



MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT.

Will Minnie May be kind enough to tell Mrs. C. McIntosh that a small dose of Epsom salts—a teaspoon level full—is a good remedy for pain in and decay of the teeth. To be taken at bed-time in a good draft of water; repeat the dose for three nights, or oftener, if necessary.

A mixture of equal parts of spirits of wine and oil of cloves, put with cotton into a hollow tooth, or rubbed on the gums or on the temples, is a valuable remedy in some cases of tooth-ache. P. H.

Port Hope, May, 1874.

Dear Minnie May,—

I thought I would write you again, as I am greatly interested in your column, thinking it a great help to farmers' wives in many ways. I have a great many recipes to send now, but for the benefit of Mrs. McIntosh I will send a remedy for toothache.

TOOTH CORDIAL.

Best alcohol, 1 oz., laudanum, eighth of an ounce; chloroform, liquid measure, five-eighths of an ounce; gum camphor, half an ounce; oil of cloves, half a dram; sulphuric ether, three-fourths of an ounce, and oil of lavender, one dram. If there is a nerve exposed, this will quiet it. Apply with lint. Rub also on the gums and upon the face against the tooth, freely. Creosote is also a good remedy; apply with lint. Also, spirits of tar, but I fear the latter would prove injurious to the teeth; but if the teeth are very much decayed, it is best to have them extracted, so as to prevent further annoyance from them. But for the benefit of those who wish to arrest the decay of teeth, I will send the following recipe:

Dentifrice, which arrests decay and induces a healthy action of the gums—Dissolve 1 oz. of borax in 1½ pints of boiling water, and when a little cool, add 1 teaspoon of the tincture of myrrh, and 1 tablespoon of the spirits of camphor, and bottle for use. Directions for use:

At bed-time wash out the mouth with water, using a badger's hair brush (bristle brushes tear the gums and should never be used); then take a tablespoon of the dentifrice with as much warm water, and rub the teeth and gums well each night till the end is attained.

Here is also a

CHEAP BED-ROOM CARPET.

Sew together the cheapest cotton cloth the size of the room, and tack the edges to the floor. Now paper the cloth as you would the sides of a room, with cheap room paper, putting a border round the edges if desired. The paste will be better if a little gum arabic is mixed with it. When thoroughly dry, give it two coats of furniture varnish, and when dry it is done. It can be washed, and looks well in proportion to the quality and figure of the paper used; of course it could not be expected to answer the purposes of a kitchen, but for bed-rooms it is well adapted.

No more at present, but at some future time I will send you a recipe for making sweet cucumber pickles, which you will find very nice. From your friend,

SARA.

TO CLEAN PAINT.

Door, wall, or anything that is painted may be cleaned with a piece of soft flannel, dipped in warm water and sprinkled with finely powdered French chalk. On being rubbed once with this the paint will become quite clean. Soap and water should never be used for cleaning paint, as soap spoils it.

TO IMPROVE STARCH.

To each bowl of starch add one teaspoonful of saltpetre, and dissolve in the usual way of boiling.

TO EXTRACT GREASE FROM PAIRED WALLS.

Dip a piece of soft flannel in spirits of wine, and rub the greasy spots once or twice.

TO REMOVE GREASE FROM COAT COLLARS.

Wash with a sponge wet with hartshorn and water.

KIND WORDS.

As the breath of the dew to the tender plant, they gently fall upon the drooping heart, refreshing its withered tendrils and soothing its burning woes. Bright oases they are in life's great desert. Long after they are uttered do they reverberate in the soul's inner chamber, and sing low, sweet strains that quell the raging storms that may have before existed. And oh! when the heart is sad and like a broken harp, who can tell the power of one kind word? Kind words are like jewels, never to be forgotten, but perhaps to cheer by their memory a long, sad life. While words of cruelty are like darts in the bosom, wounding and leaving scars that will be borne to the grave by their victim. CATHERINE RICHMOND.

Newry P. O., Ont.

TO REMOVE MARKS FROM A TABLE.

If a whitish mark is left on a table by carelessly setting on it a pitcher of boiling water or a hot dish, pour some lamp oil on the spot and rub it hard with a soft cloth; then pour on a little spirits of wine or Cologne water and rub it dry with another cloth. The white mark will soon disappear, and the table look as well as ever.

TO CLEAN HAIR BRUSHES.

As hot water and soap very often soften the hairs, and rubbing completes their destruction, use soda dissolved in cold water instead. Soda having an affinity for grease, it cleans the brush with little friction. Do not set them near the fire nor in the sun to dry, but, after shaking them well, set them on the point of the handle in a shady place. JANE W. McQUEEN.

Walkerton, May, 1874.

Paris, April 16th, 1874.

Dear Minnie May,—

I will send in a few recipes for your department, hoping they may prove useful and beneficial to those who give them a trial. I have taken them out of my list, which I have saved up from time to time, after reading various publications.

REMEDY FOR TOOTH-ACHE—NO. 1.

One drachm of collodion added to two drachms of Calvert's carbolic acid, a small portion of which, inserted in the cavity of an aching tooth, invariably gives relief.

NO. 2.

Put a piece of quicklime as big as a walnut to one pint of water, in a bottle. Clean the teeth with a little of it every morning, rinsing the mouth with clean water afterwards. If the teeth are good it will preserve them and keep away tooth-ache; if the teeth are gone it will harden the gums, so that they will masticate freely.

GARGLE.

For Common Sore Throat.—Tincture of myrrh, 2 drachms; water, 4 oz.; vinegar, ½ oz. Mix well.

For Ulcerated Sore Throat.—Water, ½ pint; decoction of Peruvian bark, ½ pint; sulphate of zinc, 1 drachm. Mix.

A CURE FOR STYES ON THE EYES.

Put a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda in a small bag, pour on it just enough boiling water to moisten it, and then put it on the eye pretty warm. Keep it on all night; repeat the application until you find relief. Take a dose of rhubarb and magnesia to cleanse the blood, as styes arise from impurity of the blood, and no permanent cure can be effected by a mere external application.

TO TAKE RUST OFF DINNER KNIVES.

Cover the steel with sweet oil, rubbing it on well. Let it remain 48 hours, and then, using unslaked lime, finely powdered, rub the knife until all the rust has disappeared.

GLOSS FOR LINEN.

To 1 pint of starch add 1 teaspoonful of salt and one teaspoonful of finely shaved soap.

Dear Minnie, I had more selected for you, but I think I have given you as many as you can find room for this month, therefore I will bid you farewell for the time being. LIZZIE ELKINGTON.

THE NEW CHURCH ORGAN.

"They've got a bran new organ, Sue,
For all their fuss and search;
They've done just as they said they'd do,
And fetched it into church.
They've bound the critter shall be seen,
And on the preacher's right
They've hoisted up the new machine
In everybody's sight;
They've got a chorister and a choir
Agin my voice and vote,
For it was never my desire
To praise the Lord by note."

"I've been a sister good and true
For five and thirty year,
I've done what seemed my part to do,
And prayed my duty clear;
I've sung the hymns both slow and quick,
Just as the preacher read,
And twice when Deacon Tubbs was sick
I took the fork and led.
An' now their bold, new-fangled ways
Is comin' all about,
And I right in my latter days
Am fairly crowded out."

"To-day the preacher, good old dear,
With tears all in his eyes,
Read—'When I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies.'
I always liked that blessed hymn,
I s'pose I always will,
It somehow gratifies my whim
In good old Ortonville.
But when that choir got up to sing
I couldn't catch a word;
They sung the most dog-gonest thing
A body ever heard."

"Some worldly chaps was standin' near,
And when I seed them grin,
I bid farewell to every fear,
And boldly waded in.
I thought I'd chase their tune along,
An' tried with all my might;
But though my voice is good and strong,
I couldn't steer it right;
Wen they was high then I was low,
An' also contra-wise,
An' I too fast or they too slow
To 'mansions in the skies.'

An' after every verse, you know,
They played a little tune,
Didn't understand, an' so
I started on too soon;
I pitched it pretty middlin' high,
I fetched a lusty tone,
But oh, alas! I found that I
Was singin' there alone.
They laughed a little I am told,
But I had done my best,
And not a wave of trouble rolled
Across my peaceful breast."

"And sister Brown—I could but look—
She sits right front of me,
She never was no singin' book,
An' never meant to be;
But then she always tried to do
The best she could, she said,
She understood time right through,
And kept it with her head;
But when she tried this mornin', oh!
I had to laugh or cough,
It kept her head a-bobbin' so,
It e'en a'most came off."

And Deacon Tubbs—he all broke down,
As one might well suppose,
He took one look at Sister Brown,
And meekly scratched his nose;
He looked his hymn book through and through
An' laid it on the seat,
An' then a pensive sigh he drew
An' looked completely beat;
An' when they took another bout,
He didn't even rise,
But drew his red band-anner out
An' wiped his weepin' eyes."

I've been a sister good and true
For five and thirty year,
I've done what seemed my part to do,
An' prayed my duty clear;
But death will stop my voice, I know,
For he is on my track,
An' some day I to church will go
An' never more come back;
And when the folks get up to sing,
When'er that time shall be,
I do not want no patent thing
A-squealin' over me."

MAY MILLNO, Charing Cross.

A bit of glue dissolved in skim milk and water will restore old crapes.

An ink stand was turned over a white table-cloth; a servant threw over it a mixture of salt and pepper plentifully, and all traces of it disappeared.

TO CLEAN LINEN OF MILDEW.

Dissolve two ounces of chloride of lime in two gallons of water, let it settle, and pour off the clear water. Let the linen lie in this a few minutes; then hang in the sun. It will also remove ink spots.

TO STOP BLEEDING AT THE NOSE.

Fold a piece of brown paper and place between the upper lip and gum. M. W. Thistleton, May, 1874.

LOVE LIGHTENS LABOR.

A good wife rose from her bed one morn,
And thought with a nervous dread
Of the piles of clothes to be washed, and more
Than a dozen mouths to be fed.
There were the meals to get for the men in the field,
And the children to fix away
To school, and the milk to be skimmed and churned—
And all to be done that day.

It had rained in the night, and all the wood
Was wet as wet could be;
There were puddings and pies to bake, beside
A loaf of cake for tea;
And the day was hot and her aching head
Throbbled wearily as she said:
"If maidens but knew what good wives
know,
They would be in no haste to wed!"

"Jennie, what do you think I told Ben Brown?"
Called the farmer from the well;
And a flush crept over his bronzed brow,
And his eyes half bashfully fell.
"It was this," said he, and coming near,
He smiled—and stooping down—
Kissed her cheek—" 'Twas this: that you
were the best
And the dearest wife in town!"

The farmer went to the field, and the wife
In a smiling and absent way,
Sang snatches of tender little songs
She'd not sung for many a day;
And the pain in her head was gone, and the
clothes
Were white as the foam of the sea;
Her bread was light, and her butter was
sweet,
And as golden as it could be.

"Just think," the children all cried in a breath,
"Tom Wood has run off to sea!
He wouldn't, I know, if he only had
As happy a home as we."
The night came down and the good wife
smiled
To herself, as she softly said:
" 'Tis so sweet to labor for those we love—
It's not strange that maidens wed!"

LIZZIE ELKINGTON.

Dear Minnie May,—

I was quite interested in reading over that kind and sympathizing letter which was sent to Jennie Jones by our cousin, Mary Kay, and I quite agree with her in trying to cheer up poor Jennie; so I thought perhaps it would not be very much out of place if I should, through the columns of your department, send her a poem which I have in my possession. I would wish to draw her attention more particularly to the third, fourth and fifth stanzas. Your friend,

LIZZIE E.

Paris, May 26th, 1874.

EGGS IN CASE OF TROUBLE.

The white of an egg is said to be a specific for fish bones sticking in the throat. It is to be swallowed raw, and will carry down a bone easily and certainly. There is another fact touching eggs which it will be well to remember. When corrosive sublimate is swallowed by accident, the white of an egg or two taken, will neutralize the poison, and change the effect to that of a dose of calomel.