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## Hints for the Housewife.

**Alarm-Clocks as Aids When Cooking.**  
Alarm-clocks may be used in ways which do not ordinarily occur to the housewife. For example, it is often the misfortune of some women to forget something they have put into the oven until it is quite overdone. One morning it occurred to me that if I should set the alarm of my little kitchen clock at the time when the bread or cake should be done I could give my whole attention to another task without fear of forgetting the baking. This little reminder is particularly helpful in the case of a last loaf or any task to be done out of season.

**A Stick for Drying Clothes Quickly** is described as follows: Get a stick two inches square by two and a half or three feet long; drive three-inch wire nails at intervals along each of the four sides; suspend, when needed, by a ring driven in one end, from a hook in the ceiling over the kitchen range, where much heat can be obtained without scorching the articles to be dried, and without the contrivance being in the way. Small articles only may be hung on the "banana stalk," but children's stockings and little garments may be quickly dried to prevent shrinkage.

**A Good Place for the Mending-Pin** may be made by screwing two curtain-pole brackets to the inner side of the kitchen closet door just far enough apart to hold each handle of the pin.

**When There is an Invalid in the Family** china should be bought now and then so as to vary the appearance of the sick-room tray. With the pretty china, which need not be expensive, and flowers and little dollies the tray may be made most attractive. Color-schemes may be carried out for certain days, and holidays be observed by appropriate decorations. Such attention will often tempt an appetite that may be capricious, and arouse an interest in meal times that would flag if nothing new were to be expected.

**A Satisfactory Pillow-Sham Holder** may be made of laths covered with white muslin. It will prove to be an ideal support for the shams, which may be pinned to the muslin. At night the frame may be lifted off, shams and all.

**Save Some Broomsticks for Table-Legs.**—Take a board of the size needed for the surface of the table and nail a broomstick to each corner, the broomsticks being sawed the desired length. Such a table or stool may be used in many ways. For a washstand it may be covered and curtained and a second shelf added, where small articles may be kept. For the children's playroom a little table made as above, would be useful. It could be stained any desired color.

**Flower-Vases Will Not Topple** Over from the flowers being too top-heavy, or from a strong breeze if the bottom of the vase is covered with small shot.

**"Memory Books" for Children** are suggested by one mother. Take for such a purpose a large scrapbook into which anything of interest to the child can be pasted. One of these books began with dispatches and letters received at the time of the child's birth; then followed postal-cards, valentines, pictures, letters, first invitations, party place-cards, etc. In this way there can be kept together little remembrances which otherwise would be lost, yet which the child will appreciate highly when older.

**Use Ordinary Burlap to Cover a Screen** and you will get a pretty effect if you first have the stuff dyed some appropriate color. When fastened to a frame the burlap will look as artistic as a more expensive material.

**To Keep Veils in Shape** a pasteboard roll, such as is used for sending photographs and other prints, is excellent. The roll may be padded and covered and the veils be rolled neatly on without folding and then pinned securely. If veils are cared for in this way they will last much longer than when they are folded.

**Do Not Neglect the Flower Pots** when the plants are being lifted for winter indoors. Before new pots are used they must be well soaked in water or the plants will get but little moisture, the dry pots absorbing it all. Old pots should be washed before they are used again.

**A Belt for Stove-Cover Holders** is a convenient article that may be provided as follows: Make a belt of firm tape long enough to button easily around the waist over the work-apron. On each side of the belt, about five inches from the centre, attach a piece of tape the length of the arm. To the end of these tapes fasten a holder. The woman who wears such a belt when at work about the stove will not burn her fingers or waste time hunting for a cloth or holder.

**Little Stools or Low Stands** for plants can be made by buying door "bumpers" and screwing four to the corners of a piece of board of the desired size.

**Bats or Mice May be Driven Out** of a house by putting chloride of lime in the places where they run, for the lime will burn their feet and frighten them away.

**When Making Jelly with Gelatine** be sure to cover it while cooling. That this is important is shown by the fact that gelatine is used by bacteriologists for collecting germs.

**A Substitute for Paste** a cold boiled potato has some value. With it papers may be fastened together, a bit of torn wall-paper fastened down, or a picture mounted. Simply rub the edges with the potato and press firmly together.

**Flush the Plumbing with Hot Water.** Keep a piece of garden hose about two feet long in the bathroom closet, and on ironing and baking days, when there is plenty of very hot water, take a little time to flush the water closet better than can be done at other times. Push one end of the hose over the hot-water faucet of the bathtub and hold the other end over the water-closet outlet; then turn on the hot water.

**A Roll for Centrepieces** can be made from a piece of wooden curtain-pole about one inch and a half in diameter, and a little longer than the width of the widest centerpiece to be rolled. First cover the pole with wadding; then make an outer covering of white linen or muslin, having this longer than the largest piece. Roll the centerpieces smoothly on the pole and tie with ribbon. This pole will keep the articles in order when they are too large to be laid flat in an ordinary drawer.

**Emery-Cloth and Sandpaper** are useful in many ways in the house. A small board to which sandpaper has been glued flat is good for rubbing flat-irons upon, to take off any roughness. Emery-cloth of different grades of fineness may be glued to narrow strips of wood for use in sharpening knives or scissors, putting a better point upon a pencil, or cleaning a rubber eraser. When sharpening scissors in this way be careful to push the blade in firm, even strokes, always from you.

**To Make a Dustpan More Useful.** The ordinary tin dustpan can be made the source of great comfort to the housewife by the use of the handle of a discarded broom. Saw off the handle from the broom and insert the end in the hollow tin handle of the dustpan, after bending it perpendicular to the pan. This enables one to use the dustpan without stooping.

**A Trunk in a Bedroom** may be concealed by having a light wooden frame built around it with a top as well. This may be converted into a pretty dressing-table by appropriate coverings. The trunk is hidden underneath, but may be readily pulled out when needed.

**To Make Linen Fold Evenly** when Ironed. Sheets and pillow-cases should be torn by a thread the size desired, but tablecloths and napkins should be cut by a thread. If, after tearing the sheets and pillow-cases and cutting the table linen, the material is shrunken before hemming it will always hold evenly when ironed.

**When the Ironing is Being Done** try using two clothes-bars. Hang on one all the clothes that are in perfect order, and on the other any that need mending, darning or buttons. When the clothes are folded those needing no attention may be put away at once, while those that need mending may be put in the clothes-basket and placed in some convenient place until there is time to mend them.

**Peach Cup.**  
Grate the yellow rind of one orange in half a pound of sugar, pare and stone six very ripe peaches and press them through a colander; add them to the sugar and orange. Put this into a jar; add the juice of the orange, five or six slices of cucumber and a quart of water; mix and stand on the ice for five or six hours; strain and add a quart bottle of plain soda or seltzer-water. Serve in small glasses, into which you have dropped a rose geranium leaf. If the peaches are large and the "cup" seems thick add another pint of effervescent water. All sorts of fruits may be made into "cup" after this recipe.

**A clever, popular Candy Cold Cure Tablet**—called Preventics—is being dispensed by druggists everywhere. In a few hours, Preventics are said to break any cold—completely. And Preventics, being so safe and toothsome, are very fine for children. No Quinine, no laxative, nothing harsh nor sickening. Box of 48, 25c. Sold by all druggists.