessels, since the mercury would plate them.

MAKING CHILDREN MIND.

A mother should be careful to make only reasonable demands upon her child's obedience, but, when once made, to enforce them implicitly. One should be very careful never to enter into a contest over a point that cannot be enforced. A child may be made to do certain things, but no power on earth can force him to do others, or to say words that he has made up his mind not to say. The prudent mother will enforce her authority and teach obedience on ground that she is sure of being able to hold. Points that she knows she cannot carry she will avoid until the habit of obedience is formed, and then there will be no discussion.—*The Ladies' Home Journal.*

PUZZLES.—No. 7.

GOOD ADVICE IN PL.

Fi a ktsa si coen eghnu,  
Renov caevl ti lil ts' cond;  
Eh oht obira tgera ro lmsal,  
Od ti lowl, ro tio ta lal.

BEHEADINGS AND CURTAILMENTS.

Behcad and curtail boots and leave a fool;  
costs and leave a grin; covering of the head  
and leave an old town; a pattern and leave a  
song; hairs and leave a relative; a place to skate  
and leave a proposition.

WILLIAM SANDERCOCK.

HOOR GLASS.

1. An invention. 2. Vagtness. 3. Warlike.  
4. Splendor. 5. Anger. 6. A consonant. 7.  
Necessary to life. 8. Whim. 9. Progress. 10.  
Forcible. 11. Cannot be got over.

ANDREW A. SCOTT.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.—NUMBER 6.

CHARADE.—Pen-man-ship.

DOUBLE DIAMOND.—

T  
A H A  
S H A K E  
A C T  
K  
P E N  
H E R A T  
N A N  
Y

A GREAT MAN.—Samuel.

CITIES IN PL.—Cologne, Oxford, Naples, St. Petersburg, Tokio, Atlanta, Ningpo, Trenton, Indianapolis, New York, Edinburgh.

Correct answers have been received from Annie Roberta Guyther.