

Things of the Spring.

First there is the spring cleaning, which some prompt people got over in the sunny weeks of March, but which the slow-going have still before them.

House cleaning can be a pleasure, writes Amica, in the 'Examiner,' when it is done piecemeal, one room at a time. This does not afford the glorious sensation of a big battle, certain to result in victory, which belonged to the time when all the carpets from attic to cellar were lifted at one swoop, and the earnest household worked its way, step by step, from the top floor downwards, and, after a march of slow and careful progress, attained at last to an interior that was absolutely scented with cleanliness and soap. But in the interval the members of the household who did not participate in this orgie of purification had not rest for the sole of their foot, or peace of mind in contemplation of the upheaval. They said women made this disturbance on purpose, and liked doing it.

Now one room at a time disturbs no one much. The carpets and curtains can be taken up and down respectively, and can be passed out of the window if there is a garden at the back without disturbing even the stairs; then, behind a closed door, with a sheet over that door, and quantities of damp tea leaves or chopped cabbage to strew on the floor as a preliminary to sweeping, the cleansing of the apartment begins in good earnest.

Everyone knows, in cleaning down walls, to first dust them with a dry duster, and then rub them with a piece of very dry dough, but everyone does not know that it is not very difficult to re-paper a room. Many people go on for years dwelling amid dingy walls, because they fear to invite the workman with his ladders, his assistants, and all the rest of it, into the house, but there are various ways of escaping this calamity. One way is to employ a single handy man, and assist him yourself. The utensils are a bucket of thin paste, to which a little alum has been added, a small whitewashing brush to be bought or borrowed, and two supports on which to rest a couple of planks, so that the operator may be raised as far as ceiling-wards as is necessary. Bedroom papers can be had very cheap, and some of these are pretty, but a better quality of paper naturally lasts longer.

Let the amateur paperhanger exclude patterns as far as possible; these are difficult to match, and almost always run to waste, and, at any rate, plain walls as a background to a few pictures are far more peaceable to live with. The ingrain papers are beautiful when first hung, but for some reason they do not keep their color well. Therefore, where people do not want to repaper every third or fourth year, it is better to choose a paper with some measure of glazy finish. Many of these are striped; nothing is easier to match than stripes; others have an obtrusive design in a different tone of the ground color. For sunny rooms blues or greens are pretty, but every blue does not stand a strong light, it will be advisable therefore to consult the seller as regards durability, unless the purchaser possesses the individually discerning eye. For shady rooms pink walls are lovely, while a north-looking room should be done in yellow, the picture frames to be walnut. On blue walls black frames are exquisite. A cream and yellow patterned paper on the ceiling will suit any walls, and a cream color-wash, with a deeper shade of cream for the cornice, always looks fresh as long as it is clean, while there is not much trouble in renewing it.

The amateur should remove the left-hand selvage from the paper, leaving the right selvage for overlapping purposes. Then, after making sure that the walls are even, or if uneven, bearing this fact in mind, the paper should be cut in lengths. Two of these should be pasted over evenly, in succession, the first one being lightly folded over, with the paste-covered side inside; when the second one has been pasted, and for this purpose a long table or a second set of planks, on trestles will be almost indispensable, the assistant lifts the length of paper that was first pasted, and hands it to the operator, who, attaching it for a foot or so below the cornice, lets it drop till it hangs smoothly against the

wall. A clean duster will then be used to pat it from the top downwards; when it is seen to adhere evenly it is then pressed over more firmly. The better and thicker the paper is, the more evenly it can be hung with less risk of wrinkles, but practice will enable even a poor paper to be put up smoothly. Where any of the old paper was broken all of this should be removed, washing the walls if necessary; but if it has been only shabby it can be left to make a foundation. Where the new paper is of thin quality and lighter in color than the old paper, the latter must be washed off, lest it should show through. A single day's labor will repaper any room, and, even with the assistance of the handyman, can be beautified exceedingly for a very small sum.

Where the paint has been any of those sold in tins, broken bits can be touched up at house-cleaning times to the preservation of the general effect. It is to be remembered that soda should never be used for any highly-varnished surfaces, nor, indeed, at all in washing paint ere years of service have rendered this absolutely grimy.

Don'ts for Mistresses.

Don't assume that servants are to be had to-day for the asking; they are scarce, but they are not an extinct species. If your house gets a good repute as a comfortable home you will always be able to find a successor for each departing maid, and the departures will not be frequent.

Don't take a young servant from a situation superior to yours, and don't take an old servant from one that is inferior. Young servants do better for feeling that they have been promoted, while old servants often desire the easier life to be had in a situation where the housekeeping is not so elaborate.

Don't employ servants of very diverse ages, as the old servant tends to tyrannize over the younger, while the younger compels the older one to take her evening out or day off when she would rather remain in the house. This sometimes leads the old servant to drink; she has no place to go when she goes out, and she goes to the public-house. This is not a supposition, but a fact.

Even when a servant says she is efficient it is well to see her do her work for a couple of days after her arrival, especially when she has come from a smaller establishment. If she is interested in her work she will like you to tell her how you wish it done.

Don't insist that she shall dress her hair in your way if her own way is more becoming.

Don't interfere with her dress in her free time beyond suggesting what you think suitable and in good taste. She will never be young but once, and if she wants to leave the sombre livery of service behind her when she goes out where is the harm?

An hour spent with the servant in the kitchen on Sunday afternoons in kindly talk and helpful reading is far more conducive to her spiritual life than a daily march into the dining-room for morning prayers. But it is only the lady who is leagues above her servant in every way that would venture to instruct and advise her in the kitchen.

Don't forget to take some sympathetic interest in the places she visits and the people she meets on her evening out, just enough to let her feel that you want to know she is safe. When you know who and what her friends are, volunteer your permission that one of these, if satisfactory, may come to tea occasionally, when the other servant goes out. To be able to play hostess now and then, not secretly, but openly, is one of the greatest pleasures of the servant's restricted life. When she goes out somebody entertains her; it increases her self-respect to be able to entertain in return.

Don't habitually disallow the young man, because nothing gives a 'place' a better reputation than an occasional wedding from the kitchen. Having had four, I know. After all, we do not buy the servant's life with our wages, but only her work. When she yields that she is entitled to certain other interests. If she came in by the day, as the servant of the future is likely to do, we could evolve

some human interest in her prospects; why should this decrease because she is under the roof with us? The servant's courtship is generally conducted on lines of such modesty as might give points to the daughter of the house.—'Examiner.'

Laundering Table Linen.

(Mrs. Ellen J. Cannady, in the New York 'Observer'.)

In this age of pretty things for the home, there is nothing in which the good housekeeper takes more pride than in her table linen. Get a good quality of damask for table cloths, for it will last a long time, and be more economical in the end than a coarse piece. When tiny breaks occur draw out threads from a piece of new linen, thread a needle with them, and darn the place carefully. It is better to do this before the cloth is laundered, as the washing is likely to fray the edges and make the place larger. A ragged tear should be mended by placing a piece of linen under it, and darning it down.

You will find that it pays to provide a generous supply of doilies and carver's cloths, either embroidered or plain, for the most careful person is likely to let small pieces of meat fall on the cloth when carving a fowl, and if these are supplied, the large cloth is not soiled. Then can be changed every meal if necessary, and it is an easy task to wash them. When fringed napkins or doilies are used, the fringe becomes ragged and uneven while the linen is still good. Cut the fringe off, and hem them all around by hand. The best parts of a white table cloth which shows sign of wear, may be cut in squares, neatly hemmed and used for carving cloths for every day use, or napkins for the children's dinner baskets.

To remove fruit stains from linen, dampen the spots, rub soap on both sides, then apply starch made into a paste with cold water. Rub the starch into the stains and hang the cloth in the sunshine several hours. Or put a heaping teaspoonful of soda in half a tea-cupful of sweet milk, and rub the mixture into the stained spots. After the cloth is washed in the ordinary way, the stains will disappear.

The most expensive linen, and the handsomest embroidered doilies and centrepieces are often ruined by careless washing. Have a laundry bag hung in a convenient place, and as fast as the soiled linen accumulates, place the pieces in it, for it is not pleasant to think of their being put in with the soiled clothing. Prepare a suds of soft warm water and good soap. Wash through this, rubbing gently between the hands. If the linen is plain without embroidery of any kind, it may be put in a clean suds and scalded a few minutes. If it is embroidered, wash through two waters, rinse in clear lukewarm water, then dip in blue water to which a little boiled starch has been added and dry in the shade. When it is dry take it down, dampen and roll it up, wrap a clean cloth around it and leave it for a few hours. Embroidered linen should be ironed on the wrong side to bring out the flowers and figures, but plain linen should be pressed on the right side. Never make linen very stiff. After ironing fold smoothly and when thoroughly dry, put it in the linen closet.

A burn or scald must have the air kept from it for a quarter of an hour or so. The best way to do this is to at once cover the injured place with sweet oil, then make a paste with some flour and smear on all over the parts inflamed.

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