

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

From Miss Leslie's Magazine.

TO EXTRACT OIL OR OTHER GREASE.—Take some common magnesia (not the calcined, but that which is made into small squares,) scrape off a portion, and rub it with your finger on the grease-spot. Let it rest half an hour, then brush it lightly off and rub on some fresh magnesia. Repeat this several times till the grease disappears entirely. It is best to rub the magnesia on the wrong side of the article.

Wilmington clay, which may be had in small round balls, is excellent for removing grease-spots, however large. Scrape down a sufficient quantity, and rub on the spot, letting it rest an hour or more; then brush it off, and continue to repeat the process. The genuine Wilmington clay, pure and unmixed, is far superior to any of the grease-balls sold by the druggists.

If oil is spilt on a carpet, that part of the carpet must be loosened up, and the floor beneath it well scrubbed with warm soap and water and fuller's earth; otherwise the grease will continue yet to come through. You may extract some of the oil by washing that part of the carpet with cold water and a cloth.—Then spread over it a coating of scraped Wilmington clay, which should be renewed every two or three hours. If you have no Wilmington clay take common magnesia.

To remove spots of spermaceti, scrape off as much as you can with a knife; then lay a thin soft white paper upon the spots, and press it with a warm iron. By repeating this you may draw out spermaceti. Afterwards rub the cloth, where the spots have been, with some very soft brownish paper.

To remove fresh paint from cloth, wipe it off immediately with another bit of wadded cloth. Paint that has dried, can only be removed by repeated rubbings with fresh spirits of turpentine put on in very small quantities. If the turpentine is old, or of bad quality, it will leave a large mark of its own. After the application of turpentine, keep the article exposed to the open air till the smell is entirely gone. Never clean gloves with turpentine. The odour will remain about the leather so as to render them improper to wear.

A spot of wax may be removed from cloth by holding steadily over it, at the distance of rather more than an inch, the end of a poker heated red hot. When the wax is all out, rub the place with very soft paper.

CURE FOR WHAT IS CALLED A RUN-ROUND ON THE FINGER.—That disease of the finger or toe, which is commonly called a run-round, may be easily cured by a remedy so simple that persons who have not tried it are generally incredulous as to its efficacy. The first symptoms of the complaint are heat, pain, swelling, and redness at the top of the nail. The inflammation, if not checked very soon, goes round the whole of the nail, causing intense pain, accompanied by a gathering of yellow matter, which, as soon as it appears, should be punctured or opened by a needle, not waiting till it has extended its progress; otherwise the finger will become excessively sore and intolerably painful, and the nail will eventually come off. All this may be prevented at once, if as soon as the swelling and inflammation begin, the finger is laid on a table, and the nail scratched all over (first lengthways, and then crossways,) with the sharp point of a pair of scissors or of a penknife, so as to scratch up the whole surface of the nail, leaving it rough and white. This little operation will not give the slightest pain, and we have never known it fail in stopping the progress of the disease; all symptoms of which will disappear by next day.—We have proved its efficacy by experience, and believe that every person who has tried it has found it a positive cure, if done before matter begins to appear; and even then it will generally succeed if that part of the gathering which has assumed a yellow color is first opened with a needle and the nail afterwards thoroughly scratched all over within the point of the scissors.

CORNS ON THE FEET.—There is, we believe, no permanent cure for corns. But they may be much relieved by putting on the corn a little lump of Indian meal mixed with cold water to the consistency of soft mush; securing it by a thin soft slip of rag would round the toe. It need not be

tied on by a thread, as the neighbouring toe will keep it in place. The stocking and shoe may be worn as usual. In about an hour take off the Indian meal, cut carefully with sharp scissors the top of the corn, which will be found much softened, and then renew the application or poultice with fresh meal and water confined by a clean rag. Repeat it almost every hour during the day (or for several days) till the corn has thus been entirely softened all through, drawn to the surface, and then trimmed off. We know this to be a good remedy. If you persevere in it for two or three days. The application of the wet Indian meal is cooling and pleasant.

Corns between the toes are often very troublesome and exceedingly painful; and are frequently so situated as to be inaccessible to the usual remedies. Wetting them with hartshorn or with lemon juice will, in most cases, cure them for a time.

A small slip of wadding put round a toe that has a corn, and renewed every day, will give it much ease by interposing its softness between the corn and the pressure of the stocking and shoe.

TO REMOVE A WART.—Touch it with a clean pen dipped in a little aqua-fortis. By repeating this daily, the wart will crumble, and come off without pain or trouble. It is an excellent and safe remedy for hard, horny, callous, whitish warts; but if the wart is red, fleshy, and sore to the touch, do not apply the aqua-fortis.

FRENCH METHOD OF WASHING COLORED SILK CRAVATS, SHAWLS, &c.—Make a mixture in a large flat dish of the following articles—A large table-spoonful of soft soap, or of hard brown soap shaved fine: (white soap will not do,) a small tea-spoonful of strained honey, and a pint of spirits of wine. Have ready a large brush (a clothes-brush for instance) made perfectly clean. Lay the silk on a board, or on an ironing table, stretching it evenly, and securing it in its place with weights set on its edges. Then dip the brush into the mixture, and with it goall over the silk, lengthways of the texture: beginning at that part of the silk which is least seen when worn; and trying a little at a time till you have ascertained the effect. If you find that the liquid changes the color of the silk, weaken it by adding more spirits of wine.

Having gone carefully over the whole of the article, dip it up and down, in a bucket of clear water; but do not squeeze or wring it. Repeat this through another clear water, and then through a third. Afterwards spread it on a line to dry, but without any squeezing or wringing. Let it dry slowly. While still damp, take it down; pull it and stretch it even, then roll or fold it up, and let it rest a few minutes. Have irons ready, and iron the silk, taking care that the iron is not so hot as to change the color.

The above quantity of the washing mixture is sufficient for about half a dozen silk handkerchiefs, one shawl, or two scarfs if they are not very long. If there is fringe on the scarfs it is best to take it off, and replace it with new: or else to gather the ends of the scarfs, and finish them with a tassel or ball. Brocaded silks cannot be washed this way.

Gentlemen's silk or chaly cravats may be made to look very well washed in this manner. Ribbons also, if they are thick and rich. Indeed whatever is washed by this process must be of very good quality. A foulard or a plaid silk dress may be washed in this way, provided it is first taken entirely apart; & & aprons also. We have seen articles washed by this process, and can assure our readers that it is a good one.

This is also a good method of washing blond—using a soft sponge, instead of a brush.—When dry, lay the blond in long folds, within a large sheet of white paper; and press it for a few days in a large book, but do not iron it.

In putting away ribbons or silks, wrap or fold them in coarse brown paper, which, as it contains a portion of tar or turpentine, will preserve the color of the article, and prevent white silk from turning yellow. The chloride of lime used in manufacturing white paper renders it improper to keep silks in, as it frequently causes them to spot, or to change color.

TO CLEAN LOOKING-GLASSES.—Take a new paper, or a part of one, according to the size of the glass. Fold it small, and dip it into a basin of clean cold water. When thoroughly wet, squeeze it out in your hand as you would a sponge, and then

rub it hard all over the face of the glass; taking care that it is not so wet as to run down in streams. In fact, the paper must be only completely moistened or damped all through. After the glass has been well rubbed with the wet paper, let it rest a few minutes; and then go over it with a fresh dry newspaper (folded small in your hand) till it looks clear and bright—which it will almost immediately; and with no farther trouble.

This method (simple as it is) is the best and most expeditious for cleaning mirrors, and it will be found so on trial—giving a clearness and polish that can be produced by no other process. It is equally convenient, speedy, and effective. The inside of window panes may be cleaned in this manner, to look beautifully clear; the windows being first washed on the outside. Also, the glasses of spectacles, &c. The glass globe of an astral lamp may be cleaned with newspaper in the above manner.

PRESERVED CITRON MELONS.—Take some fine citron melons; pare, core, and cut them into long slices. Then weigh them; and to every six pounds of melon allow six pounds of the best loaf sugar, and the juice and yellow rind (pared off very thin) of four large fresh lemons; also half a pound of race-ginger.

Put the slices of lemon into preserving kettle; cover them with strong alum-water, and boil them half an hour, or longer, if they do not look quite clear. Then drain them, lay them in a broad vessel of cold water, cover them, and let them stand all night. In the morning tie the race-ginger in a thin muslin cloth, and boil it in three pints of clear pump or spring water till the water is highly flavored. Then take out the bag of ginger. Having broken up the sugar, put it into a clean preserving kettle, and pour the ginger water over it. When the sugar has all melted, set it over the fire, put it in the yellow peel of the lemons, and boil and skim it till no more scum rises. Then remove the lemon peel, put in the sliced citrons, and the juice of the lemons, and boil them in the syrup till the slices are all quite transparent, but not till they break. When done, put the citrons and syrup into a large tureen, set it in a dry, cool, dark place, and leave it uncovered for two or three days, till all the watery particles have exhaled. Afterwards put the slices carefully into wide-mouthed glass jars, and gently pour in the syrup. Lay inside of each jar upon the surface of the syrup a double white tissue paper, cut exactly to fit, and then close the lids of the jars. This will be found a delicious sweet meat, equal to any brought from the West Indies, and is well worth doing. We recommend it highly.

TO MAKE GOOD VINEGAR.—Take five gallons of soft clear water, two quarts of whiteke, two quarts of West Indian molasses, and half a pint of the best fresh yeast. Lay a sheet of white foolscap paper at the bottom of a very clean keg, and put in the mixture. Place it in the sun the first warm weather in June; and in six weeks it will be fit for use. If you make it in winter, keep it in a place where there is a coal fire or a wood-stove. Put in the bung loosely, and do not stop it tight till the fermentation of the vinegar is over.

Much of the vinegar that is now offered for sale, is excessively and disagreeably sharp, overpowering the taste of everything with which it is combined. This vinegar is deleterious in its effects, and should never be used. Oysters and pickled vegetables have been entirely destroyed or eaten up by it in a few hours, so that nothing of them was left but a few particles floating in the vinegar. It has lately become so difficult to procure, from the shops, such vinegar as is wholesome and palatable, that families would do well to make their own. There are many receipts for home-made vinegar; all different, but most of them good; and at least free from the pernicious articles which are now too frequently employed in making it for sale.

CHEAT AND DURABLE PAINT.—To one gallon of good milk, add two dozen eggs, and one pound and a half of loaf sugar;—then add sifted slacked lime to bring it to a proper consistency. To be put on the same day. It will be well to run the whole through a paint mill, or otherwise to see that the coarser particles of the lime are well dissolved.