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Cream cheese,
Chicken salad,
Charlotte russe,
Chowder,
Cherries, pickled,
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Clam soup,
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Cocoa-nut pudding,
Carrageen blanc-mange,
Chicken curry,
Curds and whey,
Corn pudding,
Egg-plant, to stew,
Egg-plant, to fry,
Election cake,
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Lemon custards,
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Lobster, to dress cold,
Lobster, potted,
Maccaroni, to dress,
Maccaroons, to make,
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Meg Merrilies' soup,
Mince meat,
Mock oysters,
Molasses candy
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Orange pudding,
Ochra soup,
Oyster soup,
Oysters, fried,
Oysters, pickled,
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Paste, (the best plain,)
Paste, (fine puff,)
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Peach leather,
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Queen cake,
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PREFACE.

The design of the following work is to impart to novices in house-keeping some information on a subject which is, or ought to be, important to every American female, so that they may be enabled to instruct unpractised domestics, or, in case of emergency, to assist personally in forwarding the indispensable work of the family. More than nine-tenths of these receipts are entirely original; all are expressly adapted to the meridian of our own country; and though they generally refer to the condition of families in what is termed genteel life, a large number of them may be found useful in houses where close economy is expedient.

It has been the design of the author to make her directions as plain and intelligible as possible, and therefore she has thought it best to explain every particular with unusual minuteness, as if addressed to persons who were totally ignorant of the subjects in question. In this, as in her Cookery Book, she has not scrupled, when necessary, to sacrifice the sound to the sense; repeating the same words when no others could be found to express the purport so clearly; and being always more anxious to convey the meaning in such terms as could not be mistaken, than to risk obscuring it by attempts at refined phraseology or well-rounded periods.

Complaints are incessantly heard of the deterioration of servants; but may not one source of this growing evil be traced to the deterioration of *mistresses* in the knowledge and practice of all that is necessary to a well-ordered household. A great change has certainly taken place since the days when, during the presidency of her husband, Mrs. Washington, followed by a servant-man with a basket, went daily to Philadelphia market; and when the all-accomplished daughters of Mr. Jefferson made pastry and confectionary in a room fitted up for that purpose in their father's mansion at Monticello.

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While we regret the present system of education, in which all things are taught (or rather attempted) except that which to every American female must at some period of her life be absolutely necessary, we would not have our young married ladies discouraged if, on first assuming the charge of a house, they find themselves subjected to much perplexity and inconvenience from ignorance of their new task. A competent knowledge of household affairs is by no means difficult to acquire, and is within the reach of every woman of tolerable capacity, who has a proper conviction of its utility, and an earnest desire to profit by all opportunities of improvement in its pursuit. It is a homely but a true saying, that "where there is a will there is a way."

A neat and well-conducted house, with fires and lights always as they should be; and a table where the food is inviting, from being good both in material and cooking; also clothes well washed and ironed, are comforts that are not lightly prized by any married man; and it is but just that he who perhaps labours hard in his business or profession to procure the means of obtaining them, should not be disappointed in their application; particularly when the deficiencies are caused by the inertness or the mismanagement of the woman who should consider it her especial care to render his home agreeable to him.

Should this book have any effect in directing the attention of her young countrywomen to a subject of far more importance to their married happiness than the cultivation of showy accomplishments, or the unavailing pursuit of studies that to females are always abstruse; should it, on trial, be found a useful auxiliary to practised house-keepers, in furnishing them with additional hints, or new and easy modes of doing things that have always been done, its object will be accomplished; leaving the author with the gratification of knowing that she has not written in vain.

Philadelphia, February 19*th*, 1840.

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THE

HOUSE BOOK.

THE LAUNDRY.

No large house should be without a laundry, or place appropriated to the work connected with washing and ironing. A back kitchen may easily be fitted up for this purpose. It should have a large fire-place for the convenience of boiling several kettles of water at a time, if necessary, and for heating the irons. A pump or hydrant should either be within the laundry or close to the door: also a sink for disposing of the dirty water. All the water used for washing must be soft, otherwise the clothes cannot be made clean. Soap, instead of dissolving and forming a suds, will always curdle and float on the surface of water that is either hard from being impregnated with lime or other mineral substances, or brackish from its vicinity to the sea. The best way of softening hard water, when no other can be obtained, is to mix with it a large quantity of strong lye, (in the proportion of one gallon of lye to three or four of water,) or to stir into it a little potash, which last must be sparingly used, or it will injure the clothes by making them so tender that they will soon go to pieces.

In places where all the pump or well-water is hard, and the

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running water saltish, it is usual to save rain-water for washing purposes, by catching it in cisterns, casks, or tubs, placed under the water-spouts. Rain-water casks should always have covers to prevent impurities from getting into the water. They should stand on feet, and be furnished with a spigot for drawing the water when wanted. Unless you have abundance of water, it is impossible to wash the clothes clean, or to make them of a good colour; and where a sufficiency can be obtained, no good washer will be sparing in the use of it. Washing in dirty suds is of very little avail.

In America most families have their washing done once a week. This is much better, in some respects, than the European custom of monthly or quarterly washes, as the clothes derive great injury from lying in their dirt; and also a quantity of clothing, often inconveniently large, is requisite when the intervals between the washes are so very long.

May we be allowed to suggest that Tuesday (though contrary to the usual custom) is a more convenient day for washing than Monday; as some previous preparation is always necessary the afternoon or evening before; such, for instance, as looking out and assorting the clothes, putting some of them in soak, ripping certain things apart, and replacing buttons, hooks, and strings that have been broken off; not to mention the probability that some articles, which were put on quite clean on Sunday, might very well be worn one day more; though it would not be considered worth while to keep them out of the wash till next week. When it is done weekly, it is rarely necessary to devote more than one day to washing, and another to ironing; and we opine that, in general, it is better those two days should be Tuesday and Wednesday, rather than Monday and Tuesday. When it can be deferred, washing should never be done on a rainy day, for many reasons.

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For instance, it is not well to have the clothes lying all night in the tubs, neither will starch take effect in damp weather. At all events, the coloured things and the muslins should be left till it clears up. If the family is large, it is best not to have the small muslins, laces, &c., done with the general wash. Blankets, chintz curtains, and other large extra things should always be washed at extra times, and at a season when the days are long and bright. Where there are many muslins and laces, it is frequently more convenient to devote a morning expressly to the purpose of doing them up, than to put them in the general wash.

It is a great convenience to have in the laundry a large deep closet for holding the utensils necessary for the process of washing. For instance, the kettles, tubs, buckets, clothes-baskets, starch-pans, lines, pegs, washing-boards; and also the ironing apparatus.

Each of the women engaged in washing should be provided with one of the well-known grooved or fluted boards, which, by standing them up in the tub of suds and rubbing the clothes upon them, will greatly save the hands and expedite the work. They cost but a trifle, and can be procured wherever wooden ware is sold.

The best and most durable clothes-lines are those of horse-hair, or of twisted sea-grass. Let them always be wiped before they are put up, and taken down as soon as all the clothes are brought in. There should be a sufficient number of cleft wooden pegs to secure the clothes on the lines.

There should be tall posts along the yard, at a convenient distance from the fence or wall, for the purpose of fastening the lines, which may also be propped in the middle by long forked sticks, the largest end resting on the ground.

The laundry should be furnished with broad stout benches

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of a convenient height, to hold the tubs when the women are standing at them.

It is well to have a lye-barrel at hand, that lye (which is good for so many purposes) may be ready at any time. Also a barrel of soft soap, and a tin or iron ladle for dipping it out.

The large wooden folding frames called clothes-horses are indispensable in a laundry; either for the purpose of drying wet clothes by the fire when necessary, or for spreading out the clothes after ironing, to free them from all remaining dampness. These clothes-horses should have broad substantial feet, so that they may not be easily overset.

In summer the perfect drying of the ironed white clothes may be completed by hanging them out in the sun.

There should be large tubs for soaking the uncoloured clothes over night. In soaking coarse heavy clothes, mix two quarts of lye in the water of a large tub.

You should have a long round hickory stick, somewhat flattened at one end, to stir the clothes while boiling—and a long stout hickory fork, with which to lift them out of the hot water without scalding your hands.

Either the oval tin cups that hook on to the edge of the tub, or small wooden or earthen bowls, should be provided for each of the washers to put their soap in; it will waste greatly if they keep it all the time in the tub, and if they lay it beside them on the sloppy bench it will be continually slipping down.

The indigo bag for blueing the rinsing water should be made of new white flannel. The usual form is square, sewed all round at the edges, leaving a small opening at the top to put in the indigo; which opening must always be sewed up after replenishing the bag with a fresh supply. When you use it, hold the bag in the water, pressing it with your fingers

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till you have squeezed out sufficient blue to give a very light tinge. Then paddle your hand through the water to diffuse the colour equally.

Have large strong bags to put the dirty clothes in as you take them off. The bags should be of substantial brown linen, or else of ticking, with a string of strong tape sewed to the side-seam a little below the hem at the top. If the clothes are left lying loose in the bottom of a closet (as is the custom in many houses,) they may be injured by the nibbling of mice or of cockroaches. Let there be a separate bag for the small muslins, &c.

In the laundry closet should be kept all the articles necessary for washing and ironing. Among them, a black bottle containing ox-gall, which will be found most useful for coloured things, as it will greatly add to the clearness of their colours. A gall can be procured from the butcher for a trifle, (generally six cents,) and no house should be without it. It should be poured through a funnel into the bottle, and kept closely corked. During the process of drying, the air will entirely dispel the odour of the gall: but, if you choose, you may scent it in the bottle by adding a little tincture of musk.

A large brass or copper kettle is an indispensable article for a laundry; as an iron pot will stain the clothes. Where there is a great deal of washing, two kettles will be found very convenient.

For a laundry, a large fire-place is better than a stove, as the latter will make the room intolerably hot in the summer. In English wash-houses there is always a great copper kettle set in brick and mortar, with a place for fire underneath. This is a good contrivance, and saves the trouble of lifting the large kettle on and off: and of course precludes any danger of its oversetting. We are glad to find that this apparatus is coming into use in America.

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Ironing tables should at least be large enough for two persons to iron on at a time, and should stand facing the light, that the women may see perfectly what they are about. There is a very convenient ironing-board, which, when not in use, turns up, and forms a high back to a bench or settle: which bench should have a drawer beneath it large enough to contain the blanket, sheet, holders, &c.

The best iron-stands are those with feet and handles. If a mere ring, they are likely to scorch the blanket, and to burn the fingers in removing them.

Holders should be made of square folds of clean old flannel, covered with calico and sewed at the edges. They should on no account be stuffed or interlined with wadding or cotton, as these substances, being very inflammable, will cause the holders to blaze up in a moment, if a spark should touch them in taking the iron from the fire.

Old soft towels, or pieces of old sheets or table-cloths, make excellent iron-wipers. They should be kept entirely free from grease or wet, and never used for any purpose but the proper one.

The ironing blanket should be large, smooth, and thick, as well as the sheet that is to be spread over it when used. There must not, in either, be any holes or patches, as those defects will cause the surface to be uneven, and prevent the clothes from ironing smoothly.

Bits of bees-wax should be kept at hand to rub (for an instant) over the irons as they are taken from the fire, to remove any smoke or roughness that may adhere to them.

It is well to have a strong bag always hanging in the laundry to contain the bees-wax, indigo bag, bits of spermaceti, and other little things belonging to washing and ironing.

There should be regular white cotton cloth kept exclusively

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for the purpose of straining starch: always washing it out and drying it before it is put away.

A mangling machine, for the purpose of smoothing table and bed linen and various other things, will be found well worth its cost, in saving the time and trouble of ironing these articles, and in the superiority which it gives to their appearance.

Skirt-boards are very convenient for ironing the skirts of dresses. Also bosom-boards for shirts.

When the washing is over for the day, the tubs, buckets, &c., should be make clean and turned up to dry; all the articles used should be put away in their proper places, and the floor wiped up with a mop or cloth.

Tubs, buckets, barrels, churns, and other utensils of cooper-work, should never be left out of doors when empty: as the sun and air will contract the wood and open the seams, causing the vessel to leak.

All these things will last much longer if painted on the outside.

In Philadelphia it is very customary for families, as well as single persons, to put out their washing. There are many excellent washerwomen who take it by the month or quarter, at a very reasonable price; and if the *washing only* is put out, and the clothes brought rough-dried to be ironed at home, the expense will be found scarcely, if at all, to exceed that of having it done in your own house; and you are relieved from the trouble and inconvenience of a washing-day.

TO MAKE LYE.—For this purpose hickory ashes is the best: but good oak ashes will do very well. Ashes of anthracite coal cannot be used for lye.

For very fine lye of moderate strength, the ashes must be sifted or riddled through a strong wire sieve, to free it from bits

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of cinder. To two quarts of hickory ashes, or three quarts of oak, allow a gallon of soft water. Boil the water by itself; and then, when scalding hot, pour it on the ashes; let it stand till quite cold. Afterwards, strain the lye through a clean coarse cloth into another vessel. It should be quite clear.

Another way of making lye is to put into a kettle two quarts of hickory or three quarts of oak ashes. Pour on four quarts of cold soft water; boil it; and when it comes to a hard boil, take it off the fire, and put it aside to settle. Then pour it from the dregs or sediment through a clean coarse cloth, and strain it.

In boiling white clothes, put a large tea-cupful of clear lye into the wash-kettle. This is the proper proportion to two buckets of water.

In washing black worsted clothes, such as bombazines, bombazets, black merinos, &c., put a tea-cupful of lye into the first water. It will make the black colour look bright and fresh.

Lye will set the colour of new nankeen. Before it is made up, the nankeen should be soaked all night in a tub of clear lye, moderately strong. If the nankeen is of real Chinese manufacture, and not the imitation that is made in Europe, soaking it in lye before it is cut out, will prevent it from fading ever after.

TO KEEP SOAP-FAT FROM MOULDING.—When you have collected a large quantity of kitchen fat, you may prevent it from spoiling in the crocks, and have it ready at any time for soap, by making a weak lye on purpose, and boiling the fat in it till it is thoroughly melted. The fat will rise to the top of the kettle. Set it away in the kettle to cool. When quite cold, you may take it off in a round cake. Wrap the cake closely in clean brown paper, (so as entirely to exclude

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the air,) and keep it in a dry place. This is an excellent way of preserving the fat through the summer, to be made into soap in the autumn.

ANOTHER WAY.—Some good housewives who keep a perpetual lye-barrel, keep also a covered tub half-filled with lye, into which they throw, every day, whatever kitchen fat is proper for soap making. This will effectually preserve it from moulding, till you wish to use it for soap. An old meat-tub will answer very well for this purpose. It must be kept covered.

TO MAKE SOFT SOAP.—Soft soap is a most useful article in washing heavy clothes, and in scrubbing floors. When using it, keep it beside you in a tin pan. It can easily be made in any house where wood is burned, though in cities it is the usual custom to exchange fat and ashes for hard soap. You should keep in the cellar large earthen crocks as receptacles for all the grease and fat that comes from the kitchen, such as bits of the fat of meat, bacon skins, drippings, &c. The fat of beef and pork makes the best soap. The crocks should have tin or wooden covers. There should be a separate place in the cellar for the *wood* ashes, and great care is necessary in putting it away, to see that there are no bits of hot coal among it; as houses have taken fire from a neglect of this precaution. For making soap, the ashes should be as fresh and new as possible; and of good oak, with a small mixture of hickory: for instance, one-fourth. It can be made, however, though not quite so good, with oak ashes only.

You must have an ash-tub or barrel, which should be tall and high: but is best of a funnel shape, narrowing down towards the bottom; and in the bottom should be a hole not larger in diameter than a half dollar. The ash-tub should stand

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on wooden skids or legs, high enough to admit a large common tub underneath. Lay several bricks inside the bottom round the hole. The bricks are for the purpose of keeping up the ashes. Then cover both bricks and hole with a layer of straw, through which the lye is to filter. Then fill the barrel with five or six bushels of ashes packed down hard, (but not quite full to the top,) and set a large clean tub underneath. Pour in sufficient boiling water (about two or three buckets full) to moisten the ashes throughout; as beginning with hot water is a very quickening process in making the lye. It will be a great improvement to mix with the boiling water about two gallons of slacked lime, or one of unslacked. Then pour in a gallon or more of cold water, about once an hour for a whole day.

Next day try the lye that has dripped into the tub beneath. The first will be very strong, but it will gradually become weaker. The proper strength for beginning the soap is when an egg placed in the lye-tub will continue at the top with only about the size of a ten cent piece appearing above the surface of the lye. If nearly the whole egg, or indeed the half of it keeps above, the lye is too strong. If the egg sinks entirely below the surface, the lye is quite too weak. If you find it impossible otherwise to get the lye of sufficient strength, you must empty out all the ashes, fill the barrel afresh, and go through the whole process again, as weak lye will never make soap.

When you find that the lye is of the proper quality, take away the tub, and place another one under the barrel to catch the weaker drippings, which you must keep to fill up the soap-pot when necessary.

To begin the soap;—allow about three pounds of fat to a bucket of lye. Put the fat by itself into a very large kettle over a hot fire, and melt it; stirring it well with a round stick flattened at one end. When the fat has all melted, pour in the

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strong lye by degrees; stirring it well, (and always one way,) till the fat and the lye are thoroughly incorporated. Then moderate the fire, and boil it slowly and steadily all day, till it becomes thick and ropy, stirring it occasionally. A piece of lime thrown in while boiling, will improve it. If it boils too hard, it will go over. If not boiled enough, the soap will turn again to lye. If, in boiling, the fat disappears entirely from the top, add more fat, as there should be some indication of it on the surface. If there should happen to be too much fat, it can be skimmed off when the soap is cold. As it boils, continue to fill it up with lye till the soap becomes of a proper consistence. If the lye is too strong, it will not unite with it. Try the soap by occasionally taking out some in a dish or ladle, and setting it in the open air. It should be of a bright brown colour, and clear, and thick as a jelly when cold.

When done, pour it off into tubs or buckets, and carry it into the cellar to cool. When cold, empty it into a barrel: keep it in a dry place, and stir it frequently with a long stick during the first three or four days. It will then be fit for use. You should make your soap in the spring or autumn. If good it will keep more than a year.

If you intend to make two kettles full of soap, divide the strong lye and reserve one half for the second kettle.

COMMON HARD SOAP.—Having made from hickory ashes, or the best oak, a sufficient quantity of lye, which must be strong enough to bear up an egg, allow to each gallon three-quarters of a pound of clean kitchen fat of the best kind, (that has been clarified by melting it with water,) and a bit of lime the size of a large hickory nut. Put it into a large kettle, boil it very fast, and stir it frequently. It must boil hard for several hours. Try it by taking out a little and cooling it on a plate.

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When you find that it becomes a thick jelly, and no grease appears about it, stir fine salt into the kettle, allowing a pint of salt to three gallons of the soap. Let it boil for ten minutes after the salt is in. Then take it out of the kettle and put the soap in tubs to cool, and wash the kettle clean. Next day cut the soap out of the tubs, and melt it again, and cool it in wooden moulds, if you have them. When it is firm, cut it into square pieces, of convenient size for washing, and place it on shelves to harden, not allowing the pieces to touch each other.

The best kitchen fat for soap is that of beef and pork or bacon. Should any pork or bacon skins be among it, you must allow a pound of fat to each gallon of lye.

If, in trying it in the plate, before putting in the salt, you find the soap too liquid, add a little water to that on the plate, for the purpose of making it jelly. You will then be able to ascertain how much cold water must be added to that in the kettle for the same purpose; it being evident that the lye is too strong. This must be done before the salt is put in.

A larger quantity of lime, put in while boiling, will make the soap still harder.

You may harden it also, by adding, while the soap is boiling, a little sulphate of iron. This will give it a marbled or mottled appearance.

FINE HARD SOAP.—Take fifteen pounds of the best lard, or of clean fresh suet. Put it into a large kettle, hang it over a moderate fire, and make it boil. Have ready a quantity of excellent clear lye, five gallons of which must be strong enough to bear up an egg. Add with a ladle, a very little at a time of this lye to the fat in the kettle, and put it in slowly for a while at first; otherwise, it will instantly cause the fat to rise up so high as to overflow, and perhaps endanger the person

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that is making the soap. When this tendency to effervesce seems to diminish, the lye may be poured in by larger quantities. Keep the kettle boiling thus (and well skimmed) till all the five gallons of strong lye have been put in. Then add another gallon of lye, weakened by an equal quantity of water. The whole will then have the appearance of liquid soap. Then try a small quantity by putting it into cold water, and if no particles of grease appear on the top, it will be in a fit state to receive the salt which is to harden it. If you see any grease, add some more lye, and give it another boil up. When you find it in proper order, stir in gradually three quarts of fine salt. Then try the soap by taking out a small portion, and setting it to cool. If it does not seem sufficiently stiff, or likely to harden well, add another quart of salt, and give it another boil up.

The soap will now be all towards the top of the kettle, and the lye beneath it at the bottom. Skim off the soap, taking care not to stir it so as to mix in the lye through it. Put it into square pans or moulds, and set it away to harden thoroughly. The lye that remains at the bottom of the kettle should be saved for washing coarse clothes.

When your soap has become quite hard, take it out of the moulds or pans and lay it on boards to dry thoroughly. The above quantity of ingredients will, if properly managed, produce thirty-five pounds of firm, close, fine soap.

If your lard or suet is not of the very best quality, take it off after it is all melted, strain it, and return it to the kettle, before you begin to put in the lye.

To perfume it, take a portion and melt it over again, first cutting it into small pieces. Then, while liquid, beat it in a mortar with tincture of musk, oil of bergamot, oil of almonds, palm oil, or any other essential oil that has a fine scent, and is not so pungent as to irritate the skin. Then, when it is

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thoroughly imbued with the perfume, put it into small square tin moulds, and set it in a cold place to harden.

STARCH OF HOME MANUFACTURE.—Take a peck of unground wheat of the best quality; pick and wash it carefully. Next put it into a tub; pour on sufficient clear soft water to cover it, and then set it in the sun. Be sure to change the water every day: keeping it in the sun as much as possible, or in an equally warm place in the house, should the weather prove unfavourable. When all the grains of wheat have become quite soft, rub it well in your hands, and separate it from the husks, which must be thrown into another tub. Let the soft wheat settle into a mass; and then pour off the water, and put on fresh. Stir it well, and let it settle again. Repeat this every day, till the last water comes off clear and colourless. Then pour the water finally off. Take the starch out of the tub, collect it into a thin bag, and hang it for a few days in the sun; after which, spread it on dishes to dry.

TO PREPARE COMMON STARCH.—Put a sufficient quantity of dry starch (for instance from two to three tablespoonfuls) into a bowl, and mix it gradually with just enough of clear cold water to make it a thin paste, pressing out all the lumps with the back of the spoon till you get it perfectly smooth. Then pour it into a clean pipkin or skillet. Have ready a kettle of boiling water, and by degrees add some of it to the starch, stirring it well. You may allow from a pint to a quart of the hot water, according as you wish to have the starch thick, thin, or moderate. Set it on hot coals, and boil it well for half an hour. If not well boiled, it will not be glutinous. When it has boiled about fifteen minutes, stir it a few times (merely for a moment each) with the end of a sper-

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maceti candle. This will prevent its being sticky; but take care not to stir it too much. If you have no spermaceti, sprinkle in a little salt, (about a tea-spoonful to a pint of starch,) which will answer a similar purpose, or throw in a lump of loaf sugar. Finish by stirring it hard with a spoon.

Strain the starch through a white cloth into a large pan, and squeeze into it a very little blue from the indigo bag; but it must be but a very little.

For common coloured dresses you may make the starch with fine flour mixed as above.

GUM ARABIC STARCH.—Get two ounces of fine white gum arabic, and pound it to powder. Next put it into a pitcher, and pour on it a pint or more of boiling water, (according to the degree of strength you desire,) and then, having covered it, let it set all night. In the morning, pour it carefully from the dregs into a clean bottle, cork it, and keep it for use.

A table-spoonful of gum water stirred into a pint of starch that has been made in the usual manner, will give to lawns (either white or painted) a look of newness to which nothing else can restore them after washing.

It is also good (much diluted) for thin white muslin and bobbinet.

COFFEE STARCH.—This is excellent for mourning chintzes, or for any thing that is very dark; the common starch giving a whitish, ashy, or dusty appearance to these articles. Make, in the usual manner, a tea-cupful of strong coffee; mix it with an equal quantity of cold water, and then boil it. In the mean time, mix two table-spoonfuls of the finest dry starch with enough of cold water to make it a

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smooth paste. There must both together be a pint, when the starch paste is added to the diluted coffee. When the coffee is boiling hard, put in the starch gradually, and stir it well. After it is all in, let it boil well for ten or fifteen minutes, and give it a stir with a spermaceti candle. Put it into an earthen pan, and when cool run the dress through it, squeezing it well.

GLUE STIFFENING.—This is used for dark chintzes or calicoes. Take a piece of glue about the size of the palm of your hand; break it up, and put it into a vessel, with from three quarts to a gallon of soft water. Set it on the fire, and let it boil till the glue is entirely dissolved. Then take it off, pour it into a large pan, and when it is of a lukewarm heat (not cooler) it is fit for use. Put the dress into it, and work it about till it has thoroughly taken the glue water. Then squeeze it well, open it out, and dry it as fast as possible. Afterwards, sprinkle, roll it up, and iron it.

WASHING WHITE CLOTHES.—The white clothes are always to be washed first. They will wash the easier if put to soak the preceding night in large tubs with a mixture of lye and milk-warm water; allowing a pint of lye to three buckets of water. Stockings particularly should always be put in soak. Early in the morning, heat a sufficiency of water for what is called firsting and seconding the clothes. When put into the tubs, dilute with enough of cold water to make it just warm enough to bear your hand in—if too hot it will rather set the dirt into the clothes than take it out. For linen, muslin, &c., do not make a lather with the soap before you put in the clothes, but rub the soap on the article as you proceed; taking the most pains with the dirtiest places. Have ready beside you a second tub with warm water, and throw

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into it the things, one by one, as you wash them out of the first. Or when two women are washing together, let one take the first water, and the other the second.

There should be on the fire a large brass or copper kettle filled with water for boiling the clothes, and they will look whiter and better if you mix with the water in the kettle a tea-cup full of strong clear lye. After washing them well through the first and second warm waters, put the bed-linen, table-linen, and white towels into the kettle, and take them out as soon as they come to a hard boil; or boil them slowly half an hour—a longer boiling will injure them. Stir them frequently with the long round hickory stick kept for the purpose. The shirts, chemises, night-gowns, handkerchiefs and other muslins must not be boiled, but scalded by putting them into a clean tub and pouring hot water upon them; for instance, from a larger kettle with a spout. No coloured clothes should ever be boiled or scalded, as it will destroy the colour; neither should white things with coloured borders.

In boiling clothes, see that there is all the time plenty of water in the kettle. If the water gets too low, the clothes will scorch or burn.

When the things have boiled properly, take them out, put them into a tub of cold water, and wash them through it without soap—and then throw them into another tub of cold water and rinse them well. Lastly, rinse them in a tub of cold water tinged with a little blue by squeezing into it the indigo bag. The things that have been scalded must also be put through three cold waters, the last one slightly blued.

In taking them out of every water the clothes should be wrung hard. After rinsing in the blue water, hang them on the lines to dry in the sun, securing them with the clothes pegs.

Let them all be brought in at the close of the afternoon, if

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not before; as after sunset they will dry no more. If still not dry, spread them out on the wooden clothes-horses, or hang them on lines in a garret, back kitchen, or in any convenient room, if you have not a laundry.

WASHING WITH SODA.—This method can only be pursued with white clothes, (that is, linen and cotton:) it is injurious to woollen, and to coloured articles of every description. If done with great care, it answers very well for bed-linen, table-linen, &c., making them white and clean without the labour of rubbing, except in a few places that may be particularly soiled. The things to be washed must all be laid in soak the night before, in cold soft water. Early in the morning, put into the wash-kettle, a mixture in the proportion of six gallons of soft water, a pound of hard soap cut into small pieces, (or a pint and a half of soft soap,) and two ounces of *sub-carbonate of soda*, which can be obtained at the druggist's for a trifle. Hang the kettle over the fire, and make it boil. In the mean time, lift the clothes out of the soaking tubs with the clothes-stick, and rub a little soap on those parts that are unusually dirty. When the mixture in the kettle is at boiling heat, put in the clothes, and boil them *one hour*: (not more.) Then take them out with the clothes-stick and drain them, by laying them across an old clothes-basket turned bottom upwards in a large tub. See that they are thoroughly drained; then rinse and wring them through a tub of warm water; and, lastly, through a tub of cold water tinged with blue from the indigo bag. Wring them well, and hang them out to dry.

Care must be taken not to have more than the proper proportion of soda, (two ounces to five gallons of water,) and that it is the precise article required—sub-carbonate of soda. In

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sending for it to the druggist's, it is well always to write its exact name on a slip of paper. Also, the clothes must not boil too long, and they must be thoroughly drained and rinsed. Some washerwomen and servants are in the habit of putting in more than the allotted quantity of soda, thinking to increase the whiteness of the clothes in a shorter time: but too much soda has the effect of making them what is called tender, and causing them very soon to slit and drop to pieces. This practice (together with the long boiling) has excited much prejudice against the use of soda in washing; and it is an abuse that it is difficult to guard against, when the washing is not done under your own immediate inspection. Nevertheless, if you are careful not to put in more than the due proportion, the soda will be found to lighten the labour of the washers.

Such, however, is the care and exactness required in washing with soda, and so injurious its effects when used improperly, that we think it should only be intrusted to persons who are themselves particularly interested in the preservation of the clothes. If you have not perfect confidence in your washerwomen or servants, it is safest to have your white clothes made clean in the usual manner, by washing through two warm lathers, and boiling them afterwards but a very short time.

TO WHITEN CLOTHES.—After they are well washed, spread them in the sun on the grass for two or three days: bringing them in after the sun declines, lest they should be mildewed by the evening damp.

Small muslins should always be laid on the grass to whiten after washing, except in winter; and then they should be pinned to towels, and hung on a line exposed to the sun.

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TO BLEACH A FADED DRESS.—If you find that a coloured muslin or chintz with a white ground has faded very much in washing, you may discharge the colour entirely, and wear it as a white dress, provided it has not been sewed with coloured silk. For this purpose, having first well washed it in hot suds, boil it till the colour seems to be gone; then wash it out of the boil, rinse it, and dry it in the sun. Then, if not quite white, lay it on the grass where the sun is very hot, and bleach it for several days. If still not quite white, repeat the boiling.

SPRINKLING AND FOLDING.—When your clothes are quite dry, and you have brought them to the house in the baskets, spread them one at a time on a large clean table or ironing-board, and sprinkle them well by dipping your hand in a pan of clean cold water. Then pull and stretch them, and fold or roll them tightly. Put the small muslins all together, and roll round them a large clean towel.

In folding shirts, turn inwards the collars, bosoms, and wristbands; rolling up the shirt tightly, with the back outside.

Dresses must be folded with the bodies and sleeves inside. The collars of loose gowns should be turned inwards; also the ruffles or trimming of pantalets.

IRONING.—If you have not a laundry-room separate from the kitchen, it is best on ironing days to arrange the dinner so as to have nothing to roast before the fire; as unless the fireplace is extremely large, ironing and roasting cannot go on together, on the same hearth, without inconvenience.

For ironing, have a clean well-swept hearth, and a large, clear, broad fire, with plenty of bright hot coals, as they heat

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the irons much better than a blaze. Chunks of wood will blacken and smoke the irons.

Your ironing table should be large, and used only for that purpose, or for sprinkling and folding clothes. At least no greasy work should be done on it; but if that is unavoidable, it should be well scoured afterwards. It should have a commodious drawer or drawers for the blanket and the sheet, the wipers, holders, iron-stands, bees-wax, &c. It is well to have always at hand a piece of bees-wax or the end of a spermaceti candle. This if rubbed on the iron the moment it is taken from the fire, and wiped off instantly, will add greatly to its smoothness. If you find that the iron scorches or burns the wiper, it will also scorch the clothes: therefore stand it aside on a cool part of the hearth, or set it out of doors on the brick pavement, and try another iron while it is cooling. The thinner the article that is to be ironed, the less heat it will require.

For every person occupied in ironing, there should be an allowance of three irons at least. If one person is ironing alone, there should be four irons. It is a loss of time to wait idly for want of an iron that may be hot enough or cool enough; which must always be the case if the number in use is too scanty.

There should be a large clothes-horse at hand, on which to hang the things as they come from the ironing table, that all dampness may be thoroughly dried out of them, before they are put away. For laces, muslins, and other very slight things that dry completely in the process of ironing, you should have a broad basket and lay them lightly in it, as you finish them. In summer, sheets and table-cloths may after ironing be hung out on the clothes-line in the hot sun; turning them often.

Before using an iron for lace or thin muslin, smooth over with it one or two kitchen towels, or some other small thick

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article. Be careful in ironing lace, ribbons, or any long narrow strips, not to stretch them crooked, but do them slowly, straight, and evenly; and with the point of the iron press out every scollop separately. Always iron lace and needle-work on the wrong side. In ironing collars, do them first lengthways, and then crossways—and take care not to stretch one half of the collar larger than the other. Pleated frills never look so well as when the pleats are laid down with the fingers; and skill in pleating is only to be acquired by practice. Care should be taken to make all the pleats exactly of the same size and perfectly straight. Crooked, uneven, or slanting pleats look very badly. A ruffle with a very narrow hem pleats much more easily than one with a broad hem. On a small frill, crimping the edge with a straight knife may be substituted for pleating.

In ironing a night-cap, do the crown first, and then the border; lastly, the strings and bands.

Ribbons and silks should be smoothed with an iron just warm enough to press out the creases. A hot iron will change the colour. Green ribbons *always* change in ironing: blues and pinks become darker. Silks should be sprinkled, folded, and rolled up tightly an hour or more before they are ironed. They should always be done on the wrong side where practicable.

Sheets and table-cloths should be ironed double, with a large iron pressed on them hard and heavily.

All coloured things must be done with an iron rather cooler than for white clothes, as too great heat will injure the colours. Iron them always on the wrong side, wherever the manner in which they are made will allow it.

When about to iron a frock or gown, if you have not ample space on the table, set a chair in a convenient place to receive

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the sleeves or any part that may hang down, so as not to let them touch the floor. Begin at the body: next do the sleeves: and then the skirt, commencing at the top or upper part. A skirt-board is an excellent thing. It should be made wide at the bottom, narrowing gradually towards the top. It can be obtained from the stores where wooden ware is sold; or a carpenter can be directed to make one. Cover it first with blanketing and then with sheeting, both sewed tightly and smoothly over it. This board is to slip into the skirt of the dress, which may thus be ironed without a crease. Puffings or gatherings in the sleeves should be folded or creased in half, along the middle, and ironed out like a flounce or ruffle.

In ironing petticoats, double them from the two sides, and not behind and before; as that will make a fold down the front which will stand out awkwardly when on.

When you iron a shirt, begin at the bosom; then do the collar, then the sleeves, and lastly the back. A small board, on a similar plan to that recommended for the skirts of dresses, will be found very useful to slip under the bosoms of shirts when ironing them.

Whenever you begin a thing, iron it as fast as you can, (providing always that you do it carefully,) and avoid quitting the table while the article you are doing is unfinished; for if you leave it, there is danger of its becoming so dry that it will be impossible afterwards to iron it smoothly.

You may heat a few irons in the oven of a close stove; on a footman or iron shelf hooked on in front of a coal-grate; or by setting them on the bars of a charcoal furnace.

FLUTING WITH A PATENT ITALIAN IRON.—This looks very well for any frilling or ruffling that is not of worked muslin or lace, and it keeps in place much longer than

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pleating, resisting even damp weather. It cannot, however be done well if the frill is more than half a finger deep. A patent iron costs but a trifle, and will be found very useful for fluting the ruffles of gingham, chintz, or painted muslin dresses and pelerines. These irons are fixed to a stand, and have smooth tubes diminishing towards one end which is close, and open at the other to admit the heater. There are always two heaters; they have long handles and somewhat resemble a poker. While you are using one, the other is heated by putting the thick end into the fire till it becomes nearly red-hot. It is then slipped into the hollow tube, over which you stretch the frill, a little at a time, holding it tightly with both hands between the thumb and finger, and as you go along pinching it down at the sides close against the iron, taking care to keep it quite straight. The gathered part of the frill must go upon the point of the iron.

When ruffles are to be fluted, they must first be starched and dried, and then sprinkled very damp.

Take care to have one of the heaters always in the fire, so that it may be hot by the time the other has become too cool for use. If too hot, the tube will scorch the frill, and burn your fingers.

TO IRON VELVET.—Having ripped the velvet apart, take each piece separately, and holding it tightly in both hands, stretch it round a warm stove-pipe, the wrong-side of the velvet against the iron. This will remove the creases, and give the surface of the material a fresh and new appearance. Velvet cannot be ironed on a table, as when spread out on a hard substance the iron will not go smoothly over the pile or shag.

Another way, is to heat a smoothing iron, and then to cover

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it with a wet cloth and hold it *under* the velvet—passing it to and fro beneath. For this process, the velvet must be stretched over a vacant space between two tables, and well secured to each, by weights or something that will keep it fast. The vapour arising from the heated iron and the wet cloth, will raise the pile of the velvet, while, at the same time, another person brushes it up with a whisk.

Velvet has greatly the advantage of all other silk fabrics in the facility with which it can be joined, or sewed together without leaving any external appearance of the seam.

TO IRON SILK.—Silk cannot be ironed smoothly so as to press out all the creases, without first sprinkling it with water and rolling it up tightly in a towel—letting it rest for an hour or two. If the iron is the least too hot it will injure the colour, and it should first be tried on an old piece of the same silk.

Bright coloured silks or ribbons, such as pinks, blues, yellows, greens, &c., always change colour on the application of an iron. Blacks, browns, olives, grays, &c. generally look very well after ironing.

Silks should always be ironed on the wrong side.

TO SHRINK NEW FLANNEL.—New flannel should always be shrunk or washed before it is made up, that it may be cut out more accurately, and that the grease which is used in manufacturing it may be extracted. First, cut off the list along the selvage edges of the whole piece. Then put it into warm (but not boiling) water, without soap. Begin at one end of the piece, and rub it with both hands till you come to the other end. This is to get out the grease, and the blue with which new white flannel is always tinged. Then do the same

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through another water. Rinse it through a clean lukewarm water; wring it lengthways, and stretch it well. In hanging it out on a line do not suspend it in festoons, but spread it along the line straight and lengthways. If dried in festoons, the edges will be in great scollops, making it very difficult to cut out. It must be dried in the sun. When dry, let it be stretched even, clapped with the hands, and rolled up tight and smoothly, till wanted.

ANOTHER WAY.—If the flannel is intended for petticoats, cut it at once into the requisite number of breadths, as it can then be shrunk with much more convenience than when in one long piece. For other flannel articles of dress, it is well, before shrinking, to divide it into as many straight pieces as the thing to be made will allow.

Lay the flannel all night in a tub of cold soft water. In the morning, pour off the whole of the water, and drain but do not wring the flannel. Make a light suds of water quite warm, (but not hot,) and of white soap or whitish Castile. Wash the flannel thoroughly through this suds, and wring it out as dry as possible. Then having shaken it, stretched it, and folded it smoothly down on a clean table to make it straight and even, hang it out immediately. When about half dry, go to it, stretch, shake, and turn it. Take it in while it is still damp, fold it smooth, cover it with a clean towel, and after it has lain half an hour, iron it with a rather cool iron.

We consider this the best way of shrinking new flannel.

TO WASH FLANNEL.—Flannel should always be washed with white soap: otherwise, it will neither look well nor feel soft. The water must be warm but not boiling, as it shrinks flannel to scald it. Wash it in clean water, and

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entirely by itself. Rub the soap to a strong lather in the water, before the flannel is put in; for if the soap is rubbed on the flannel itself, it will become hard and stiff. Wash it in this manner through two warm waters, with a strong lather in each. Rinse it in another warm water, with just sufficient soap in it to give the water a slight whitish appearance. To this rinsing water you must add a little blue from the indigo bag. Cold rinsing water is found to harden the flannel. When you have rinsed it thoroughly, wring it hard, shake it well, and spread it out on the clothes-line. While drying, shake, stretch, and turn it several times. It should dry slowly.

Flannel *always* washed precisely in this manner, will look white and feel soft as long as it lasts, retaining a new appearance and scarcely shrinking at all. But if *once* badly washed with scalding water, rubbed with brown soap, and rinsed in cold water, it will never again look well.

If you are willing to take the trouble, flannel washed according to the above receipt, will look beautifully if put into a dry clean sheet or towel while it is wrung, and afterwards (while drying) held between two persons and shook all the time. This may be worth while for very fine new flannel, or such as is worn by infants. It is often practised in the south, where servants are numerous.

WOOLLEN STOCKINGS.—These are to be done as fast as possible, and washed precisely in the same manner as flannel. It is best to dry them on the boards made for the purpose in the shape of legs and feet, over which the stockings are to be stretched to keep them from shrinking. The boards are to be hung up by a string to the clothes line. If you have no boards, stretch and pull the stockings when half dry.

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BLACK WORSTED STOCKINGS.—These should always be washed before they are worn. Lay them all night to soak in cold water. Wash them next day by themselves, through two waters, warm, but not hot, the soap being previously rubbed into the water so as to form a lather before the stockings are put in; and mixing with the first water a tablespoonful of gall. Then rinse them, first in lukewarm water, and then in several different cold waters, till the dye ceases to come out, and the last water is colourless. Stretch them, and hang them out immediately in the air, to dry as fast as possible. Then iron them on the wrong side.

Any dark-coloured worsted stockings may be washed in this manner. When you hang them out, it is well always to stretch them on drying boards.

WOOLLEN YARN.—After the yarn is spun, whether white, gray, or coloured, it should be well washed to get out all the grease that may remain in the wool. It must be done in soft water, made warm but not hot; allowing to each bucket of water, a large tea-cupful of lye. Use no soap; but wash the yarn through two warm waters with lye in each. Next rinse it through several cold waters, till the last comes off quite clean; and then spread it out to dry, as open as possible.

All woollen yarn should be washed both before and after dyeing: the first washing to remove the grease; the second to prevent the colour from rubbing off.

TO WASH BLANKETS.—The best time for washing blankets is in the summer, when the days are at the longest. It is well to commence them early in the morning, that they may be dry by evening, and they should be done in clear bright weather. Washing blankets is very laborious work for

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women, and in the country they are sometimes done by servant men. In this case, the first suds may be put into a clean barrel, and when the blanket is quite steeped, the man may beat it with a large wooden beetle. Or if it is in a tub, he may step in and trample the blanket with his feet. This is a rough way but a good one.

Blankets should always be washed one at a time; first in a strong suds; then in weaker suds; and then a third time through another suds quite weak. Wring them slightly: pull them as straight and even as you can, and then hang them up in the sun to drip. If not quite dry at evening, take them down from the line, fold them, put them into a large basket, and next day (if the weather is clear) hang them out again. If the day is damp or cloudy, dry them in the house. Fold them smoothly, and put them away in a large chest, sprinkling tobacco between the folds, or laying bits of camphor among them.

TO WASH CLOTH CLOTHES.—In economical families it is very customary to have the cloth coats and pantaloons of the gentlemen converted into jackets and trowsers for little boys; previous to which it is proper that they should always be washed.

Brush them well before washing. It is best to rip out the pockets of the pantaloons, and also the linings of the waistbands, lest they should communicate lint to the cloth. Wash them through two warm lathers of brown soap (soft soap is best) with a half tea-cupful of lye in the first suds. Do not wring them; but pull and stretch them well, and roll them up tight, and press out the water against the washing-board, or against the side of the tub. Then lay them (rolled up) on a clean table, and press and squeeze out the remaining suds,

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setting a tub underneath to catch the droppings. Afterwards, rinse them in two light lathers (a little warm) rolling them up and pressing out the water, as before, after each rinsing. Wringing in the usual way will cause them to be shrivelled and streaked. When all the water has been pressed out, stretch and pull them well, and hang them up by the waistband on a clothes-line. When perfectly dry, sprinkle them, roll them very tight in a thick damp towel, and let them lie all night. Iron them on the wrong side till they are *perfectly dry*, otherwise they may still shrivel.

Pantaloons and waistcoats of light cassimere must be washed in suds of white soap without any lye; and in rinsing them the lathers should be very light, the last one scarcely tinged with soap. Iron them on the right side, and place a thin fine cloth between them and the iron, which must be rather cool than hot.

TO WASH A WOOLLEN TABLE-COVER.—A bright windy day is best for this purpose. Having first taken out all the grease-spots and stains, put the table-cover into a tub with a clean suds of white soap and clear water, warm, but not hot, (in which has been mixed about two table-spoonfuls of ox-gall,) and wash and squeeze it well. Then wash it through a second lather somewhat weaker, of soap, but without any gall in it. Afterwards rinse it through a light lukewarm suds, just tinged with soap. Instead of wringing, (which will shrivel it,) press out as much of the water as you can with your hands; then fold it up in a tight long fold, and roll and press it hard with both hands on a clean ironing table, having set a tub to catch the water that drips from it during the process. Roll it always from you, towards the end of the table. When the water ceases to come from it, shake and stretch it well; and

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dry it as soon as possible; but not by the fire. Go to it frequently while drying, and stretch and shake it. While it is yet damp, take it in, spread it on an ironing sheet, and iron it on the wrong side, pressing it hard.

If there is grease on the table-cover, it is best, the day before washing, to cover all the spots with scraped Wilmington clay wet to a stiff paste with a little water, repeating the clay till the grease comes out. Or you may remove them with very clear spirits of turpentine, put on with a sponge. To the stains, if there are any, you may apply hartshorn weakened with a little water.

A WOOLLEN SHAWL.—This may be done precisely according to the above receipt, taking care to pull and stretch the fringe well, while drying. After ironing, the appearance of the shawl will be improved by folding it smoothly, and pressing it for a few days between a bed and the sacking.

In buying a plaid or tartan shawl, avoid choosing one that has any white in it. Even the smallest portion of white (for instance, two or three threads in the figure) will, by immediately showing the dust, give the shawl (though almost new) a dirty, dingy appearance.

TO WASH COLOURED DRESSES.—Have ready plenty of clean soft water. It spoils coloured dresses to wash them in the dirty suds left of white clothes; though this is a very common practice with bad washers. The water must be warm, but by no means hot, lest it injure the colours. Rub soap enough into the water to make a strong lather before you put in the chintz, (adding a table-spoonful of ox-gall,) and then wash it well. For the second water, put it into another soap-suds, colder and weaker, and wash it through that. Then throw

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the dress into pure cold water, and rinse out all the soap. Lastly, put it into a second rinsing water, with a very little blue from the indigo bag in it, and a tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol or a handful of salt to set the colours. Wring it well.

Have ready a large earthen pan filled with weak starch tinged with a little blue. Painted lawns or muslins will be much improved by mixing a little gum arabic water with the starch: for instance, a table-spoonful. Put the dress into it, and run it through the starch. Then squeeze it out, open it well, clap it, and hang it immediately out to dry in the shade; taking the sleeves by the cuffs and pinning them up to the skirt, so as to spread them wide and cause them to dry the sooner.

If coloured clothes continue wet too long, no precaution can prevent the colours from running into streaks. This will certainly happen if they are allowed to lie in the water. They must always be done as fast as possible, till the whole process is completed. If the colours are once injured, nothing can restore them; but by good management they may always be preserved, unless in coarse low priced calicoes; and many of *them* wash perfectly well.

As soon as the dress is *quite dry*, take it in; but, unless it is wanted immediately, do not sprinkle it, lest in lying damp the colours should be impaired. It should not be sprinkled over night, if not to be ironed till next day. When perfectly dry, roll it up in a large clean towel, and put it away by itself till two or three hours before you iron it.

Chintzes, &c., should always be washed in fine weather: but if it is intensely cold, it is better to dry them at the fire than to risk the spoiling of the colours from their freezing in the open air. But it is still better to defer their washing till the weather is sufficiently moderate to allow them to be hung out of doors.

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Take care not to use too much oil of vitriol, lest it corrode the dress and cause it to drop in holes. If you can procure pyroligneous acid or vinegar of wood, a large spoonful of that may be used to set the colours without any risk of injury.

In laying by muslin or chintz dresses till next season, let them be washed and dried, but neither starched nor ironed: but roll up each dress closely in a linen towel. If put away dirty or with any starch in them, they will tear or crack when you do them up again.

Bran water is excellent for washing light calico dresses. Boil a sufficiency of wheat bran in a large kettle; strain off the water, and use it for the dress, cooling it to a lukewarm heat with a little cold water. It will require no soap, and will prevent the colours from running. Wash the dress through two bran waters. Then rinse it in cold water.

Another way of setting the colours of a dress, is to grate eight raw potatoes and mix them with a gallon of cold water. Put a portion of the potato mixture into each of the waters through which you wash the dress.

Another way, (for a light coloured dress,) is to tie up in two muslin bags a half-pint of rice, and boil it in two quarts of water till perfectly soft. Mix the rice water with that which you use for the dress. Take no soap, but rub on the rice in the bags, using one for the first, and one for the second water.

MOURNING CHINTZ, OR VERY DARK CALICO.—Put into a tub some clear soft water, (warm, but not hot,) and mix with it a table-spoonful of ox-gall to set the colour. Then rub in sufficient soap to make a strong lather. Put in the dress, and having washed it well, wring it out, and prepare a second tub of clean water, (not so warm as the first,) with another table-spoonful of ox-gall stirred into it, and a weaker

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lather of soap. Wash the dress through this; rinse it well through two cold waters, (putting into the last a handful of salt,) and wring it out immediately. No coloured dress must on any account be left lying in the water, as it will certainly cause the colours to run into streaks.

Having wrung the dress out of the rinsing water, starch it immediately, and then dry it in the shade. By making the starch with coffee instead of water, you will prevent the whitish look which is often so disfiguring to dark or mourning chintzes, after they are washed. You may use for this purpose coffee that has been left at breakfast. Strain the coffee, and mix the starch with it in the usual manner, pressing out all the lumps with the back of the spoon, and making it very smooth. Allow about a table-spoonful of raw starch to a pint of liquid coffee. Boil it well, and to prevent stickiness, stir it while boiling with the end of a spermaceti candle; or, what is still better, boil with it a lump of spermaceti (about the size of a small chesnut) broken off from the bottom of a candle.

When the starch has boiled, put it to cool in a large deep earthen pan, and pass the dress through it; seeing that every part imbibes the starch thoroughly. Then squeeze out the dress, open it well, clap it, and hang it to dry in the shade. When dry, roll it up tightly; but do not sprinkle it, unless you are going to iron it in two or three hours, as allowing it to remain damp too long may cause the colours to spread.

It is well not to wash a coloured dress except on a fine day, when it can be hung out and dried at once. But if it is absolutely necessary to wash one in extremely cold weather, it is better to dry it by the fire than to hang it out of doors, as freezing will *certainly* fade the colours.

Coloured things should *on no consideration* be boiled, scalded,

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or put into *hot* water: neither, as we have said, should they be allowed to remain long in any water.

A tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol, or a table-spoonful of pyroligneous acid, (vinegar of wood,) or a handful of salt mixed in the last rinsing water, will assist greatly in setting the colour.

Another way (and a very good one) of stiffening a dark chintz, is to use glue instead of starch; allowing a piece of glue about as large as the palm of your hand, to three quarts or a gallon of soft water, according to the degree of stiffness you desire. Having boiled the glue in the water, till it is entirely dissolved, let it become lukewarm, and then pass the dress through it, squeezing it well. Then dry it as fast as possible; and when dry, roll it up tightly, but do not sprinkle it, unless you intend to iron it in two or three hours.

In ironing a chintz dress, do the skirt on the wrong side, and as much of the sleeves as you can conveniently. The body and some parts of the sleeves cannot be ironed otherwise than on the *right* side; but, to prevent their looking glazy, spread a thin white handkerchief smoothly and evenly between them and the iron, changing its place as you proceed.

A MERINO DRESS OR A MOUSSELINE DE LAINE.—Take the dress entirely apart, if there are any pleats in it; as nothing that is made with pleats can either be washed or ironed to look well. Lest any of them should be lost, tack all the small pieces together with a needle and thread. Shake and brush the dress to remove whatever dust may have lodged within the pleats or gathers. Make a strong lather with white soap and soft water, (warm, but not hot,) and stir into it a large table-spoonful of ox-gall. Wash the merino well through this, and then wring it out. Have ready a second and much lighter

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suds, made with very little soap, and water not more than lukewarm; adding a handful of salt, or a small tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol. If the colour of the dress is light, or bright, or very delicate, the vitriol will be the best. Salt will answer well enough for a dark or plain coloured merino. Having washed the dress well through the second suds, wring it very dry, shake it out, and pull and stretch it straight and even. It must not be rinsed. Hang it out immediately to dry, pinning all the pieces carefully to the line. Before it is quite dry, (when you find it what is called *ironing-damp*,) take it in, fold it smoothly without sprinkling, and let it rest for about a quarter of an hour wrapped in a clean towel. Then have your irons ready, and iron it on the wrong side, or the side that is to be the wrong one when the dress is put together again.

Wash a chaly in the same manner; and a bombazine also, except that for a black bombazine it is best to put a tea-cupful of lye in the first suds rather than to use ox-gall.

Dresses that have any wool or worsted should not be undertaken, unless they can be washed and ironed at once; as remaining damp will shrink and shrivel them.

Unless the wadding of a merino cloak or pelisse has been basted between *two* linings, it will be found scarcely possible (even with washing) to remove the downy particles of cotton, that will adhere to the inside when the merino is taken apart to be turned. Therefore, we recommend always a double lining; the inner one of something very thin and slight.

A PAINTED MUSLIN DRESS.—Make a lather of white soap and lukewarm water, and wash the dress carefully through it. Then rinse it through two cold waters. You may put into

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the last a small tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol to set the colours, or a table-spoonful of pyroligneous acid; (vinegar of wood.)

Spread the dress well out, and hang it immediately to dry, but not in the sun.

For the stiffening, pick and wash a pint and a half of rice, and boil it an hour in a gallon of clear soft water. Then strain the rice-water into a clean bucket or a deep earthen pan. Pass the dress well through the rice-water, and then squeeze it as dry as you can. Do not clap it, but open and stretch it out in every part as well as possible.

Fix up two lines, at a convenient distance from each other, (they may be of stout twine or new tape,) and pin the dress across both lines, so that it may hang spread open between them. While drying, go to it frequently, pull it both ways, and stretch it even all over.

Having pulled and stretched it thoroughly, sprinkle it slightly, and roll it up in a clean towel. Do not let it remain longer than an hour without ironing.

If there is any thing about it that is to puff out, double the full part along the middle, and iron it as you would a gathered ruffle.

A BOOK MUSLIN DRESS.—A dress of book muslin, if always well done up, will not require frequent washing. In buying a new one, avoid getting such muslin as has a blueish cast. It is very unbecoming to every complexion; and never looks well till after it has been washed. When a *good* white, it is best to wear it a few times before it is washed. They require much care in doing up.

Make a strong suds with white soap and warm water. Put in the dress, and wash it well; squeezing and pressing rather than rubbing it; as book muslin tears easily, and, without great

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care, will not last long. Wash it through a second suds, and then pass it through two rinsing waters; adding *a very little* blue to the last. Then open out the dress; and, while wet, run it through a thin starch, diluted with water either warm or cold. Stretch it, and hang it in the sun to dry. Afterwards, sprinkle it and roll it up in a clean fine towel; letting it lie for half an hour or more. Then open it out, stretch it even, and clap it in your hands till clear all over. Have irons ready, and iron it before it is too dry, on the wrong side, whenever practicable. Take care that the irons are not too hot, as it will scorch easily. When done, do not fold the dress, but hang it up in a commode or wardrobe.

In ironing, be very careful to get the hem even. Many persons, previous to having them washed, rip out the hems of their thin muslin dresses, afterwards running them over again. This is a good plan, if you are willing to take the trouble; which, however, is not much.

GOLD OR SILVER MUSLIN.—These muslins should not be worn till they are much soiled, as they must be washed very delicately, first taking them apart. Make a strong lather of filtered or very clear soft water, and fine white soap in which there must be no perfume. The water should be warm, but not hot. Then with your hands turn the muslin about in it till it is thoroughly saturated with the suds. Squeeze it well, but do not wring it. Repeat this through two other lathers, each a little weaker and cooler. Then rinse it lightly through two waters; squeeze it, shake it out, open it well, and hang it in the sun to dry as fast as possible. When you iron it, have a linen cloth over the blanket; take a rather cool iron, and go over it carefully on the wrong side; yet unless the sprigs of gold are very small, it is best not to iron it at all, but to stretch

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it well in every part. You may brighten each sprig by rubbing every one separately with a bit of white or crimson velvet of the best quality. Unless the velvet is very good, and dyed in grain, the colour may come off and leave a stain around each sprig. The trouble of burnishing the gold in this manner, will be repaid by its increased brightness.

A dress of gold or silver muslin should be kept carefully folded and pinned up in a linen cloth.

As in the stores you can buy only what is called a dress pattern, consisting of a limited number of yards, it is well when you purchase one of these muslins, to send at once a sample to India, with an order for a sufficient quantity for a new body and sleeves when the make of the first is no longer fashionable.

Another way of brightening the flowers of gold or silver muslin, is to rub every sprig with a bit of fine white flannel slightly wet with warm spirits of wine, replacing the bit of flannel very frequently by a clean one.

TO CLEAN GOLD LACE.—Burn some roche alum; then powder it very fine and sift it. Dip a clean soft brush into the powdered alum, and rub the gold lace with it. Afterwards wipe it with a clean soft flannel. Gold embroidery may be brightened in the same manner.

TO WASH BLACK SILK.—To a sufficient quantity of ox-gall add enough of boiling water to make it warm. Spread out the silk on a large kitchen table, and dipping a clean sponge in the gall, go over the whole of the article with it, on both sides. Then squeeze it well out, and repeat the application of the sponge, having added more boiling water to the gall so as to heat it again. Rinse the silk in clear cold water, and repeat

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the rinsing (changing the water each time) till the last water appears perfectly clean. Then stretch it, and dry it quickly in the air, and afterwards pin it out on a table.

To give it the consistence of new silk, dissolve in boiling water a little glue or gum arabic; mix it with sufficient cold water, and sponge the dress all over with it. This must be done on the wrong side. Then dry it, sprinkle it slightly, and roll it up tightly in a towel: let it lie a few hours, and then iron it, taking care that the iron is not too hot, as silk scorches very easily.

You may perfume the last application of ox-gall by mixing with it a little musk.

Unless the silk is of very good quality, it will not be worth while to take the trouble of washing it.

Previous to washing a black silk dress, rip the skirt from the body, and the sleeves from the arm holes.

A bombazine dress may be washed in the same manner, but after washing, it must not be stiffened.

BISHOP'S LAWN.—Put it into a lather of hot soap-suds, (white Castile soap is best,) and wash it through that and a second water of the same. Then boil it a quarter of an hour. When you take it out of the boil, rinse it in warm water, and then throw it into cold water and rinse it. Afterwards put it into another rinsing water, very slightly tinged with blue. Have ready some thin starch, in which mix a little gum arabic water, in the proportion of a table-spoonful of gum water to a pint of starch. The gum arabic used for this purpose should be of the whitest and finest kind, and pulverized before putting it into the water, which should be warm. It must be prepared the day before; or, rather, it is well to keep a bottle of gum arabic water always in the house, as it is useful for many purposes.

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Put the starch into a large earthen pan, and pass the lawn through it, squeezing it well. Then stretch, clap, dry, and iron it. It will have the appearance of new lawn.

Fine lawn or cambric handkerchiefs should be washed in this manner, making the starch very weak.

FINE BROWN LINEN.—Brown French linen of very fine quality, is frequently used for ladies' travelling dresses in the summer, and for gentlemen's round jackets. To prevent it from fading, it should be washed with hay, as should also brown holland aprons and petticoats. Two large handfuls of hay will suffice for one dress. Wash the dress first in cold water, without any soap; having first boiled the hay in sufficient water to cover it well. When the hay has boiled hard for half an hour, strain off the water, and dilute it with cold water, till it becomes nearly the colour of *new* brown linen. Then wash the dress in it, still without soap, having saved some of the hay-water for rinsing. Rinse it through two hay-waters, and in the last put a table-spoonful of pyroligneous acid, or vinegar of wood, (to be obtained at the druggist's,) or a small tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol. Hang the dress out immediately to dry in the shade; and when dry, do not sprinkle it, unless you intend to iron it the same day.

Provided that the ground is tea-coloured, olive, drab, or pale brown, any chintz or painted muslin may be washed to great advantage with hay. If there is white in the figure, the hay-water should be more diluted, and the rinsing-water should have none of the hay.

Hay-water is much employed by the French laundresses.

The fine brown grass-cloth used for travelling dresses and bonnets, should be washed with hay; and squeezed rather than rubbed.

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WASHING A GINGHAM BONNET.—A drawn or sherred gingham bonnet may be washed without opening the casings or taking out the cane or whalebone; but it is best to rip off the frilling, bows, and strings, and wash and iron them in the usual way. The bonnet, divested of its trimming, should then be placed on a wooden bonnet-block, (if you have one,) otherwise stretch the crown on the bottom of an inverted stone jar. Then make a lather of white soap and lukewarm water, (adding a tea-spoonful of gall to set the colours,) and with a clean brush (a new tooth-brush will do) go carefully over the whole of the bonnet, washing well in between the cases. Repeat this with a second clean suds, but without gall, and then rinse it off with clear cold water put on with a clean sponge or a soft white rag. The bonnet must then be immediately set out in the air, and dried upon the block or jar; going to it occasionally and stretching and pulling the brim to make it dry, straight, and even. Then having washed, starched, and ironed the trimmings, put them again on the bonnet.

A white cambric muslin bonnet may be washed in the same manner.

NANKEEN.—To prevent nankeen from fading, the colour should be set when it is quite new, in the piece, before it is made up. To do this, put some good oak or hickory ashes into a clean barrel or bucket, and pour on sufficient soft water to make a moderately strong lye. Then draw or strain it off, very clear, into a tub. Lay the piece of nankeen in the tub of lye, and let it remain all night. Next day wring it out, (without rinsing,) and dry it in the shade. When dry, sprinkle it, roll it up, and iron it. We have seen nankeen thus soaked in lye while quite new, retaining its full colour till the article made of it was worn out.

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In washing nankeen, after it has been worn, take care not to have the water too hot. Use soft soap for it, in preference to hard. Wash it through two lathers, putting a tea-cupful of lye into the first. Rinse it through two waters with a slight tinge of soap in each. Iron it on the wrong side.

FURNITURE CHINTZ.—The articles of furniture chintz that you intend washing, must be taken apart, and the dust well shaken out of each piece.

Boil some rice (in the proportion of two pounds of rice to two gallons of water) till quite soft. Strain it from the kettle into a tub, and let it stand till about the warmth generally used for coloured cottons. Then put in the chintz and wash it till all the dirt appears to be out, using instead of soap some of the boiled rice tied up in a muslin bag.

In the mean time, have boiling the same quantity of rice and water as before; but when it is done, strain it, and having tied the rice in a bag, put it in a tub of warm clear water. Wash the chintz in this till you are sure of its being perfectly clean, still using the rice as soap. Afterwards, rinse it in the water in which you boiled the last rice, (and which should be saved in a tub for the purpose,) mixing with the water a few spoonfuls of pyroligneous acid. Stretch it even, and hang it on the lines to dry. After it is dry, stretch and fold it, spread it on an ironing-board, but instead of an iron, rub it all over on the right side with a smooth stone.

It is still better to have it mangled in a machine, or calendered. The greater the gloss, the longer it will keep clean.

Chintz bed-spreads should be washed in this manner.

SMALL MUSLINS.—Soap the muslins the night before, and put them to soak in cold water. Next morning wash them

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through two waters tolerably warm, using soap to each, and squeezing and pressing rather than rubbing them. Afterwards squeeze them immediately through a suds, as hot as you can bear your hand in, and let them lie about five minutes in the hot lather. Then rinse them; first through a moderately warm water, and then through a lukewarm water into which you have infused a very little blue from the indigo bag. The tinge must be very slight, as too much blue will give them a very ungenteel look. Squeeze them well out of the last water, and spread them to dry.

Have ready the starch, which should be made in the proportion of two table-spoonfuls of dry starch for about three capes and half a dozen single collars. The starch should be of the very best quality. Mix it in a bowl with sufficient cold water to cover the starch, and with the back of the spoon press out all the lumps so as to make the starch perfectly smooth. Pour the mixture into a pint or a pint and a half of boiling water, in a clean skillet or tin saucepan. Boil it well for half an hour: and when half-boiled, stir it a moment with the end of a new spermaceti candle. Then strain it into a broad pan, and press into it the blue bag, just sufficiently to give it a slight tinge.

When the muslins are dry, throw them into the starch, squeeze them out, dry them a little, and clap them between the palms of your hands (a small portion at a time) till they are quite clear. It is best to clap them near an open window in summer, and in winter by the fire. Then pull them straight and even.

When they are not quite dry, but just damp enough to iron, have the irons ready, and lay a fine flannel (a petticoat for instance) on the ironing blanket. Spread the cape or collar upon it, covering it smoothly with a piece of old thin muslin, so that the iron may not exactly touch the article.

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When you take the iron from the fire, rub it with a piece of bees-wax, and then wipe it quickly; and before you use it for the muslin, smooth over a coarse towel with it.

Then iron the cape or collar carefully on the wrong side, pressing out the scallops one by one.

If the article has no ornamental needle-work, but merely a plain hem or ruffle, iron it on the right side.

Clear-starching should always be done on a bright dry day. If the weather is damp and gloomy, the things will be too limber and of a bad colour.

The thicker the muslin, the less clapping will be necessary.

Collars or capes of bobbinet may be done up in this manner, also gauze or crepe-lisse.

No articles of muslin or lace should (when out of use) be put away with starch in them. For instance, when laid aside during the term of mourning, they should be soaked and washed clean; then well rinsed in plain cold water, stretched even, dried, and rolled up, but not ironed. Afterwards, put them into an old pillow-case or something of the sort, or wrap them closely in a fine towel, keeping them in a safe place till they are wanted again for use. They will then require washing in warm water, and whitening on the grass. After they are well bleached, proceed to do them up as usual.

If put away with starch in them, they will crack and split to pieces, when you go to prepare them again for wearing.

BOBBINET OR COTTON LACE.—Having ripped off the lace, roll it round a black bottle covered with white linen or muslin, sewed on smoothly. Then fill the bottle with water; cork it tightly, and suspend it with a string in a kettle of cold soap-suds, made with Castile soap. Boil it moderately till the lace looks perfectly white, which it will in about

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an hour and a half. Then drain off the suds, and set the bottle in the sun, till the lace dries on it.

When dry, have ready in a basin some very weak gum arabic water, and pass the lace through it, squeezing it well. Then stretch it out evenly, and clap it in your hands to clear it while drying. Lay it on an ironing-sheet, and iron it on the wrong side with rather a cool iron, taking care to press out all the scollops. When you put it away, wind it round a ribbon block, which should be a little wider than the lace.

Bobbinet quilling may be done up in the same manner. Care should be taken to have it no stiffer than when new.

Instead of quilling bobbinet lace, it will save much trouble to sew it on permanently, and flute it over a patent Italian iron. It should be gathered full, allowing thrice the quantity that would be sufficient to go round the collar if sewed on plain.

THREAD LACE.—Having ripped the lace from the article to which it was attached, and carefully picked out the loose bits of thread, roll the lace very smoothly and securely round a clean black bottle, which has been covered with old white linen sewed on tightly. Tack each end of the lace with a needle and thread, to keep it smooth; and in wrapping it round the bottle, take care not to crumple or fold in any of the scollops or pearlings. Pour into a saucer some of the *best* sweet oil, and with a clean bit of sponge wet with it the lace thoroughly, after it is on the bottle. The oil must penetrate to the inmost folds of the lace.

Have ready in a wash-kettle, a strong *cold* lather made of very clear water and white Castile soap. Having filled the bottle with cold water to keep it from bursting, and corked it well, stand it upright in the suds, and tie a string round the neck, and secure it to the ears or handle of the kettle, to pre-

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vent its knocking about and breaking while over the fire. Let it boil in the suds for an hour or more, or till the lace is clean and white all through. Then take it out, drain off the suds, and stand the bottle in the sun, for the lace to dry on it. When it is quite dry, remove the lace from the bottle, and roll it round a wide ribbon-block, if you have one; otherwise lay it in long folds, place it within a sheet of smooth white paper, and press it in a large book for a day or two.

By this simple process, in which there is neither rinsing, starching, nor ironing, the lace will acquire the same consistence, transparency, and tint that it had when new, and the scollops at the edge will come out perfectly even. We can safely recommend this as the best possible method of doing up thread lace, and as the only one which gives it a truly new appearance.

It is well not to put the oil on the lace till the soap-suds is ready in the kettle, so that the bottle may go in immediately; as, if allowed to stand, much of the oil will run down and drip off.

If you wish the lace to look *of a dead white*, and not to have the peculiar appearance of that which has never been washed at all, omit the sweet oil; but wind it on a bottle, boil it in soap-suds, and dry it in the sun without rinsing, just as directed above. When dry, take it off the bottle and roll it on a ribbon-block till you want to use it.

ANOTHER WAY TO WASH LACE.—Get a black bottle: a square one is best; for instance, the kind that is used for sarsaparilla. Sew all over it a piece of thick linen or cotton rag. Then wind the lace smoothly round the bottle, securing the ends, and taking care that no part of the edge is crumpled or turned inward. Next, sew another piece of rag all over the

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outside, so as entirely to cover the lace. Make a strong lather of white soap, and cold clear soft water, (filtered water is best,) and put it into a large stone jar or crock, standing the bottle upright in the suds. Place the crock on a hot stove or over a charcoal furnace, and let it boil an hour or more. Then take out the bottle, throw away the suds, wash the jar, and fill it with clear cold water in which you have mixed a table spoonful of starch. Replace the bottle, and let it again come to a boil. When you take out the bottle, remove the outside covering, and let the lace dry on the under linen, placing it in the sun. When dry, take it off the bottle, and smooth it over with a cool iron, carefully pressing out each scollop of the edge.

Some persons take the trouble to insert a little minikin pin in every loop or pearling along the extreme edge of the lace, fastening it to dry on a pillow. This is to keep the loops open, so that the edge may look as much as possible like new lace that has never been washed.

It is well to keep two bottles ready covered with linen, for the purpose of washing lace; a large bottle for broad lace, and a small one for narrow.

WHITE SILK LACE OR BLOND.—Having sewed on a black bottle a covering of clean linen or thick muslin, wind the blond round it, (securing the ends with a needle and thread,) not leaving the edge outward, but covering it as you proceed. Then set the bottle upright in a strong cold lather of white soap and *very clear* soft water, and set it in the sun, having gently with your hand rubbed the suds up and down on the lace. Keep it in the sun every day for a week, changing it daily into a fresh lather, and always rubbing it slightly, when you renew the suds. At the end of the week, take the blond off the bottle, and (without rinsing) pin it backward and for-

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ward on a large pillow covered with a clean case put on tightly. Every scollop of the blond must have a separate pin; or more, if the scollops are not very small. The plain edge must be pinned down also, so as to make it straight and even. The pins should be of the smallest size. Let the blond dry on the pillow. When quite dry, take it off, but do not starch, iron, or press it. Lay it in long loose folds, and put it away in a pasteboard box.

Thread lace may be washed in the same manner.

In France they have for the purpose of pinning out and drying lace, large pillows or cushions set in wooden frames, and standing on feet. Some American ladies send their blond to Paris purposely to be washed, and when returned it looks as if quite new.

A WHITE LACE VEIL.—Make a strong lather with white soap and very clear or filtered water. Put the veil into it, and let it simmer slowly for a quarter of an hour. Take it out, and squeeze it well, but be sure not to rub it. Rinse it in two cold waters, with a drop or two of liquid blue in the last.

Have ready some very clear and weak gum arabic water, or some thin starch, or some rice water. Pass the veil through it, and clear it by clapping. Then stretch it out even, and pin it to dry on a linen cloth, making the edge as straight as possible, and opening out all the scollops, fastening each with pins. When dry, lay a piece of thin muslin smoothly over it, and iron it on the wrong side.

Every time you put it away, fold it differently, as lace veils have been known to crack in squares from being always folded the same way.

White lace sleeves may be washed in the above manner.

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A BLACK LACE VEIL.—Mix bullock's gall with sufficient hot water to make it as warm as you can bear your hand in. Then pass the veil through it. It must be squeezed, and not rubbed. It will be well to perfume the gall with a little musk. Next rinse the veil through two cold waters, tinging the last with a little blue. Then dry it. Have ready in a pan some stiffening made by pouring boiling water on a very small piece of glue. Put the veil into it, squeeze it out, stretch it, and clap it. Afterwards pin it out to dry on a linen cloth, making it very straight and even, and taking care to open and pin the edge very nicely.

When dry, iron it on the wrong side, having laid a linen cloth over the ironing blanket.

Any article of black lace may be washed in this manner.

TO WASH RIBBONS, SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, &c.—None but ribbons of excellent quality, of one entire colour, and of a plain unfigured surface, will bear washing. A good satin or mantua ribbon may be made to look very well by washing it carefully, first in cold water, to which add a few drops of spirits of wine: then make a lather of white soap and lukewarm water, and wash the ribbon through that; afterwards rinse it in cold water, pull it even, and dry it gradually. When dry, stretch out the ribbon on an ironing-table, (securing it to the cloth by pins,) and sponge it evenly all over with a very weak solution of isinglass, that has been boiled in clear water and strained; or if you have no isinglass, rice-water will be a tolerable substitute for restoring the stiffness and gloss. To iron the ribbon, lay it within a sheet of clean smooth letter-paper, (the paper being both under and over it,) and press it with a heated iron moved quickly.

If the colour is lilac, add a little dissolved pearlash to the

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rinsing-water. If green, a little vinegar in which you have steeped a few cents. If pink, or blue, a few drops of oil of vitriol. If yellow, a little tincture of saffron. Other colours may be set by stirring a tea-spoonful of ox-gall into the first water. If white, a salt-spoonful of cream of tartar mixed with the soap-suds.

It is seldom worth while to take the trouble of washing ribbon, unless you have a tolerable quantity to do. Unfigured silk handkerchiefs and scarfs may be washed and ironed in the above manner. The proportion of spirits of wine, is about a table-spoonful to a gallon of water.

WHITE SILK STOCKINGS.—Soap them, and let them soak all night. In the morning, wash them through a strong lather of white soap and warm soft water, and then boil them ten minutes in another lather of the same. If not quite clean, wash them through another warm suds. Then rinse them through two cold waters. If you wish them a blueish white, mix a drop or two of liquid blue with the last water, and let them lie in it a few minutes. Then squeeze and dry them. If you wish them a pale flesh colour, mix a very little rose-pink with the last water, which should be very slightly tinged with soap. When they are dry, stretch and pin them on the ironing-sheet, but do not iron them, as it is best to smooth them by hard rubbing with the end of a clean piece of flannel formed into a tight roll. Silk stockings, when ironed in the usual way, never look new.

Wash and smooth white silk gloves in the same manner.

If the stockings or gloves have open or lace work about them, and are consequently of delicate texture, do not rub them in washing, but merely squeeze and press them with your hands.

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BLACK SILK STOCKINGS.—Cut some white soap into thin bits, and boil it in soft water till thoroughly dissolved. Then mix a little of it in cold water, adding a tea-spoonful of gall. Having turned the stockings on the wrong side, and rubbed a little of the boiled soap on the dirtiest places, wash them well through the lukewarm suds. Repeat the washing, in fresh suds and water, till they are quite clean. Then rinse them through two cold waters, adding to the last a little blue from the indigo bag. Then squeeze them well, stretch them even, and hang them out immediately. While still damp, turn them right side out, stretch and pin them on an ironing blanket, and with the end of a bit of rolled up flannel, or a smooth stone, rub them hard and quick one way, till they are quite dry, and look smooth and glossy. This is better than to iron them, which always gives silk stockings an old appearance.

Black silk gloves may be washed as above; if they have open work, do them with great care.

TO TINGE SILK STOCKINGS A PALE PINK.—The stockings of course must be originally white or flesh-coloured. Previous to dyeing, wash them in the usual manner, in two lathers of warm water and white soap, squeezing and pressing rather than rubbing them. Rinse them through two cold waters, and then stretch and dry them. Before you put them into the dye, steep them in cold water and squeeze the water out. They must go into the dye wet.

To make the dye, gather a large tea-cupful of the fresh flowers or blossoms of the bergamot plant. Put them into a china bowl, press them down hard, and pour on sufficient boiling water to cover them. Then cover the bowl closely with a plate, and let the bergamot stand an hour or more to infuse.

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When the liquid is well coloured, strain it, dilute it with cold water to the desired shade, and add five or six drops of oil of vitriol to set the colour. Then take the stockings, one at a time, immerse them thoroughly and evenly in the dye, and squeeze them through it. Afterwards, when all the liquid is squeezed out, open and stretch them well, and hang them up in the shade. While still a little damp, pin them, well-stretched, upon the ironing-cloth, (they must be right side out,) and rub them till quite dry with the end of a clean flannel formed into a tight roll, or with a smooth stone. This will give them an appearance of newness, which they will not have if ironed in the usual way.

Instead of oil of vitriol, you may set the colour with half a dozen drops of vinegar of wood.

WHITE FRENCH THREAD GLOVES AND STOCKINGS.—These articles are so delicate as to require great care in washing, and they must on no account be rubbed. Make a lather of white soap and *cold* water, and put it into a saucepan. Soap the gloves or stockings well, put them in, and set the saucepan over the fire. When they have come to a hard boil, take them off; and when cool enough for your hand, squeeze them in the water. Having prepared a fresh cold lather, boil them again in that. Then take the pan off the fire, and as soon as the water is cool enough for you to bear your hand in it, squeeze them well again. Then rinse them through two cold waters, stretch, dry, and iron them on the wrong side.

It is well to soap them a little over night, and lay them to soak in cold water till next day.

UNBLEACHED STOCKINGS AND GLOVES.—If the brownish colour of unbleached cotton or thread stockings

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is allowed to fade, they will look like very dirty white, which is by no means desirable. After washing and rinsing them in the usual manner, squeeze and open them out. Strain into a basin some cold coffee, (any that has been left at breakfast will do,) and when the stockings have been squeezed and opened out from the rinsing water, put them wet into the coffee, and work them about in it, till they have thoroughly taken the colour. Then squeeze them out, and dry them in the shade. Iron them on the wrong side. They will look as if new.

If you have not much coffee, you need only immerse the feet of the stockings in it, and the leg as far up as the calf. With strong coffee you may make them a beautiful light brown colour.

WASH-LEATHER GLOVES.—Gloves of what is called wash-leather, should first have the grease-spots taken out, by rubbing on them either magnesia, cream of tartar, or Wilmington clay scraped to powder. Then make a lather of white soap and lukewarm water; (hot water will shrink them;) wash and squeeze them through this: and then squeeze them through a second suds. Rinse them first in lukewarm water, and then in cold, and stretch them to dry before the fire or in the sun.

ANOTHER WAY.—Having removed the grease-spots, you may wash the gloves (one at a time on your hands) by rubbing them with a clean sponge wet with lukewarm soap-suds. Then wash off the suds with another sponge dipped in clear water. Afterwards pull and stretch them well, and hang them to dry before the fire or in the hot sun. When almost dry, put them again on your hands, and keep them there till quite dry, which will prevent them from shrinking.

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COLOURED KID OR HOSKIN GLOVES.—Have ready on a table a clean towel folded three or four times, a saucer of new milk, and another saucer with a piece of brown soap. Take one glove at a time, and spread it smoothly on the folded towel. Then dip in the milk a piece of clean flannel, rub it on the soap till you get off a tolerable quantity, and then with the wet flannel commence rubbing the glove. Begin at the wrist, and rub lengthways towards the end of the fingers, holding the glove firmly in your left hand. Continue this process till the glove is well cleaned all over with the milk and soap. When done, spread them out, and pin them on a line to dry gradually. When nearly dry, pull them out evenly, the cross-way of the leather. When quite dry, stretch them on your hands.

White kid gloves may be washed in this manner, provided they have never been cleaned with India rubber.

In mending the seam of a kid glove that has been ripped, always sew it backwards; otherwise, it will stretch out of shape.

WHITE KID GLOVES.—Stretch the gloves on a clean board, and rub all the soiled or grease-spots with cream of tartar or magnesia. Let them rest an hour. Then have ready a mixture of alum and fuller's earth, (both powdered,) and rub it all over the gloves with a brush, (a clean tooth-brush or something similar,) and let them rest for an hour or two. Then sweep it all off, and go over them with a flannel dipped in a mixture of bran and finely powdered whiting. Let them rest another hour; then brush off the powder, and you will find them clean.

On no consideration clean gloves with turpentine, as you will be unable to wear them on account of the smell. Turpen-

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tine should never be applied to any article that cannot be thoroughly washed before it is used.

Leather of the natural colour (a saddle, for instance) may be cleaned by means of oxalic acid dissolved in water, and rubbed on with a sponge, washing it off immediately.

GENTLEMEN'S WHITE LEATHER GLOVES.—A gentleman may clean his white leather gloves to look very well by putting them one at a time on his hands, after he has done shaving, and going over them thoroughly with his shave-brush and lather; then wiping them off with a soft clean handkerchief or sponge, and drying them on his hands by the fire; or hanging them before the fire or in the hot sun; and, while still damp, putting them on his hands till quite dry, to prevent their shrinking.

TO SHRINK WIDE BOBBINET.—It is best to shrink new bobbinet before it is cut out; otherwise it will be necessary to make the cap or collar too large at first, lest it should become too small by shrinking after being washed. Dip the piece of bobbinet into a pan of cold water, and take it out immediately. Squeeze it hard with your hands till the moisture ceases to drip from it; then open and stretch it, till you get it as straight and even as possible. Afterwards, fold it up, and lay it between the folds of a clean fine towel. By the time you have heated an iron, the bobbinet will be in a state to smooth over. Try the iron first on some other thin thing: for if the least too hot, it will discolour the bobbinet.

If sprigged, iron it on the wrong side.

TO SHRINK COTTON CORD.—Cord intended for a chintz or muslin dress, should be shrunk before it is used.

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Otherwise, it will, after washing, contract in its covering, and pucker the seams, bands, &c., by shrinking more in proportion than the materials of which the dress is made. To prevent this, open or unwind the hank of new cord, and having laid it loosely in a bowl, pour on a sufficiency of boiling water. Let it set in the scald till the water becomes cold; then take out the cord, squeeze it hard, and spread it to dry. When quite dry, wind it on a card, and it will be ready for use.

A SWAN'S-DOWN CAPE OR TIPPET.—Make a strong lather of the best white soap and lukewarm water; hot water will shrink the skin of the swan's-down. Work and squeeze the swan's-down through the suds, but do not rub it. Then do the same through a second lukewarm suds, and persist till you see that the article looks clean and white. Afterwards rinse it through two waters, (the first lukewarm, the second cold,) squeezing it carefully. Then shake it out and dry it in the sun or by the fire, holding it in your hands and shaking it all the time, to prevent its looking matted or in tufts. You may wash a swan's-down bonnet in this manner; first removing the lining.

Marabout or down feathers may be washed in a similar way.

When but little soiled, you may clean swan's-down in the following manner, without washing it. Powder some plaster of Paris as finely as possible, sift it through a fine sieve, and then heat it over the fire. When the powder is quite warm, but not burning hot, lay the swan's-down in a large clean metal pan, (heated also,) and sift the powder over it through a sieve, turning the swan's-down about, and seeing that the powder is dispersed well through it. Repeat the process till the swan's-down looks very white. Then take it out and shake off the loose powder.

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CLEANING MARABOUT OR DOWN FEATHERS.—Make a strong lather of fine white soap, and soft lukewarm water. If the water is not perfectly clear, it must be filtered. Take the feathers separately, and immerse them in the suds till they are quite full of it. Then wash them, one at a time, by drawing them through your hand; changing the water when necessary, till the last suds remains quite clean, and the feathers look perfectly white and nice. Have ready some moderately stiff, and exceedingly smooth starch, made with cold water, and a *very little* blue from the indigo bag squeezed into it. This starch must not be boiled. Pass the feathers separately through it, and then drain them well. Next, take them, one at a time, in your hands, and shake them out in the sun and air; continuing to shake till they are quite dry. A bright windy day is best for this purpose.

If dried by the fire, they will not be so good a white.

Ostrich feathers may be cleaned in the same manner. To curl them, hold them near the fire while damp, and if you have not the proper instrument, (a long sort of bodkin made for the purpose,) you can substitute a pair of dull scissors. Take each fibre of the feather separately between the points of the scissors, and give it a twitch or turn inwards, holding it in that position a moment, to give it the proper set.

Black feathers, when straightened by damp weather, may be curled in the above manner.

White feathers should never be worn when the weather is damp.

WASHING BED FEATHERS.—New bed feathers, in consequence of retaining the animal oil, are damp, heavy, and have a peculiar smell. To remedy this inconvenience, they should, before they are used, have a thorough cleansing in lime-

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water; but if this has not been effectually done, they must be taken out of the ticks, and subjected to the proper process, as it is not only disagreeable, but unwholesome to sleep on them in their oily state.

Prepare some lime-water, in the proportion of half a pound of quick-lime to a gallon of soft water. Put it into a tub or tubs, and having stirred it well, let it stand all night; then pour off, for use, all the lime-water that is perfectly clear: the lime having settled to the bottom. Put the feathers into a large deep tub, and pour on as much lime-water as will cover them about three or four inches, after they have been well immersed, and stirred about in it with a stick. When they have stood two days, and been frequently stirred, pour off the lime-water, and replace it with a new supply. Let them stand two days longer, still stirring them at times. Afterwards, take them out, (squeezing the dirty water from them,) and wash them well in a tub of clean water without lime. Then squeeze them out, a handful at a time, and spread them to drain on sieves. The best way of drying them, is by suspending them, exposed to the sun and air, in nets whose meshes are about the size of those of cabbage-nets. Shake them frequently in the nets, and collect all the feathers that fall through the meshes. They must always be brought in doors when the weather is damp, and may take about three weeks to dry thoroughly. If you have no nets, spread them on the floor of an empty garret or loft; stirring and turning them frequently, and picking out the hard quills and stripping the down from them.

When they are all clean and dry, put them into large coarse bags in the form of a tick; lay them on a floor, and beat them on all sides with long sticks like broom handles, till the feathers are perfectly light and lively.

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Old feathers may be greatly improved by emptying the tick, (which should also be washed,) and washing them through several lathers of strong soap-suds. Rinse them well in cold water, drain them on sieves, and spread them to dry as above on the floor of an empty garret. Their drying may be accelerated by sewing them in a coarse sheet, and putting them into the oven on a baking-day, after the bread is drawn, and letting them remain there till next morning. This should be several times repeated. Then put them into bags and beat them.

Fresh feathers that have been newly plucked from the geese, should be laid loosely in large baskets, placed in the garret, and stirred very frequently.

The smell of new feathers in a bed or pillows, may be somewhat remedied, by ripping the seams in a few places, and putting in lumps of camphor; afterwards sewing them up again immediately.

In the middle states the usual time for picking geese is in August, as at that season they moult or shed their small feathers, which, if allowed to drop about of themselves, will be lost or wasted. The person that performs this business should put on a coarse tow apron, and holding the goose on her lap, with one hand should carefully pick out all the small loose feathers with the other, and put them into a large basket or tub placed beside her for the purpose. Geese-picking is generally done in a porch or out-house; but a dry, warm, calm day should be chosen for it, that the feathers may not be blown about by the wind. Let it not be done if the weather is damp or cool, as the geese may catch cold from the loss of their feathers.

RENEWING MATTRASSES.—When mattrasses have been long in use, the hair or wool with which they are stuffed becomes clodded or knotted in lumps, making it impossible to

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sleep on them with any degree of comfort. They should then be carried into a spare garret or out-house, and taken to pieces. The stuffing should be carefully picked apart by hand till it becomes thoroughly loose and open, throwing it, as it is done, into large baskets. Afterwards a new tick should be made, and filled with the stuffing; as the old one will scarcely be worth using again for the same purpose; but it may be washed and converted into floor-cloths, &c.

When the new tick is filled, stitch it through with pack-thread or fine twine, and a long mattrass needle, (which may be procured at a hardware store,) securing every stitch with a little bit of buckskin run on the needle.

Hair mattrasses are much better than those of wool, which are not sufficiently cool for summer.

Mattrasses will generally require taking apart and picking about once in three years, if they are in continual use.

Straw mattrasses should be occasionally emptied and filled with fresh straw. When straw becomes old, it has a musty smell, which makes the mattrass unwholesome to sleep on; also, it will produce fleas.

TO CLEAN A STRAW OR LEGHORN BONNET.—Having separated the crown from the brim and the cape or neck-piece, and removed the lining and wire, the next thing is to take out whatever stains may be found in the bonnet, the crown of which should be put on a wooden block. For grease, rub on with your finger some powdered Wilmington clay, or a little magnesia; and in an hour or two brush it off, and renew the application, if necessary. For other stains use either cream of tartar or salt of sorrel, put on a little wet. If salt of sorrel, it must be washed off again almost immediately, lest it injure the straw by remaining on it. Afterwards (keeping

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the crown still on the bonnet-block) go over the whole surface of the bonnet with a brush dipped in a weak solution of pearl-ash in *lukewarm* water, (a tea-spoonful to a quart.) Then scour it off at once, with a strong lather of brown soap and cold water, put on with a clean brush. When all the bonnet is well cleaned, rinse it in cold water, and hang it in the sun to dry. Bonnet cleaning should never be undertaken in damp weather. When the bonnet is perfectly dry, you may proceed to whiten it. Fill a chafing dish or portable furnace with burning charcoal; carry it into a small close room or into an empty press or closet, and by a line suspended across, hang the bonnet over the charcoal, at a safe distance, so that it will be in no danger of scorching. Then strew over the coals an ounce or two of powdered brimstone, and immediately go out and shut the door, seeing that no air whatever can get into the room. After the bonnet has hung in the vapour six or seven hours, throw open the door, (having first left open an outside door or window, so as to admit immediately the fresh air,) and go into the room as soon as you find you can do so without inconvenience from the fumes of the charcoal and sulphur. Then bring out the bonnet, and hang it in the open air till the smell of the brimstone has entirely left it. If the day is windy, so much the better; but the bonnet must on no account be hung out if the weather is damp, and it must be brought in before sunset. If it is not sufficiently white, repeat next day the process of bleaching it with charcoal and brimstone.

The next thing is to stiffen the bonnet. To make the stiffening, boil in two quarts of soft water, a quarter of a pound of vellum shavings, (the vellum of buffalo's hide is best,) filling it up occasionally, if it seems to be boiling too dry. It must boil or simmer slowly for six or seven hours. Then, when you take it from the fire, let it stand a while to settle; after which,

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pour it off into a basin, and it will become a thick jelly. To the sediment left in the pot, you may add a second two quarts of water; and after a second boiling, it will form another jelly or sizing, strong enough for similar purposes. When you are going to use it for a bonnet, melt up a pint of this jelly, and mix with it a small half-tea-spoonful of oxalic acid, (not more, or it will injure the straw,) and then with a clean sponge or brush go all over the bonnet, inside and out, with the sizing. Dry the bonnet; and when quite dry, go over it again with a second wash of the stiffening. Dry it again, and then spread over it a wet piece of jaconet muslin; or damp the bonnet all over with a sponge and lukewarm water, and then cover it with a fine white handkerchief, while you press it hard and evenly with a warm box-iron, exerting all your strength. The crown must be pressed while on the bonnet-block; the brim may be done on an ironing-table. Afterwards expose the bonnet to the air, till it becomes perfectly dry; and next day it will be ready for putting together, lining, and trimming; first mending whatever defective places may be found in it.

The front of a bonnet will keep its shape much better if the wire is thick and stout. In lining a bonnet, the best way for a novice in the art, is to pin a large sheet of thin soft paper on the *outside* of the brim, and (having fitted it smoothly) cut it of the proper shape and size, allowing a little for turning in at the edge. Then pin the paper into the *inside* of the brim, and if it fits perfectly smooth, cut out the silk lining by it. A piece of oiled silk sewed all round the inside of the crown, at the joining place, and extending down a little upon the the brim, will prevent the stain from perspiration, that so frequently disfigures that part of a bonnet.

Without a regular cleaning in the preceding manner, a discoloured straw bonnet may be improved in appearance, if

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previous to putting on a fresh trimming, you stretch the bonnet on a block, (or something that will answer the purpose,) and go all over it with a sponge dipped in lukewarm water, in which has been dissolved pearl-ash, in the proportion of a small tea-spoonful of pearl-ash to a pint of water; afterwards rinsing it off, wiping it hard with a flannel, and drying it well. Next, go over it with a clean sponge dipped in strong rice-water, which will be the better for having dissolved in it a half-tea-spoonful of sugar of lead. Then dry the bonnet, and having damped it all over with a wet sponge, cover it with thin muslin, and press it hard with a heavy and moderately warm iron.

TO TAKE CARE OF BEAVER HATS.—A hat should be brushed every day with a hat-brush; and twice a day in dusty weather. When a hat gets wet, wipe it as dry as you can with a clean handkerchief, and then brush it with a soft brush, before you put it to dry. When nearly dry, go over it with a harder brush. If it still looks rough, damp it with a sponge dipped in vinegar or stale beer, and brush it with a hard brush till dry.

A good beaver hat should always, when not in constant use, be kept in a hat-box, with a hat-stick extended inside of the crown

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TO CLEAN GOLD ORNAMENTS.—For chains, ear-rings, and other articles of gold jewelry, make a lather of fine white soap and warm water, adding to it from ten to twenty drops of hartshorn. Wash the articles in this with a clean sponge, and (if very much tarnished) boil them in it for five or six minutes. Have ready a deep plate of magnesia powder, that has been heated before the fire. Immediately on taking the articles out of the suds, lay them in the warm magnesia,

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and let them remain in it till they are quite dry. Then rub them bright with a fine soft flannel; using a very small soft brush for the parts that are chased or embossed. If there are stones in the jewels they must not be washed or boiled, but simply rubbed with the magnesia and flannel.

CLEANING PEARLS.—If allowed to get wet, pearls soon become dull and discoloured. Pearl rings (and all rings that have stones in them) should always be taken off the fingers when the hands are washed, and not resumed till they are perfectly dry. The beauty of jewelry is also injured if worn in warm weather, when the skin perspires. Pearls should be frequently brightened by rubbing them carefully with a bit of white pin-paper made into a little roll, and using the point or end of the roll.

TO CLEAN AND MEND TORTOISE-SHELL.—When tortoise-shell looks dull, its lustre may be revived and a fine polish given to it, by first washing it clean in soap-suds, and then, after wiping it perfectly dry, rubbing it with sweet oil, mixed with rotten-stone finely powdered and sifted through thin muslin. Let it rest an hour; then wipe off the rotten-stone; cover the tortoise-shell with magnesia powder, and after a while, finish with a silk handkerchief. It will look as well as new, if, instead of the magnesia, you rub on a *very little* of the reddish brown powder that the silversmiths call rouge.

To repair a tortoise-shell comb from which a tooth has been broken, have ready a new tooth rather longer than the old one, (and having wet it with water,) soften the upper or broadest end of the new tooth by holding it in a pair of hot pincers. The part of the comb from which the old tooth was

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broken must be wet and softened in the same way. Then lay the vacant part of the comb and the broad end of the new tooth together while soft, (one over the other,) and pinch or squeeze them with the pincers to unite them smoothly. When cold, the new tooth will be found firmly welded in its place.

This is a very nice operation, but can be performed in such a manner that the join is quite imperceptible. If in a city, it is best to have it done by a comb-maker. As it shows no appearance of ever having been broken, it is of course very superior to the old-fashioned method of mending a comb with a silver rivet. There must be no grease about it.

TO CLEAN HEAD AND CLOTHES BRUSHES.—Put a table-spoonful of pearl-ash into a pint of boiling water. Having fastened a bit of sponge to the end of a stick, dip it into the solution, and wash the brush with it; carefully going in among the bristles. Next pour over it some clean hot water, and let it lie a little while. Then drain it, wipe it with a cloth, and dry it before the fire.

TO CLEAN COMBS.—Tie one end of a strong silk thread to the handle of a wash-stand or bureau drawer. Sit down before it with a towel spread on your lap, and holding the other end of the silk tightly in your left hand, take the comb in your right and pass it hard and carefully along the thread, which must be made to go in between all the teeth separately, so as to remove or scrape down all the impurities. Then rub the comb with a comb-brush, or a soft cloth; rinse it in warm soap-suds, and wipe it dry.

CLEANING BOOTS AND SHOES.—First with your hard brush remove all the dirt. When they are perfectly

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clean, stir up the blacking with a stick, put a little on your blacking-brush, and spread it lightly and evenly over the boots or shoes; then, with your polishing brush go quickly and lightly over them, and in a few minutes they will have a fine polish. When done, if you find any brown spots, (which will happen if the blacking has not been put on evenly,) go lightly over the dull places a second time with your blacking-brush.

You must have three brushes for cleaning boots and shoes; and your blacking should always be of the best kind.

TO MAKE FINE BLACKING.—For this you must have one quart of sour beer or porter, (the latter is best:) eight ounces of ivory black: three ounces of molasses: one ounce of powdered sugar-candy, or of loaf-sugar: half an ounce of powdered gum arabic: half an ounce of oil of vitriol: and one ounce of sweet oil. Having warmed the beer, dissolve in it the gum arabic, mix the molasses with the vitriol and sweet oil, (the vitriol is to give the polishing quality, and the oil is to prevent the vitriol from injuring the leather,) add by degrees the ivory black: rubbing the mixture smoothly together, and seeing that no lumps are left in it. Then pour all the ingredients into a jar. Stir them hard, and let the mixture stand three days, stirring it with a round stick three or four times each day. It will then be fit for use. If you find it too thick, (so that it will not be sufficiently liquid even when warmed at the fire,) add a little more beer. Put it into bottles, and cork it tightly.

BLACKING THAT WILL PRESERVE THE LEATHER.—Mix together four ounces of spermaceti oil and twelve ounces of molasses. Add by degrees twelve ounces of ivory black, mixing it in smoothly, and rubbing it well, so

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as to leave no lumps; then dilute it gradually with a quart of the best white wine vinegar. If you find it too thick, add more vinegar; stir it hard, and let it stand in the jar three days, stirring it frequently with a round stick; then bottle it for use. If still too thick, even when warmed at the fire, dilute it by stirring in a little more vinegar.

FRENCH POLISH FOR BOOTS, SHOES, AND HARNESS.—Mix together two pints of the best vinegar, and one pint of soft water; stir into it a quarter of a pound of glue broken up: half a pound of logwood chips: a quarter of an ounce of finely powdered indigo: a quarter of an ounce of the best soft soap: and a quarter of an ounce of isinglass. Put the mixture over the fire, and after it comes to a boil continue the boiling for ten minutes or more. Then strain the liquid, and bottle and cork it. When cold it is fit for use.

Before you apply this polish to boots, shoes, &c., remove the dirt with a sponge and water. Then put on the polish with a clean sponge. Should you find it too thick, hold it near the fire to warm a little, and the heat will liquefy it sufficiently.

WASH FOR WHITE BOOT TOPS.—Mix together one ounce of oxalic acid: two ounces of finely powdered and sifted pumice-stone: and two tea-spoonfuls of cream of tartar. Stir them into a quart of soft water. Apply it to the light-coloured tops of riding-boots, to prevent their turning brownish. Having first brushed off all the dust and dirt from the leather, rub on the mixture with a clean hard brush. Then sponge it well with cold water, all one way, and put the boots to dry gradually in the sun, or at a good distance from the fire. This preparation may be used also for leather saddles.

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BRUSHING AND FOLDING A COAT.—A gentleman's coat cannot be conveniently freed from dust without a coat-horse, on which to hang and extend it. It should be whipped hard with a rattan, taking care not to strike the buttons, lest they be scratched or broken. If the coat is wet or muddy, hang it to dry in the sun or by the fire, before you attempt to beat or brush it. When perfectly dry, take the cloth between your hand and rub off the mud-spots before you put it on the coat-horse.

After it has been well beaten with the rattan, spread the coat at its full length on a table, the back being uppermost. Take the collar in your left hand and a clothes-brush in your right, and first brush the back of the collar: then between the shoulders: then the sleeves and cuffs: then the farthest lappel and skirt: and then the near one, always brushing according to the nap of the cloth, as it runs towards the skirts.

To fold a coat.—Having spread it, as before, on a table, double the left sleeve from the elbow towards the collar: the other the same way: then the left lappel over the sleeve as far as the back seam, and the other in the same manner. Next turn up the left skirt so that the end may touch the collar: do the same with the right skirt. Give it a light brushing all over: and then turn one-half the coat exactly even over the other half. Folded in this manner, the coat may be put into a trunk, and will keep smooth during a journey of any length.

TO FOLD A LADY'S DRESS.—Place the dress upon a bed, spreading it out wide and smooth, with the back part uppermost, and laying the hem even at the bottom. Take the two outer sides of the skirt, and fold them over, so as to make them rather more than meet: lapping over down the middle of the back-breadth. Then place your left hand and arm under

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the folded skirt, and with your right hand double it somewhat more than a quarter of a yard underneath the dress; and next fold forwards (so as to lie above it) the upper part of the skirt where the gathers join the body; leaving the back uppermost. Then turn back the sleeves, and if they are long, fold them inwards from the elbow; letting them rest on the back of the body, the cuffs crossing each other. Finally, take all at once, in your left hand, that part of the folded dress where the cuffs, neck, and upper fold of the skirt come together and lie on each other; and lifting it up carefully, let fall from under it the lower part of the skirt that has been turned up underneath. When the tail has thus fallen, spread it up over the whole, smoothly and evenly, to preserve the body and sleeves from being crushed. The dress may then be laid in a drawer or packed in a trunk, without any danger of tumbling. It may be made to fit into a narrower space by lapping the sides of the skirt still more over each other, when they are folded upon the middle of the back-breadth.

After folding a dress of white satin or white silk, pin or sew it up closely in two large sheets of thick brown paper, one below, and one above. The turpentine used in the composition of this paper will tend to preserve the whiteness of the satin. You may place a *blue* paper between the satin and the brown.

In putting away dresses in a press or commode, hang each dress on two hooks or pegs, suspending them (back outwards) by the shoulders of the sleeve holes.

When travelling, it is well to carry in your trunk a large curtain of check, brown linen, or thick calico, with a drawing-string run through a case at the top. By means of this, you can cover your dresses and screen them from dust when you are obliged to hang them up against the wall of your chamber.

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TO FOLD A LADY'S CLOAK.—In making a cloak, it is best to have the cape so finished at the neck, that it can easily be taken off when preparing to put it away for the summer, or to pack it for travelling; otherwise it will be impossible to prevent its getting rumpled.

Having taken off the cape, spread the cloak (right side out) on a bed, and fold it lengthways all down the back-breadth; first in half, and then laying it over so as to make it four double. Next put your left hand and arm under the whole of the lower part, and with your right hand turn it up about one-third of the length of the cloak. Then double the middle backward, and the upper part forward, so as to make three equal crossway folds, (all of course four double,) leaving the gathered or neck part uppermost, and the collar out at the top. Next turn back the collar, (still doubled lengthways,) and let it rest on the upper, or gathered part of the cloak.

Take the cape (right side out) and fold it lengthways; first in half, and then four double. Next, turn it backward, (crossways,) letting the upper or gathered half rest on the lower. Then lay the cape on the top of the cloak; and folded in this manner the whole will keep perfectly smooth.

In putting away for the summer a merino or cloth cloak, strew between its folds an ounce or two of camphor, broken into small bits; and pin it closely up in a large linen cloth.

A strong loop of galloon or doubled ribbon, large enough to go over a peg or hook, should always be sewed firmly under the back of the collar, exactly behind, for the purpose of hanging up the cloak when in daily use.

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REMOVING STAINS, GREASE, &c.

TO REMOVE STAINS OF WINE OR FRUIT FROM TABLE LINEN.—A wine stain may sometimes be removed by rubbing it (while wet) with common salt. It is said, also, that sherry wine poured immediately on a place where port wine has been spilled, will prevent its leaving a stain. A *certain* way of extracting fruit or wine stains from table-linen is to tie up some cream of tartar in the stained part, (so as to form a sort of bag,) and then to put the linen into a lather of soap and cold water, and boil it a while. Then transfer it wet to a lukewarm suds, wash and rinse it well, and dry and iron it. The stains will disappear during the process.

Another way, is to mix, in equal quantities, soft soap, slacked lime, and pearl-ash. Rub the stain with this preparation, and expose the linen to the sun with the mixture plastered on it. If necessary, repeat the application. As soon as the stain has disappeared, wash out the linen immediately, as it will be injured if the mixture is left in it.

A small stain will sometimes disappear by wetting the spot with cold water, and holding over it, at a safe distance, a lighted brimstone match. It may be necessary to repeat it with a second and third match.

You may also remove a small stain, by stretching that part of the linen over the top of a mug of hot water, and rubbing on with your finger, some oxalic acid or some cream of tartar, or the mixture of both that is sold as salt of lemon. Then wash it out immediately.

Some stains will disappear by wetting them with warm water, and rubbing on magnesia.

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TO REMOVE FRUIT STAINS FROM SILK.—The stain of sweetmeats or syrup may generally be removed from silk or merino with very little trouble if done immediately. It is merely to wipe the spot with the corner of a soft clean linen (an old napkin or a handkerchief) dipped in cold water; repeating it till the stain is erased, and taking care not to rub crossways of the stuff, lest you should fray it. The sugar in sweetmeats neutralizes the acid, and causes the stain to come out more easily than that of raw fruit. We know an instance when, by a strange accident, the crown of a Leghorn hat was covered with the syrup of preserved plumbs. By wiping it, immediately, with a clean wet napkin, not the slightest stain was left.

Fruit stains on silk may sometimes be removed, by wetting them with hartshorn diluted with a little water, repeating the application several times. When it fails, it is owing to some peculiarity in the dye of the silk, but it is always worth a trial. It will generally take off the reddish marks left on blue-black silks, by wine, tea, or lemonade. If the hartshorn does not succeed, and the silk is black, nothing better can be done than to cover these red marks with ink laid on with a large camel's hair brush.

TO RESTORE BLACK SILK SLEEVES.—When the sleeves of a black silk dress have been stained by perspiration in warm weather, mix in a large cup, equal quantities of strong spirits of hartshorn, and soft water. Dip a clean sponge into this liquid, and with it go carefully over the sleeves, first spreading them out on a table. Then dry them; and if the colour is not restored, repeat the process, making the mixture a little stronger of hartshorn. Afterwards iron them.

This application of hartshorn and water will generally

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remove the reddish stains by which black silk sleeves are so frequently disfigured in summer; and will much improve their appearance, even if it does not restore them exactly to the original black.

If you can take the sleeves out of the dress, or indeed rip them all apart, you will be able to sponge them with much convenience and efficacy.

This application will frequently remove stains of tea, lemon-juice, &c., from coloured silks.

What is called blue-black silk, is much more liable to stain than that which is jet-black. India silks rarely stain at all.

TO EXTRACT GREASE FROM A SILK OR WORSTED DRESS.—Small grease-spots on a dress that cannot be washed, may frequently be removed by the immediate application of the corner of a fine napkin, wetted in cold water, and rubbed on the straightway of the texture; changing several times to a clean corner dipped in fresh water. This also, if done immediately, will frequently take out the stain of sweetmeats or any very sweet thing dropped on a dress. A piece of pin-paper rolled up and rubbed with the rough end, on the wrong side of a fresh grease-spot, will often remove the blemish from silk. Fine French chalk scraped to powder and rubbed on the wrong side of the spot, brushing it off in about an hour, and repeating the application, is another remedy for accidental grease. But the most efficacious is to scrape down some of a Wilmington clay ball, (to be obtained for a trifle at the drug-stores,) and to rub the powder on the wrong side of the grease-spot. In an hour or two hours, rub off the powder, and repeat the application. We have never known it fail.

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TO REMOVE SPOTS OF TAR, PITCH, OR TURPENTINE.—Carefully scrape off as much of it as you can; next, wet the place thoroughly with good salad oil, and let it rest till next day. Then (if linen or cotton) wash it out in strong warm soap-suds; if woollen or silk, rub on some ether or spirits of wine to take out the grease.

If the stain is of tar, you may remove it (after it has been scraped and wiped) by using cold tallow, instead of sweet oil. Take a small lump of good tallow, rub and press it well on the tar spot, and leave it sticking there till next day. Then proceed as above.

TO EXTRACT LAMP OIL FROM A DRESS.—If lamp oil is spilled on a dress that will not be injured by wetting, lay it immediately in a small tub of cold water. A portion of the oil will shortly be seen to rise to the surface; then pour off the water, replace it with fresh, and still more oil will be seen floating on the top. Again pour off the water, and fill the tub anew; repeating the process till no more oil can be discovered on the surface. Then take out the dress, wring it well, and dry and iron it. No washing is necessary. We know an instance of a lamp with its whole contents, being overset into the lap of a young lady, and by immediately resorting to the above-mentioned mode of extracting the oil from her new and very handsome dress of pink French gingham, she appeared in it next day with its beauty and colour untarnished, and no vestige of the accident in the slightest degree apparent.

If lamp oil or any other grease is spilled on a white dress, it can of course be eradicated by washing and boiling in the usual manner.

To take lamp oil from a silk dress, or any one that should not be wetted, nothing is better than to turn the gown on the

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wrong side, and cover the place with powdered Wilmington clay; rub it on with your finger the straight way of the threads, to prevent the silk from fraying. At the end of an hour, brush off the clay, and put on some fresh. By repeating the application a few times, the oil will disappear.

TO TAKE LAMP OIL OUT OF A SOFA, &c.—Cover the spot, however large, with powdered or crumbled Wilmington clay. Then pin down over the place a sheet of soft thin paper, (blotting-paper, for instance,) and let it rest several hours. Then brush it off, and renew the clay and the paper. By repeating the application the oil will be entirely extracted. We have known this remedy to take out all traces of oil from a crimson damask sofa, over which a lamp had leaked so as to leave a spot as large as a dessert plate.

The same process will take out oil or other grease from a carpet. If Wilmington clay cannot readily be obtained, (it is well to keep a supply of it always in the house,) mix together in equal quantities, ox-gall and powdered fuller's earth or potter's clay, (for instance, a table-spoonful of each;) dilute the mixture with water sufficient to wash the grease-spot repeatedly, rubbing it on hard. While it is drying, pin a thin paper closely over it, to prevent the dust from sticking to the place. When the grease is all out, wash the spot with cold water.

If the accident has happened to a table-cover, hearth-rug, or any thing that can be hung out, it is best to dry it in the open air.

TO EXTRACT LAMP OIL FROM A FLOOR.—Take immediately some fuller's earth, (which you can procure for a trifle at any pottery, also at the grocery and drug stores,) and scrape it to powder with a knife. Pour some warm water on

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the boards that are greased with the oil, and then spread on it the fuller's earth; mixing it into a paste, and plastering it on with a small flat stick. If you spread it on with a knife, the floor will be stained with iron mould. Let it remain thus two days. Then scrape off the paste, and renew the application with more warm water and fresh potter's clay. Two days after, repeat it again, and persist till the oil is entirely removed. Then let the place be scrubbed with soap and water in the usual manner.

TO TAKE OUT STOVE-PIPE STAINS, OR SOOT, FROM A FLOOR.—Wash the place with sulphuric acid very much diluted with water. If you find that the stain does not come out, add a very little more of the sulphuric acid, to make the mixture somewhat stronger.

TO TAKE LAMP OIL OUT OF A CARPET.—Loosen the carpet, and turn up the part that is greased. Rub the floor underneath with finely powdered pipe-clay, or with scraped Wilmington clay. After it has lain two or three hours, brush it off, and repeat the clay till all the grease is extracted. In the mean time, (having laid a piece of thick paper between the greasy part of the carpet and that which is clean,) cover the oil-spot with the pulverized clay, and pin a piece of blotting-paper over it. Let it rest two or three hours, and then repeat the application. By persevering, you will succeed in extracting the oil both from the floor and carpet. The same remedy will remove any other grease.

TO EXTRACT GREASE-SPOTS FROM BOOKS OR PAPERS.—First you must gently warm the greased or spotted part of the book or paper, and then press on it bits of blot-

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ting-paper, one after another, so as to absorb as much of the grease as possible. If the grease is fresh, the blotting-paper will be very serviceable. Have ready some fine clear essential oil of turpentine, heated almost to a boiling state; warm the greased leaf a little, and then with a soft clean brush dipped in the heated turpentine, wet both sides of the spotted part. By repeating this application the grease will be extracted. Lastly, with another brush dipped in rectified spirits of wine go over the place, and the grease will no longer appear, neither will the paper be discoloured.

It were well to finish by pressing the paper all over with a moderately heated iron, laying a sheet of tissue paper between.

TO REMOVE GREASE FROM WALL-PAPER.—Scrape some Wilmington clay to powder; wet it with a little cold water mixed with ox-gall, and plaster it on the grease-spots. Pin a blotting-paper carefully over it. Let it rest two or three hours, then brush it off and renew the application: repeat it till the grease disappears.

If you have no Wilmington clay, you may substitute magnesia.

TO TAKE OUT PAINT FROM A DRESS.—After a paint-spot has dried, it is extremely difficult to remove it. When fresh, (having wiped off as much as you can,) it may be taken out by repeated applications of spirits of turpentine or of spirits of wine, rubbed on with a soft rag or a flannel. Ether also will efface it, if applied immediately. If the paint has been allowed to harden, nothing will take it off but spirits of turpentine, rubbed on with perseverance.

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TO TAKE FRESH PAINT OUT OF A COAT.—Take immediately a bit of cloth and rub the wrong side of it on the paint-spot. If no other cloth is convenient, part of the inside of the coat-skirt will do. This simple application will generally remove the paint when quite fresh. Otherwise rub on with your finger some ether, or dip a bit of sponge or flannel in the ether, and wipe the paint-spot with it as hard as possible.

TO TAKE WAX OUT OF CLOTH.—Hold a red-hot iron (a poker, for instance) within an inch or two of the cloth till the wax has disappeared. Then rub the cloth with some soft clean rag.

Wax droppings may be removed in the same manner from velvet.

TO TAKE OUT SPERMACETI.—First scrape off the drops of spermaceti nicely with a knife. Then lay a thin soft paper over them, and press on a warm iron which must not be hot enough to injure the colour. Afterwards rub the place with spirits of wine.

If the spermaceti has fallen on an article of which you can conveniently get at the wrong side, first scrape off as much of the grease as stands on the surface, then rub the under-side of the spot with Wilmington clay-ball scraped to powder, and let it rest for an hour or two: then repeat the application.

TO REMOVE WATER STAINS FROM BLACK CRAPE.—When a drop of water falls on a black crape veil or collar, it leaves a conspicuous white mark. To obliterate this, spread the crape on a table, (laying on it a large book or a paper-weight to keep it steady,) and place underneath the

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stain a piece of old black silk. With a large camel's hair brush dipped in common ink, go over the stain; and then wipe off the ink with a little bit of old soft silk. It will dry immediately, and the white mark will be seen no more.

TO REMOVE DUST OR MUD FROM A DRESS.—Take a small broom-corn whisk and (having shaken the dress) brush it carefully between the pleats or gathers. If there is mud on the skirt, rub it off with a piece of stout worsted stuff formed into a roll; or with a clean coarse towel. A plush-block is an excellent thing for brushing silk or merino dresses. To make it, get a small square block of wood, and sew tightly all over it (in the manner of a pincushion) a covering of saddler's plush.

TO TAKE INK OUT OF A COLOURED TABLE-COVER.—For a large ink-stain, dissolve a tea-spoonful of oxalic acid, in a tea-cup of hot water. Pour it into a bowl, and dip into it the part that is stained by the ink; rubbing it well in the solution. If the ink does not come out well, mix some fresh oxalic acid and hot water, and add it to the first. Rub the stain a while longer; and when the ink has all come out, dip the part immediately in water that is warm but not hot. Rub it well in the water, to get the oxalic acid entirely out; for if allowed to remain in, it will corrode the article. Then wash the table-cover, directly, in the manner described in a former receipt.

If these directions are carefully followed, the ink will be extracted, and the colours of the table-cloth not in the least disturbed.

If ink is spilled on white clothes, apply the oxalic acid, as above, and then put the article at once into the boil. This

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application of oxalic acid, *used very carefully*, will also remove ink spots from coloured dresses. And it will take out stains of tea, even from a buff-coloured article, on which a tea-stain has turned blackish.

Oxalic acid and hot water will also remove iron-mould. After applying it according to the above directions, place the article in the hot sun for about a quarter of an hour.

Though a powder, it is best to keep oxalic acid in a bottle tightly covered; taking care that the word "Poison" is written conspicuously on the label. The mistress of the family should not allow it to go out of her own possession.

TO REMOVE INK-SPOTS FROM WHITE CLOTHES.—This must be done before the clothes are washed. Pick some tallow from the bottom of a clean mould candle. Rub it hard on the ink-spots, and leave it sticking there in bits, till next day, or longer. Then let the article be washed and boiled; and if it is merely common ink, the stain will entirely disappear. Of course, this remedy can only be used for white things, as coloured clothes cannot be boiled without entirely fading them. We know it to be efficacious. The tallow must be rubbed on quite cold.

TO TAKE OUT MARKING INK.—Wet some chloride of lime with warm water, and rub it on the mark with your finger; repeating it till the ink disappears. Wash out the place immediately; as, if left in, the chloride of lime will injure the linen. Oxalic acid or salt of sorrel, rubbed on after the mark has been wetted with warm water, will also take it out.

TO REMOVE FRESH INK FROM A CARPET.—As soon as the ink has been spilled, take up as much as you can

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with a spoon, and then pour on cold water repeatedly, still taking up the liquid with the spoon. Next, rub the place with a little wet oxalic acid or salt of sorrel, and wash it off immediately with cold water.

TO TAKE INK OUT OF UNPAINTED WOOD.—When a desk or bench or floor is stained with ink, cut a lemon or a lime in half, and rub the spots with it. Then wash it off with warm water.

Vinegar is a tolerable substitute for lemon-juice, in removing ink-stains from boards.

TO TAKE INK OUT OF MAHOGANY.—Mix a small tea-spoonful of oil of vitriol with a large table-spoonful of soft water; dip into it a bit of clean flannel, and rub it on the ink-spots lightly and quickly, till they disappear. Then wash it off with a little milk, and rub it dry.

Or you may wet a little salt of tartar or oxalic acid and rub it on the ink-spot, washing it off immediately after the ink has disappeared.

TO REMOVE HEAT 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 soft cloth. The white mark will thus disappear, and the table look as well as ever.

TO RESTORE MILDEWED LINEN.—Clothes sometimes become mildewed from remaining damp too long before they are ironed, or from other causes. If they are clothes that

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have no dye or colouring about them, let them be dipped in very sour buttermilk, and then spread on the grass in the sun. When they are dry, wash out the buttermilk in cold water, and repeat the process till the mildew disappears.

Another way of removing mildew, is to soap the spots, and then, while wet, to cover them with fine chalk scraped to powder. Rub it well in, and then expose the article to the sun. By repeating the application the mildew will disappear.

Another way, is to mix some soft soap with powdered starch, adding half as much salt as you have of the starch, and also the juice of a lemon. With this mixture cover the mildew on both sides, and lay the article on the grass; keeping it out night and day till the stain disappears.

TO RESTORE SCORCHED LINEN.—If linen has been scorched in ironing, and the mark did not go entirely through so as to damage the texture, it may be removed by the following process:—Take two onions, peel them, slice them, and extract the juice by squeezing or pounding. Then cut up half an ounce of white soap, and two ounces of fuller's earth, mix with them the onion-juice and half a pint of vinegar. Boil this composition well: then spread it, when cool, over the scorched part of the linen, and let it dry on. Afterwards wash out the linen.

TO WHITEN LINEN THAT HAS TURNED YELLOW.—Cut up a pound of fine white soap into a gallon of milk, and hang it over the fire in a wash-kettle. When the soap has entirely melted, put in the linen, and boil it half an hour. Then take it out; have ready a lather of soap and warm water; wash the linen in it, and then rinse it through two cold waters, with a very little blue in the last.

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TO RESTORE LINEN THAT HAS LONG BEEN STAINED.—Rub the stains on each side with wet brown soap. Mix some starch to a thick paste with cold water, and spread it over the soaped places. Then expose the linen to the sun and air; and, if the stains have not disappeared in three or four days, rub off the mixture, and repeat the process with fresh soap and starch. Afterwards dry it, wet it with cold water, and put it in the wash.

TO KEEP SILK.—Silk articles should not be kept folded in white paper, as the chloride of lime used in bleaching the paper will probably impair the colour of the silk. Brown or blue paper is better: the yellowish smooth India paper is best of all. Silk intended for a dress should not be kept in the house long before it is made up, as lying in the folds will have a tendency to impair its durability by causing it to cut or split, particularly if the silk has been thickened by gum. We knew an instance of a very elegant and costly thread-lace veil being found on its arrival from France cut into squares (and therefore destroyed) by being folded over a paste-board card.

A white satin dress should be pinned up in blue paper, with coarse brown paper outside, sewed together at the edges.

The best way of keeping ribbons is to roll them round the blocks made for the purpose, and then wrap them in soft paper. You can easily obtain a few blocks from the stores where ribbons are sold. The block should be a little wider than the ribbon, that the edges may not be injured. When you have wound it smoothly round the block, secure the end of the ribbon with a little minnikin pin. A large pin will leave holes, and perhaps green ones.

In rolling two pieces of ribbon round the same block, place the first end of the second piece *under* the last end of the first

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piece, otherwise there will be a ridge where the two come together. Take care, in rolling, not to make the slightest crease.

Never wrap silk or ribbon, or indeed any thing that is to be worn without washing, in a printed paper, as the printing ink will rub off and soil it.

TO CLEAN WHITE SATIN SHOES.—Rub them lengthways of the satin, with a piece of new white flannel dipped in spirits of wine. If slightly soiled, you may clean them by rubbing with stale bread.

White satin shoes should be kept in blue paper closely wrapped, with coarse brown paper outside.

To keep your thin light slippers in shape, when you put them away, fold them over lengthways or sideways, and tie the strings round them. You should have a covered box purposely for your shoes.

STAIN MIXTURE.—Take an ounce of sal-ammoniac, (or hartshorn,) and an ounce of salt of tartar: mix them well, put them into a pint of soft water, and bottle it for use, keeping it very tightly corked. Pour a little of this liquid into a saucer, and wash in it those parts of a white article that have been stained with ink, mildew, fruit, or red wine. When the stains have by this process been removed, wash the article in the usual manner.

Another stain mixture useful for removing ink-spots, is to dissolve half an ounce of oxalic acid in a pint of soft water; then bottle and cork it for use, shaking it well. To use it, stretch the ink-stain over a bowl of hot water, and rub it with a sponge dipped in the oxalic solution. Then wash and dry it.

CLOTHES BALLS.—Take four ounces of fuller's earth, dried so as to crumble into powder, and mix with it half an

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ounce of pearl-ash. Wet it with a sufficiency of lemon-juice to work it into a stiff paste. Then form it into balls, and dry them in the sun, or on the top of a moderately warm stove. When quite dry, put them away for use. They will be found efficacious in removing grease spots and stains from articles of clothing, first wetting the spot with cold water, and then rubbing on the ball; afterwards drying the place in the sun or by the fire, and then washing it off with a sponge and clean water.

SALT OF LEMON.—This is the popular but erroneous name of a mixture very efficacious in taking out stains from linen, or from the hands. To prepare it, pound together in a mortar, equal quantities of oxalic acid and cream of tartar, (say an ounce of each,) mixing them thoroughly. Or the druggist of whom you buy the two articles, will have them pounded for you. Put it into small boxes, and keep it closely covered, and free from damp. When used, it must be moistened with a little water. If your hands are stained with ink, fruit, or indeed with any thing, dip them in water, and then rub on the stained parts a little of this powder; afterwards washing it off with fine soap.

A piece of lemon or the half of a lime, rubbed on hard, will also remove stains from the hands.

WILMINGTON CLAY BALLS.—These are excellent for extracting grease, and may be had in Philadelphia, at most of the drug-stores, and of Mrs. Norris, South Second street, west side, a few doors above Chesnut. They cost but a trifle, and no house should be without them. They are made entirely of a peculiar sort of clay, found at Wilmington, Del.; and to use them, they must be scraped down, and the powder rubbed on the grease-spot.

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DOMESTIC DYES.

REMARKS.

All articles to be dyed at home, should, if they are not quite new, be well washed and boiled, so as to make them perfectly clean before they are put into the dye; otherwise the colour will be dull and dingy, and the dirt will appear through it. Previous to going into the dye-kettle, they should be immersed either in lye, alum-water, or plain water; then well squeezed and shook out, and put into the dye wet all through; otherwise the colour will spot or run in streaks. If they have been originally of another colour, that colour must be boiled out as much as possible, before they can take the new dye smoothly and evenly. White things, or those of a very pale pink, or pale blue, take a dark or black dye much better than when their colour was previously dark.

If the shade is not deep enough the first time, dip them again in the dye.

While the things are in the dye-kettle, keep them well opened out, lifting them up and down occasionally, and stirring them about with a stick.

The dye for light colours should be made in earthen, tin, or brass vessels, and generally set with alum. Dark colours should be boiled in iron, and usually set with copperas.

Before you put in the article to be dyed, it is best to try the colour upon a waste bit of the same material; or by dipping in a piece of white paper.

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PINK DYE.—Take a sufficient quantity of flowers of the bergamot plant; pick them clean, and boil them in clear soft water; making the dye stronger or paler as you choose. When well boiled, strain the liquid, and add to it a few drops of oil of vitriol; more or less in proportion to the quantity of dye. There must be just enough of the vitriol to give the liquid a slight acid taste; but if there is too much, it will injure the texture of the article to be dyed. This article (it should always be a white one) must previously be well washed in hot soap-suds to make it perfectly clean. Then rinse it in cold water, squeeze it, shake it out, and put it wet into the dye. When it is thoroughly imbued, rinse it in cold water. Lastly, dry and smooth it with a stone, or with a very cool iron.

This is a beautiful pink dye for white silk scarfs, handkerchiefs, &c. For those articles a little gum arabic water (for instance, a table-spoonful or more) should be mixed with the rinsing water. The fringe at the edges should be nicely pulled out and shook while drying.

The bergamot flowers, if carefully dried and put up in white papers, will answer very well for the dye, at seasons when no fresh ones are to be had.

RED.—Having boiled in brass or earthen, two gallons of clear soft water, half a pound of wheat bran, and three ounces of powdered alum; strain it, return it to the kettle, and put in half an ounce of cream of tartar, and half an ounce of cochineal; each tied in a separate thin muslin bag. Boil it about a quarter of an hour. Then dip in the article to be dyed, and proceed in the usual manner.

If you wish a deeper red, use a smaller proportion of water, and more of the cochineal.

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YELLOW.—Procure from a drug store, a sufficient quantity of temerech or turmeric powder; tie it up in a muslin rag, and boil it in alum-water, or in skim milk. Have ready the article to be dyed, (which, if not quite new, must be made perfectly clean by washing.) When the turmeric liquid has arrived at the tinge you wish, take out the bag, put in the article, (which must be previously wet thoroughly,) and give it a boil. Then squeeze it out, and stretch, dry, and iron it as quickly as possible.

Turmeric will give a beautiful yellow colour to white silk handkerchiefs, scarfs, or ribbons. Also to muslin for curtain-linings; and to the thin muslin used for covering gilt frames, lamps, &c., in the summer.

The flowers of the French marigold, picked to pieces, and boiled with a bit of alum, will dye a fine lemon yellow. The article to be dyed must be white, washed very clean, and then steeped in cold water. After the marigold dye has been boiled and strained, put the article in wet, and boil it till well coloured.

Another yellow may be dyed, by tying some saffron in a thin muslin bag, and boiling it in alum water, in an earthen vessel. Then strain it, and when cool, put in the article.

Peach leaves will make a yellow dye. Also onion skins.

BLUE.—Boil gently together in clear soft water, a pound of woad, half a pound of indigo, and two ounces of alum. Then strain it, and add an ounce of pyroligneous acid or vinegar of wood. Take the article to be dyed, (which must be white,) and if dirty, wash it well. Then soak it in clean water, wring it very well, and put it wet into the dye. Keep it in till you perceive that it has thoroughly taken the colour, stirring it about with a stick. Then dry it, and afterwards wash it out in warm soap-suds.

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BLUE COMPOSITION.—This is a compound of indigo and vitriol, and can be obtained at the druggists in a phial. The cost is twelve cents an ounce, and it colours silk a fine blue; but must not be used for cotton. The proportion for a light blue, is ten or fifteen drops of this composition, mixed in a quart of warm soft water, and then stirred and strained. If you wish it darker, add more of the blue compound. Immerse in it the article to be dyed, (first wetting it,) and when it has taken well, wring it out, and dry it. When quite dry, wash it in cool soap-suds, and dry it again. This will prevent its being injured by the vitriol.

DARK BLUE.—Boil four ounces of copperas in two gallons of water. Having wetted the article, dip it into the copperas dye while hot. Then rinse it through cold water. Have ready a strong decoction of logwood boiled and strained, and dip the article through that till it has taken a fine dark blue. Dry it, and then wash it in soap-suds.

GREEN.—Make first a fine yellow dye of turmeric, tied up in thin muslin, and boiled in soft water, with some pieces of alum. Having thoroughly wet the article to be dyed, put it into the dye, (after it has become tepid or lukewarm,) and stir it about till it has taken. Then open it out, and dry it. Afterwards stir into the yellow dye a sufficient quantity of the druggist's blue indigo-composition, (a little at a time,) to make it the tint of green you require. Then put into water the article that is already dyed yellow; and when well soaked, squeeze it out, and put it wet into the green dye. When it has taken the green thoroughly, (perhaps in fifteen minutes,) dry it, and smooth it with a stone. A warm iron will injure the colour.

This dye must not be used for cotton.

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A good proportion of the ingredients for a bright green dye, is two ounces of turmeric to four gallons of water, with four ounces of pulverized alum; and for the blueing, half a table-spoonful of the indigo compound. For a more yellowish green, use more turmeric; for a more blueish, a larger proportion of the indigo mixture.

For a dark or bottle green, take twelve ounces of fustic, and three ounces of bruised alum, and boil them in three gallons of water. Then stir in (by degrees) the indigo composition, till you get the colour as dark as you wish.

AN EXCELLENT BUFF DYE.—For about twelve yards of white cotton or thick muslin, prepare in a *brass* kettle two gallons of soft water, into which put a large tea-cupful of pot-ash sewed up in a flannel bag. After the pot-ash has entirely dissolved in the water, hang the kettle over the fire, and let it become scalding hot; but do not allow it to boil. When *almost* at the boiling point, take out the pot-ash bag, and put in an ounce of anatto or aronetta-powder, sewed up in a linen bag. Let the anatto bag simmer in the water about half an hour, till the kettle is almost at a boil. Then have ready the article, which must be previously washed in a strong warm pot-ash water. Remove the kettle from the fire; put into it the wet muslin that has been washed in the pot-ash water, and work it about in the dye; rinsing it up and down, till the whole of it has taken the colour thoroughly and evenly. Do not let it boil, as that may injure the tint. Then wring it well, open and shake it, stretch it evenly, and hang it out to dry immediately. After it has entirely dried, wash it well in soap-suds, hang it out again, and iron it while damp.

This will be found a very handsome colour for linings, bed-spreads, vallances, and common curtains. For the latter

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purpose, it should have a fringe or a binding of black, dark-green, brown, purple, or crimson. Aronetta alone, makes a well known salmon colour; but this addition of pot-ash gives it a beautiful bright buff tint, such as is generally called bird of paradise colour. It will bear repeated washings, without fading.

For a more yellowish tinge, use a larger portion of pot-ash; for a more reddish, increase the quantity of aronetta.

This dye may be made of a deep nankeen colour, if desired.

COMMON ARONETTA DYE.—Tie up some aronetta or anatto powder (for instance, twelve cents worth) in a thin muslin bag, and rub it into a strong lather, (good soft soap is best for this purpose,) or into weak lye. Having soaked the article in cold water, wring it out, open it, and boil it in the dye. Then dry it in the shade, and iron it.

This quantity is sufficient for twelve yards of thick muslin, which will be found very useful for linings and other purposes.

The proper name of this dye-stuff is anatto or arnotto, but its popular appellation is aronetta.

FINE SALMON COLOUR.—Make a strong lather with very good soap. Tie up in a thin muslin bag a sufficient quantity of anatto or aronetta powder, (not *less* than six cents worth,) and rub it into the lather: then give it a boil for a quarter of an hour. Having wet the article to be dyed very thoroughly with alum-water, put it into the dye, and let it boil for half an hour or more, in proportion to its size and thickness. Then take it out, dry, and iron it.

This quantity will dye six yards of silk or muslin.

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NANKEEN COLOUR.—Take a sufficient quantity of birch bark, split it small, and tie it up in a thin cotton cloth. Put it into a brass or tin kettle with soft water and a few bits of alum. When it has boiled till you get the right colour, let it cool a little, and put in the article to be dyed, having first wet it thoroughly.

SLATE COLOUR.—This may be obtained by the very simple process of boiling in vinegar with a bit of alum, some pieces of the thick purple paper that comes round sugar-loaves. Then strain it, and return it to the kettle, which must be of iron. Having first boiled all the original colour out of the articles to be dyed slate, and steeped them in cold water, squeeze them out, open them, put them wet into the new dye, and boil them till thoroughly coloured. Then dry them, and wash them in soap-suds.

BLACK.—First, in hot soap-suds boil out as much as possible the previous colour of the article to be dyed, and then wash it in soft water. Have ready a dye made in the proportion of a gallon of vinegar to a pound of ground logwood, chipped small and tied up in a thin bag. Let it stand all night. In the morning add a piece of copperas half the size of an egg, (or larger, according to the quantity of dye,) and boil the whole for an hour; then strain it. Having made the article to be dyed thoroughly wet by soaking it in lukewarm water, squeeze it, shake it out, and immerse it in the dye; boiling it a quarter of an hour or more in proportion to its size, and stirring it about with a stick. Take it out, dry it, wet it all through again, and give it another boil in the dye. Repeat this a third time. Afterwards, to soften it from the harshness left by the black dye, wash it in tepid soap-suds, and let it lie

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in the lather about a quarter of an hour. Rinse it first in clear water, and then (if the article is silk) pass it through a weak gum arabic water. Stretch it well, dry it in the shade, and then press it.

This dye will be found useful for silk articles. A dress must be taken entirely to pieces before it is dyed.

To obtain a jet black; make first a strong decoction of green walnut husks; and after it has boiled an hour, strain it, and put in the silk, which must first be steeped in luke-warm water. Then take it out from the walnut liquor, dry it, and having soaked it in water a second time, put it into a kettle of black dye made, (as before-mentioned,) with logwood, vinegar, and copperas, and proceed according to the directions.

CINNAMON BROWN.—Take half a pound of ground camwood, tie it in a thin bag, and put it into a brass or tin kettle with two gallons of soft water. Boil it a quarter of an hour. Then strain it, and put in the article, wet thoroughly in water. Dip it carefully, and repeat the dipping till it takes the colour completely.

With the dye that is left, you may obtain different shades of brown by adding, in small quantities, more or less copperas; giving it another boil

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OLIVE COLOUR.—Boil together fustic, and walnut or yellow-oak bark. For a bright olive use more fustic, for a dark one more walnut bark. When the liquid is well coloured, strain it, and put in the article wet; adding, for a light tint a little vitriol; for a dark one a little copperas, to set the colour.

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COUNTRY MANNER OF DYEING WOOL OR YARN.

REMARKS.

ALL wool or woollen yarn should, before dyeing, be well washed or scoured in strong warm soap-suds, so as to free it entirely from grease: otherwise it will not take the dye. It should then be opened out, and dried; and before it goes into the dye, it should be made thoroughly wet with cold water, and then squeezed out and opened. When it comes out of the dye, and has taken the colour properly, it must be put in the open air to dry. If raw wool, spread it on boards; if yarn, hang it on lines. When it is quite dry, take a bucket of warm water (not hot) and mix with it a tea-cup full of lye. Wash the article through two of these warm lye-waters, and rinse it in cold water till the colour ceases to come out. Then dry it again.

Raw wool should be carefully picked and opened before washing for the dye.

All dye-stuffs must be strained before using. The kettle should then be washed, the dye-stuff returned to it, and the article to be coloured put in.

The barks used in dyeing should be taken from the trees in April or May, when the sap is in them.

BROWN.—In the spring when the sap comes up, take a sufficient quantity of bark from the white walnut tree. Spread in a tub or in a half barrel a plentiful layer of this bark, and a

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thin layer of picked wool, alternately, till the tub is two-thirds full. Then pour on enough of cold soft water to cover the whole. Lay stones on the top to keep it down. Let it stand some days in the sun and air, till the water becomes a very dark brown. Examine the wool to see if it is thoroughly coloured. Then open it out, and spread it on boards to dry. When dry, if you find it not dark enough, repeat the process. It is best to do it in warm weather.

Another shade of brown may be obtained by mixing with a large quantity of the white walnut bark, a small portion of the bark of sour sumach.

A light brown may be produced by boiling, in a brass kettle, some bark of the white maple with a lump of alum.

BUFF COLOUR.—Take in the spring some birch bark. Put it into a brass kettle, and pour on sufficient water to cover it. Then add a proportionate piece of alum, (for instance, about half the size of an egg or larger,) and let it boil half an hour. Strain it, and return it to the kettle, which must previously be washed clean. Then having thoroughly wetted the article by dipping it in weak lye, and squeezed and shook it out, put it into the dye, and let it boil till it has taken the colour completely. If, when dry, you find it too pale, repeat the dyeing.

ORANGE COLOUR.—Put into a brass or copper kettle some black-alder bark (taken in the spring) and a sufficiency of soft water to cover it. Boil and skim it till you have a strong fine colour, and then strain it. Have ready a rather strong lye and dip the wool or woollen into it, then squeeze it out, and put the article into the dye while warm, letting it remain in it till the liquid gets cold. Afterwards squeeze it, open it out, and dry it in the air.

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RED.—Steep five pounds of Brazil wood for a week in rain or river water: then boil it in a sufficient quantity of water to cover the yarn you intend dyeing. First soak the yarn in alum-water so as completely to saturate it. Then (while wet) boil it in the dye, which must be previously strained. Then open it out and dry it.

Afterwards take a bucket of warm (not hot) water without soap, and mix with it a tea-cup full of lye. Wash the yarn thus, through two warm waters, and rinse it till the colour ceases to come out. This must always be done with dyed yarn.

YELLOW.—Boil together two-thirds of black oak bark and one-third of hickory, with sufficient water to cover the yarn, which must first be steeped in alum-water. When the two barks have boiled together till they produce the colour you want, strain the liquid, and put the yarn into it wet.

The bark of the sweet apple tree will dye a good yellow.

BLUE AND GREEN.—A week before you wish to dye the article, get two ounces of indigo and four ounces of oil of vitriol: mix them together in a clean bottle, cork it tightly, and let it stand to infuse: shaking it several times every day. This, if used by itself, will make a blue dye diluted with water to any tint you wish. When added to certain barks, it will make a green, as follows:

Take two-thirds of black oak bark and one-third of hickory bark, (stripped from the trees in April or May,) and boil them together in soft water for twelve hours. After which strain the liquid, and mix with it the infusion of indigo and oil of vitriol which you have made a week previous. Then dip the yarn into alum-water, and while wet steep it in the dye. The

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above quantity of ingredients will colour sufficient yarn for two coverlets.

When the yarn has taken the colour completely, open it out and spread it to dry in the shade.

BLACK.—Make a decoction of blue Aleppo nut-galls by bruising them coarsely, and then pouring on them boiling water in the proportion of a gallon of water to a pound of nut-galls. Let the decoction stand for three or four days or more, stirring it frequently. Prepare at the same time, in another vessel, a decoction of a quarter of a pound of chipped logwood, and four ounces of green copperas, to two quarts of boiling water, and let it stand also three or more days, stirring it often. Afterwards strain the decoction of gall-nuts into a brass or copper kettle, put into it the woollen or yarn, and boil it two hours. Then take it out; empty and wash the kettle, and strain into it the decoction of logwood and copperas. Put in the yarn again; hang it over the fire, and keep the dye for two hours at a scalding heat, but do not let it come to a boil; frequently taking out the yarn and exposing it a little while to the air, which will give it a better black. When it has thoroughly taken the dye, spread it out to dry, and afterwards wash it in warm water mixed with a little lye, and then rinse it well.

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INSECTS, RATS, MICE, &c.

REMEDIES FOR BED-BUGS OR CHINCHES.—In new houses, where the habits of the family are neat, and a general attention is paid to cleanliness throughout, there will be little danger of bed-bugs; but on removing to an old house which has had various occupants, these disgusting and intolerable insects frequently make their appearance with the commencement of the warm weather (and sometimes before) from having been unpardonably allowed to get possession even of the crevices of the wood-work on the walls; and if the chambers are papered, they often contrive to effect a lodgment between the edges of the paper and the plastering. In this case the most efficient remedy is to have the paper torn off, (first loosening it by washing it all over with a broom or brush dipped in water,) and the walls purified by white-washing or painting. If bugs are found in the crevices of the surbase or wash-board of an old house, their haunts should be well washed with a strong decoction of tobacco boiled in water, or with a decoction of red peppers. If these washes (which by frequent repetition generally succeed) should fail to destroy them, the crevices, as a last resource, should be rubbed with quicksilver beaten up with white of egg; and afterwards filled up with putty or wadding, or with quick-lime mixed with water.

If on moving into a house, it is found to be free from bugs or other vermin, the utmost care should be taken to keep it so; remembering always the homely proverb that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

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An absurd idea is strangely prevalent that bugs never originate in a mahogany bedstead. Nothing can be more false. There is no wood of which a bedstead can be made that possesses any quality which is inimical to them. Old bedsteads are of course more likely to be infested with bugs than new ones; and therefore it is not advisable to buy them at auction or in any second-hand way. Cot bedsteads are, of all others, the most productive of bugs. The old-fashioned press-bedsteads (which were made to open out when wanted at night, and during the day were turned up and shut within folding doors so as to resemble a ward-robe press) could never even with the greatest care be kept free from them. We have heard the same objection made to the sofa-beds, which have been tried by persons who desired to use the same room both as a parlour and a chamber. We believe that in our American climate, no bedstead or bedding, which during the day is shut up entirely from the air, can long continue free from these insects.

For boarding-schools, hospitals, barracks, prisons, and all places where the sleeping apartments are small, or where many persons sleep in the same room, no bedsteads are comparable to those made entirely of iron; which, however, should always be painted to prevent their rusting.

Bugs will not only infest bedsteads, but also couches, sofas, cribs, cradles, easy-chairs, ward-robe-presses, and other articles of furniture that are kept in bed-rooms; therefore great care should be taken to inspect these things frequently. We have heard even of bugs getting into pianos that were kept in boarding-school chambers. Hair trunks should never be placed in bed-rooms, as they are apt to collect bugs, fleas, and moths. It is well not to use hair trunks at all. If those of leather are considered too expensive for common purposes, it is better to substitute strong wooden boxes, painted on the outside, and

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furnished with hinges, handles, and a lock and key. These boxes are excellent for travelling, and also to hold articles at home. By bespeaking them of a carpenter, or cabinet-maker, they can be obtained with little trouble and expense.

Servants (who in general sleep too soundly to feel much annoyance from any thing) are very apt to neglect the care of their beds, and frequently deny the existence of bugs in them, till they become infested to a degree that is difficult to remedy. When this is the case, it is a chance if the nuisance does not spread to the apartments of the family, the insects being conveyed thither on the clothes of the servants. A good housekeeper will guard against this evil in time, by personal inspection of the servants' apartments, and by insisting on the excellent practice of spreading out all their bed-clothes on chairs, every morning as soon as they are up, and also on raising the window-sashes, for the purpose of ventilating the room; even in the coldest weather.

If, however, their bedsteads are actually infested, they should be taken apart, carried into the yard, and the joints and pins first scalded with hot water, and then washed with cold strong soap-suds: as also the sacking-bottom; the servants, if necessary, sleeping on the floor for one night, till the whole has had time to dry thoroughly. Before the bedstead is put together again, the joints should be well rubbed with strong mercurial ointment; or with some of the other applications recommended for the destruction of insects. A servant's bedstead can hardly be considered safe, unless it is taken down and cleaned once a month during the warm weather; and the mistress of the house should see that it is done.

It is not well to place bedsteads with one side against the wall. This increases the heat, obstructs the free circulation of air, and adds to the difficulty of keeping them free from bugs.

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Even in a small room, some sacrifice of space should be made for the purpose of having the bedstead to stand out in the floor; so that only the head may be against the wall.

It is an excellent custom to have all the bedsteads washed at the joints with *cold* suds made of brown or soft soap, regularly once a week, (for instance, on Friday,) spreading a coarse cloth under or round the feet, to catch the droppings of the water. After the bedstead is washed, the bedding should be kept all day spread about the room, or in a back balcony, and the bed not made up till towards evening.

If proper precautions are observed, there is little danger of a well managed family being troubled with insects in their bedsteads; unless, as remarked above, they chance to move into an old or ill kept house. It will be well then, as a preventive, to cover all the cracks or joints of the bedstead with strong mercurial ointment, rubbing it in with the finger. A small box of this ointment may be found useful in travelling, to rub on the bedstead before you retire to it.

One of the best remedies and preventives for bed-bugs, is to procure from a druggist an ounce of quicksilver, and beat it in a mortar to a strong froth, with the whites of two eggs; or if you wish it very powerful, and thick like an ointment, use the white of one egg only. If liquid, spread it with the feather of a quill: or, what is still better, with a large old camel's hair brush, all over the cracks and pins of the bedstead, (not forgetting the under side of all the joints,) and see that it penetrates thoroughly. If you have made an ointment of it, rub it on with your finger. This is considered a still better remedy than the common mercurial ointment, but cannot always be as promptly obtained.

To wash the joints and pins of the bedstead frequently with

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sweet spirits of nitre is a tolerable remedy for bugs when they are not numerous.

Corrosive sublimate, mixed with spirits of wine, and rubbed into all the cracks, will also destroy them; but it must be repeated frequently, washing it well into the cracks with a quill feather, or a soft brush.

A very good way of keeping bedsteads free from bugs, is, after a weekly washing with cold soap-suds, to take a sponge and wet every joint and pin with a mixture made as follows. Put into a quart bottle equal quantities of spirits of wine and spirits of turpentine, adding a large table-spoonful of oil of vitriol, and an ounce of powdered camphor. Cork it tightly, and keep it for use. This should be applied every week, beginning the first of March, and continuing till November.

A *most effectual* remedy against bugs is to have all the bedsteads in the house taken down every spring, (in March, for instance,) and after washing the joints with cold water and brown soap, to have the whole bedstead completely varnished (even on the inside of the joints) with varnish procured from a cabinet-maker; or getting a cabinet-maker's man to come and do it. The expense will be small in comparison to the benefit.

Also, carefully stop up with putty all the cracks and crevices, however small, of the wash-board and surbase.

Or for stopping the cracks, you may use quick-lime made into a dough with water, and plastered into all the crevices with a knife.

COCKROACHES.—Every house should be provided with cockroach traps. They are made of brown earthenware, and are to be bought for a trifle at the pottery shops, or in the

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Philadelphia market. Bait them with molasses mixed with a little water, and set them about at night, when the lights are removed.

Cockroaches should not be allowed to increase, or they will soon become an intolerable nuisance; and when very numerous, it is extremely difficult to get rid of them. It is best, as soon as the first one makes its appearance, to resort immediately to effective measures for their destruction; for if taken in time, they are easily extirpated. Let every cockroach that is found on the stairs be immediately killed; for if they once get into the upper part of the house there is danger of their creeping into the beds, and finding their way into trunks, band-boxes, and clothes-presses, where they will eat holes in articles of clothing, if not discovered in time.

The hellebore plant, laid in large quantities in places that they frequent, will sometimes expel them.

A pound of chloride of lime mixed with a quart of water, and placed where they abound, is destructive to them.

Another remedy for cock-roaches is to boil the roots of the pokeberry plant till quite dissolved in the water, and then mix it with molasses, and set it about in old saucers.

The following is a good remedy:—Take six cents worth, or more, of powdered white lead, (you may obtain it at a paint or drug store,) put it on an old plate, and mix it with Indian meal, and coarse brown sugar or molasses. Then with a little water make it into a paste, using for the purpose a broad-bladed knife, or an iron spoon. Spread it on old plates or saucers, and set it about wherever you have seen cock-roaches. They will eat it readily, and it will destroy them. It is best to mix it fresh every day till the cock-roaches disappear.

Arsenic powder strewed among bread and butter-crumbs,

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and laid at night about their haunts, will effectually destroy them. As it is a deadly poison, take care to shut out your cats and dogs from the rooms in which you have placed it.

Scalding with a hot decoction of tobacco the holes and cracks from which the cock-roaches issue, will greatly diminish their numbers.

FLEAS.—Fleas are often brought to a house by cats and dogs; for which reason those animals should be kept very clean. In the country, if pigs are allowed to be near the house, they will soon cause it to abound in fleas. So also will the immediate neighbourhood of a stable. Shavings, if permitted to accumulate and lie about, will also produce them. To prevent their originating in blankets and other woollens that are put away for the summer, it is well to spread among the folds numerous sprigs of penny-royal. Shreds or flakes of tobacco are also good for this purpose; so are lumps of camphor, broken small.

In catching fleas the best and surest way to kill them is to put them instantly into a basin of water.

Sprigs of wild myrtle, or penny-royal, or small flat camphor-bags dispersed about your under-clothes, and conveniently fastened, will keep fleas from molesting your person during the day.

At night, let penny-royal be scattered over the bed-covers, and laid under the pillows and bolster; strewing a large quantity between the sacking and the mattrass. Wash yourself before going to bed in water that has had essence of penny-royal mixed with it.

Fumigation with brimstone will destroy fleas; exposing to the vapour of the burning sulphur all the articles that are infested with them.

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When fleas are found on cats, dogs, &c., they may be extirpated by rubbing the animal all over with common snuff, taking care that it does not touch the eyes.

CRICKETS.—To destroy crickets, put snuff into the holes and cracks from whence they come out.

FLIES.—Flies may be destroyed by the following preparation: Dissolve four drachms of extract of quassia, (to be procured at the druggists,) in a pint of boiling water, and then mix in a little brown sugar or molasses. Set it about on old saucers.

Fly-traps (which are two flat broad pieces of wood, shaped into handles at the bottom, and united at the back by a leathern hinge,) are used in some houses. They must be spread open, smeared with molasses on the inside, and stood up or hung in a convenient place. When filled with flies, shut the trap hard, so as to kill them.

Cold green tea very strong, and sweetened with brown sugar, will, when set about in saucers, attract the flies and destroy them.

Bunches of indigo weed, or of penny-royal, stuck about the harness is said to keep flies from horses.

MUSQUITOES.—The common opinion that musquitoes are attracted by the light, we believe to be erroneous. Out of doors they are much more numerous in dark shady places than in open sunshine; and the time that they get into the houses, is in the dusk of the evening, before the candles or lamps are lighted. They are very quick-sighted as to the approach of danger, and in trying to kill them on a wall, it is best not to attempt to strike them with the palm of your hand, but merely

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with your finger as they are less likely to perceive the impending blow.

Musquito nets are somewhat of safe-guards from the incursions of this tormenting insect, and in the south they are considered indispensable. But where the musquitoes are not very numerous, it may be well to omit the use of nets, as they cause an uncomfortable feeling of confinement and oppression in a warm night, from their impeding the free circulation of air around the bed. Also a few stray musquitoes will generally contrive to get within the net before you let it down, and cause you much annoyance. Terrible, and, indeed, fatal accidents have happened from the musquito net catching the flame of the candle, and setting the bedding on fire.

Musquito nets are made of millinet, coarse leno, or coarse bobbinet. They are thrown over the tester or top-rail of the bed, and hang on all sides quite down to the floor. A musquito bar is the net stretched on a frame of wood, so as to screen a low post bed, from the incursions of these insects.

It is said that you may get rid of musquitoes for the night, by carrying into your room a shovel or chafing-dish of hot coals, and having thrown on it some brown sugar, close all the windows and doors, and let it burn till the smoke has died away.

If you put some eau de cologne or spirits of camphor in a basin of cold water, and wash yourself well with it previous to going to bed, the musquitoes will be less likely to trouble you.

Take a light in your hand, carefully search the walls of your room all round, the last thing before you lie down, and kill every musquito you see. If you are unwilling to stain the wall, you can catch and destroy them with the corner of a towel or handkerchief taken between your thumb and finger. Persons who have had practice can do this very dexterously.

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If you have sufficient resolution to refrain from rubbing a musquito bite, and your blood is in a good state, it will seldom inflame or continue troublesome. If, however, the bites do inflame, and cause you much inconvenience, it will be well to cool and purify your blood by taking a wine-glass, or more, of dissolved epsom salts, about day-light every morning, for awhile. To have this always at hand, put a quarter of a pound of salts, in a clean quart bottle: fill it up with water, (either warm or cold) cork it tightly, and keep it in a closet in your room.

We know no better remedy for musquito bites than salt and vinegar, which if applied immediately, and before the skin is broken by rubbing, will speedily extract the venom, allay the irritation, and cause the swelling to subside without leaving any mark or trace. In musquito season, it is well to keep in your closet a little bottle of vinegar, and a cup of salt, with a small plate or saucer to mix them on. Moisten some of the salt with sufficient vinegar to form a paste, (it must not be thin or liquid,) and then plaster it on thick all over the bite. Let it stay on till it falls off of itself, and then if necessary, renew the application.

It is said that a paste of salt and vinegar, if immediately applied, has been known to extract the poison from the bite of a snake. At least it may be well to try it, till other remedies can be procured.

Washing musquito bites with lead-water is a good remedy. So also is bay-rum.

ANTS.—Few insects are more difficult to exterminate than the little red ants with which many houses are infested. They may be kept under, by frequently scalding with boiling water, the cracks and places from which they issue. To smear the

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cracks of the closets between the shelves and the wall with corrosive sublimate will destroy them; but as it is a deadly poison, it must be used with caution. Dishes and jars containing articles that the ants seem to like, should be set in pans of salt and water, and the pan should be surrounded with a ring of salt. If they infest the sideboard, let the feet be set constantly in tin or iron cups filled with salt and water.

A circle of tar spread round each foot of the bench that holds the hives, will prevent ants from reaching the bees and destroying the honey.

MOTHS.—Many persons erroneously suppose that the best way to prevent moths from getting into woollens or furs, is occasionally through the summer to hang these articles out in the sun and air. This is a great mistake, as it is by such exposure that the moths are most likely to get into them. On the contrary, in the spring, when the season is over for furs and woollens, they should be well shaken and brushed, and then wrapped up tightly in linen, laying among them lumps of camphor; handfuls of fresh hops; shreds of good tobacco, or cuttings of Russia leather; or strew among them ground black pepper or cedar shavings; all of which are preventives to moths: but the camphor is by far the best, and most certain, particularly for furs. For blankets and carpets, you may use the best chewing-tobacco pulled to pieces, or tobacco stems. All woollens, &c. should be kept during the summer, unopened, in dark closets, presses, or chests. If by any chance or neglect, a press or closet should become infested with moths, let it be well scalded with a strong decoction of tobacco and repeatedly sprinkled with spirits of camphor. If this does not expel these troublesome insects, it is better to give up keeping woollens in that press, and to appropriate it to some other use.

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Chests of camphor wood (for which many persons send to India) are excellent for keeping woollens, and well worth the cost. If muffs and tippets are kept always closely shut up in their own boxes, with lumps of camphor, and shreds of tobacco, continually interspersed about the fur, they will be in no danger from the moth. Furs had best be put away for the season as early as March.

Cedar presses are preferable to all others, for keeping cloth clothes or other woollen articles.

Hair trunks rarely fail to introduce moths.

The best time for putting away the woollens is in April, unless the season is so backward as still to require the use of them. One blanket for each bed should be kept out, and left in the chamber-closet, that it may be at hand in case of an uncomfortably cool night in the summer.

Flannels should never be put out of the way entirely: as in a climate so variable as ours, they may be needed occasionally even in July and August.

REMEDIES FOR STINGS OR BITES OF INSECTS.—If stung on your hand or foot, plunge it directly into cold water, (strong salt and water is better still,) and hold it there till some other remedy is prepared. A sting in any place will be much relieved by plastering on it immediately some clay or earth, mixed with a little water to the consistence of thick mud. Powdered chalk moistened with water is good. A paste of salt wet with vinegar is excellent.

A slice of raw onion is said to allay the pain from the sting of a wasp or bee; or you may wet the part, and rub a piece of indigo upon it. It is also very good to bathe the wound with laudanum, or with hartshorn, or with spirits of camphor, or with sweet oil.

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All the above applications should be repeated till the intensity of the pain subsides. If the sting shows a disposition to inflame, keep the place constantly wet with a rag soaked in a solution of Prussian blue and soft water. A poultice of cold lead-water and bread-crumbs, is also a very soothing remedy. If there seems to be danger of the sting becoming a sore, (which is sometimes the case when the blood is in a bad state, or if the stings are numerous,) take a dose of salts, and refrain from animal food. It may be well also to lose some blood.

Another remedy, is to hold the part that is stung in pearl-ash and water, moderately strong.

The pipe or hollow end of a key, pressed hard upon the wound, will allay the pain of a sting.

It sometimes happens that a wasp or bee is accidentally swallowed: you may in that case kill the insect immediately, by taking a tea-spoonful of salt dissolved in a little water; this will also prevent the sting from inflaming your throat.

If bees swarm upon your head, hold an empty hive over it and smoke a segar or a pipe. The vapour of the tobacco will drive them all upwards into the hive.

The pain caused by the sting of a nettle may be much allayed by rubbing the part with balm, rosemary, mint, or sage leaves.

RATS AND MICE.—There is much difficulty in getting rid of rats and mice, when they once have found their way into a house. A good cat is one of the best remedies for mice, but some cats are afraid to encounter a rat.

To keep out rats, the cellar and kitchen windows (if the kitchen is in the basement story) should, at once, while the house is finishing, be provided, both back and front, with wire gratings for the windows. Rats and mice always get in from

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out of doors and from the neighbouring houses; and if the basement windows have merely iron bars, they will easily slip between them. No cellar door should be kept open after sunset; indeed, we have more than once seen a rat going down into an open cellar in broad daylight.

When any holes are found about the walls, they should be immediately and effectually stopped up; with brick and mortar if outside, and if inside, by filling them with putty or wadding, or waste newspaper, and nailing over them bits of board; or rather sheet-lead or tin.

In travelling, it is well to examine your chamber before you go to bed, and if you find any holes, stop them up for the night, by stuffing in, as tightly as possible, old newspaper, rags, or any thing you can conveniently obtain for the purpose. A hole in the floor may be covered by placing your trunk upon it. It is a good plan to have among your baggage a small mouse-trap, (carefully wrapped up, so that the roughness of the wires may not injure any other article,) and to bait it and set it on the floor of the room in which you sleep. This, by catching the mice, will prevent your being disturbed with their running about the room, and perhaps over your bed.

The common cage-traps are the best, and may be bought for a trifle at the hard-ware stores. There are spring-traps so constructed as to kill the mice at the moment they are caught; but these are difficult to fix, and very soon get so much out of order as to be useless. Bait the trap with toasted cheese, bread and butter, or sweet-cake. You may, as a decoy, lay a train of crumbs from the mouse-hole to the trap. Mice soon learn to know a trap when they see it, and consequently avoid going near it; therefore set it in a dark place, and cover it as much as possible with rags, waste paper, hay, or any thing that will effectually conceal from them all but the entrance; the scent

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only being sufficient to entice them to the bait. The most humane manner of destroying a mouse that has been thus caught, is to put the trap, without opening it, into a tub or bucket of water.

When mice and rats have become numerous, the most effective way of clearing them off, is by poison. Bits of broken glass, bottles pounded to powder and mixed with mush, or with cold Indian meal and water, and laid about their haunts on old plates, will very generally destroy them.

It is said that the plant called dog's-tongue, (botanically the cynoglopum officinale,) which grows abundantly in the fields, will cause them to disappear, when spread profusely in the places that they infest. For this purpose, it should be gathered at the time when the sap is in full vigour, and should be bruised with a mallet or hammer.

Another remedy, is to mix a large table-spoonful of flour with equal quantities of the seeds of hemlock or cicuta, and the scrapings of strong old cheese, pounding them together till quite fine. Set it about on old plates in places where the mice have appeared, but take care not to put it where provisions or any articles of food are kept. The same ingredients, mixed in larger quantities, will of course destroy rats.

Powdered arsenic, spread on bread and butter, or sweet-cake, is certain destruction to rats and mice; but great care should be taken to keep young children, and cats and dogs, out of the way of it, lest they eat it in mistake. All papers containing arsenic, should be labelled "Poison," and carefully locked up by the master or mistress of the house.

To free a room from the smell of a dead mouse or rat; take a small earthen vessel, in which put a little pounded salt-petre, (more or less according to the size of the room,) and pour on a sufficient quantity of oil of vitriol to saturate or wet it all

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through profusely. Then place it where the unpleasant smell is most powerful, and leave it in the room; shutting the doors and windows closely when you go out. In an hour or two, the effluvia from the dead animal will be no longer perceptible.

TO PREPARE RABBIT OR SQUIRREL SKINS.—Mix a sufficient quantity of salt and water, strong enough to bear up an egg; and add to it a large lump of alum, broken small. Warm this mixture over the fire, but do not let it come to a boil. When about blood-warm take it off, and put into it the rabbit-skin, (which should be quite fresh,) and let it soak twenty-four hours or more. Then take it out and spread it on a board, (the fur inwards,) fastening it with small tack nails. Scrape the skin with a knife, and a thin membrane will come off. Next, having warmed up the liquor a second time, put the skin again into it; and let it remain steeping for five or six hours more. Then take it out, and nail it on the board to dry, the fur inwards as before. When dry, rub it well with whiting and pumice stone, and expose it to the air for a week or two.

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FUEL, FIRES, &c.

WOOD.—The best time to lay in wood, for winter fuel, is in the summer, as at that season the price is comparatively low; and if you buy it green, it will become dry enough before the cold weather sets in. If, however, you have occasion to buy wood during the winter, get the dryest you can find; as green wood makes a very bad fire in a cold day, and is at no time good for cooking. There is, however, some economy in buying a few loads of large green wood purposely for back-logs; as there is much inconvenience in a dry back-log consuming too rapidly. These green logs should be piled in a place by themselves, and not mixed with the other wood.

The best wood for fuel is hickory, and the next is oak. Locust is also very good; so are walnut, beech, and maple. Birch is tolerable. Chesnut wood is extremely unsafe from its tendency to snap and sparkle, and to throw its small coals all round. Pine wood is of little value as house fuel. It blazes freely at first, but when its resinous qualities have exhaled, (which is almost immediately,) the sticks turn black, and seem to moulder away without emitting any heat. Pine chips, however, from the rapidity with which they ignite, are excellent for kindling.

Some families are in the practice of buying all their wood in large logs, and having them split up at once to a convenient size as soon as they are sawed, and before they are piled; engaging a wood-splitter to come with the sawyer and piler. This we *know* to be an excellent plan. A load of large fine

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hickory or oak logs will, when split up, (reserving always a sufficient number for back-logs,) yield a much larger quantity of fuel, than if originally in small separate round sticks, and will therefore go farther. Also the cost of splitting is but a trifle, and bears no comparison to the advantage and convenience. In buying wood, the smaller and more crooked it is, the less you have in a load; on account of the numerous vacancies between the numerous sticks.

The generality of servants are extremely wasteful in regard to fuel. In summer afternoons they frequently make up as large a fire to boil the tea-kettle, as they have had to cook the dinner, rendering the kitchen so hot, that they are obliged themselves to take refuge in the yard. They should be made to understand that in summer, the fire seldom requires additional wood after dinner; a few chunks being sufficient to boil the kettle, if it is hung on in time.

WOOD FIRES.—To make a wood fire in an open fire place, begin by removing the andirons, and taking up all the ashes of the preceding night, and sweeping the hearth very clean. It is well to wash the hearth every morning before the new fire is made. Then bring forward whatever chunks or hot coals are found remaining from the fire that was covered up the night before; leaving sufficient space to put on a large back-log, on the top of which place another log somewhat smaller. Lay a large fore-stick across the andirons, and upon it, place the live coals and chunks for kindling; adding, if necessary, some chips, or bits of small wood. Then pile on two or three other sticks, (placing the smallest at the top) take the bellows, and blow the fire into a flame till the wood is well ignited.

If you wish a very large fire, pile two logs on the back-log, which ought to be of great size; and lay a large middle stick

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between the back-log and the fore-stick. Put on plenty of live coals and kindlings, and add three or four good-sized sticks, (always placing the smallest at top,) and then blow the fire well.

If you place the small sticks underneath, they will shortly burn in two, and fall apart; bringing the upper ones down with them, and causing confusion and trouble.

At night, before you go to bed, take off any long sticks that may happen to be on the fire at that time, and carry them out into the yard, throwing them on the ground, or pouring water on to extinguish them completely. This is safer and better than to stand them up in the chimney corner, and to water them out there, where they may chance to take fire again. Having removed the sticks, place the chunks and hot coals on the back-log, and throw over them ashes by shovel-fulls, till you have buried them entirely. This will keep the fire in till morning, when you uncover it to kindle with.

For burning wood in a sitting-room or chamber, there is nothing better than a Franklin stove, which should always be provided with a fender to fit exactly round, that the floor may not be endangered by the coals and chunks rolling off the hearth. In a Franklin stove a soap-stone slab, by way of under back-log, will be found extremely convenient and economical; as when the iron becomes hot, it consumes a large wooden back-log very soon. These soap-stone logs can be procured from the stone-cutters, who will fit them exactly to the stove or fire-place, first sending a man to take the measure. The expense is trifling, and the advantage great.

There should be a thick iron bar to lay across the andirons, in front of the wood, to prevent the sticks from rolling forward.

If the tongs become twisted, (as is often the case,) you may

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open them, by taking hold low down near the points, and pulling them apart.

Always sweep the hearth after mending the fire. Have in a convenient place in the room, a brass nail, on which to hang the hearth-brush, which you may ornament with a bow of ribbon, renewed when it becomes soiled. Always after sweeping the hearth, look carefully at the bottom of the brush before you hang it up. Houses have taken fire from bits of hot coal being carelessly left among the bristles of the hearth-brush when it was put away. We knew an instance in Philadelphia, of a ladies bag having caught, from hanging on the same nail with a hearth-brush that was heedlessly put away with hot coals in it. The flame spread instantly to some sheets of music that lay on a piano which stood in the recess, and the instrument (with other articles of furniture) was destroyed before the fire could be extinguished; the house being only saved by the prompt arrival of the engines.

All chimneys in which wood is burnt, should be swept regularly once a month. In country places where chimney-sweepers are not to be procured, it is customary to clear the chimneys of the soot, by setting them on fire with a bundle of straw, choosing a rainy-day for the purpose, or one in which the roof is covered with snow. If delayed too long, so as to allow a great accumulation of soot, there is danger that in this mode of cleaning, the fury of the fire may burst the chimney.

In an open fire-place, it is a good practice every morning before the fire is made up, to take a long broom and putting it up the chimney as far as it will go, to sweep down all the soot that is within reach. This should be done regularly in a kitchen chimney, there being always danger of flakes of soot falling down into the cooking vessels.

Previous to making a fire for the first time in the season,

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burn in the hearth a quantity of waste paper or straw. This, by producing a current of warm air in the cold chimney, will open the draught, and prevent the new fire from smoking.

CLOSE STOVES.—Of these, there are various sorts, and each sort has its partizans. The most common for burning coal, are those generally called cannon stoves, from their cylindrical form. Those of sheet iron are the lowest in price, and heat a room very rapidly. They are excellent where only a temporary or occasional fire is wanted. Small ones may be had in Philadelphia for four or five dollars. For a constant fire, these are somewhat troublesome, as without frequent replenishing, they retain the heat but a short time. Stoves of the same form, but made of *cast* iron, continue hot much longer; and, though of higher price are cheapest in the end, as being the most durable.

Wherever a close stove is used, the fire place should be closed up with a tight-fitting chimney board, having a round hole cut in it to admit the stove-pipe into the chimney. This hole must be well edged with a broad binding of sheet iron or tin, nailed on both sides of the board, to prevent its catching fire from the heat of the pipe; an accident that will certainly happen if this precaution is not attended to. The pipe should be taken down every week, carried into the yard, and thoroughly cleaned out.

If there is no fire-place in the room, a hole must be cut in the chimney wall to admit the pipe; or a pane may be taken out of one of the windows, and replaced with a square of tin, having a hole in the centre. This last method, however, is liable to the inconvenience of not drawing well when the wind is high, the smoke being then blown back, for which the only remedy is to have a moveable double elbow or joint at the very

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extremity of the pipe. A large sheet of iron should always be closely nailed down under and around the stove, to prevent the floor from catching fire or scorching by falling coals, or by the heat of the stove feet.

If you have a close stove on the hearth of a nursery, let it be well guarded by a very high fender of a semi-circular form, the ends hooking to loops or staples driven into the wall. These fenders may be made of thick iron rods, and will prevent accidents from children running or falling against the stove. If of close small wire, they will look the handsomer; but may exclude too much of the heat, and are also less lasting than when of iron rods.

On the top of every close stove, (whether the fire is of coal or wood,) a large pan of water should be constantly kept; replenishing it as the water evaporates. These pans are best of block tin: if of earthen or china, the heat will split them. The moisture produced by this vessel of water, will temper the dryness of the atmosphere caused by the close heat of the stove, which may otherwise occasion vertigo, faintness, or other inconveniences.

For each stove there should be a shovel, poker, and tongs: likewise a coal-scuttle always at hand: for if an anthracite fire is allowed to get *too* low, it cannot be revived without clearing out the whole contents of the stove, and resorting to fresh kindlings, &c. Have also, hanging by a loop in a convenient place, a small calico or worsted holder, with which to guard your fingers from burning, when opening the door of the stove.

Of the numerous varieties of cooking stoves, and of the mode of managing each, it is impossible to attempt a description. They all find favour in some kitchens, and lose it in others, according to the taste and habits of the family and

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the cooks. We have heard of the very same apparatus succeeding admirably in one house, and failing entirely in another.

We can, however, speak with *certainty* of the excellence of a wood stove of the common ten-plate form, but having at the far end of the top or upper plate, beyond the oven, a round hole to which a griddle is fitted as a cover. There is also another cover, but the cook may stand upright beside the stove, and bake on this griddle batter cakes or any thing of the kind. When the griddle is no longer wanted, it may be replaced, or the hole covered by a large block tin boiler, with a steamer on the top. On the hearth of the stove is a place where a gridiron for broiling can be set. Any thing may be baked in the oven; and in a tin roaster, placed beside the stove when hot, allowing it a longer time than when before an open fire, meat or poultry can be roasted. With this stove there is never the slightest difficulty, and no cook ever objects to it, it being simple, manageable, and sure. The price (including boiler and griddle) is generally from fourteen to twenty dollars, according to its size.

CHARCOAL.—Anthracite cannot be ignited without the assistance of charcoal or of chips of dry wood. For this purpose charcoal is much the best, and should always be used in preference, when you live in a place where it can be easily procured. If you are obliged to buy it in rainy weather, let some of it for immediate use be dried before the fire, as if damp it will not kindle well. Chips of wood cannot at all times be conveniently obtained, and the frequent use of them will cause soot to collect in the chimney; which soot, if allowed to accumulate, may catch fire.

Servants should not be allowed to waste the charcoal: it is only necessary to use it once a day, at the first kindling of the

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fire; and for that purpose three or four pieces are amply sufficient. Two barrels of charcoal, if properly managed, will be quite enough for each ton of coal.

Charcoal is extremely useful to burn in portable furnaces for making sweetmeats, and cooking various little things. In French cooking it is of great importance.

The best portable furnaces are those of cast iron, being not liable to crack, like those of clay or earthen, and not easily overset; also in price they are but a trifle higher, while in convenience and durability they are of tenfold superiority. With a charcoal furnace sweetmeats may be made out of doors, in the yard, or on the hearth of a chamber. Wherever charcoal is burnt, the fresh air should be freely admitted, by keeping a window-sash raised all the time; the vapour being so deleterious, in a room closely shut up, as to cause certain death by suffocation. The fumes of charcoal in a close apartment have frequently proved fatal in a few minutes. The first sensation is that of slight, but increasing weakness, followed by a giddiness in the head and flush in the face and neck. The person thus attacked should immediately escape into the open air, or he will be seized with a drowsiness, followed by a sense of suffocation; and if speedy relief is not obtained, death will soon ensue. The usual remedies are, to throw cold water on the head, and to take a quantity of blood immediately: also applying mustard or hartshorn to the soles of the feet.

In places where much charcoal is burnt, it is well to keep a large tub or bucket constantly filled with lime-water, which will rapidly absorb the gas. The lime-water must be renewed as soon as it becomes impure. This impurity will be known by the carbonate of lime falling to the bottom.

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ANTHRACITE COAL.—In buying anthracite coal, (as in most other things,) that of the best quality is eventually the cheapest. It goes further, lasts longer, gives out more heat, with less waste from slate-stones and ashes, and leaves better cinders when it is extinguished; and good cinders may always be turned to account by burning them over again.

Endeavour to obtain coal that is hard, bright, and clean-looking. When it appears soft, porous, of a rough, dull, and dirty surface, and covered with a profusion of damp black dust, it is never good, and will give out comparatively little heat, being always choked with its own ashes; also the cinders will be found so flaky and slaty as to be nearly useless.

The most convenient size for coal is that which is called the *broken and screened;* it making the best and handsomest fires. The egg coal and nut coal (which is small) may be used in close stoves, and in spring and autumn, when much heat is not required.

Three tons of the best anthracite will generally (if well managed) be found sufficient for one fire during the season; at least in the middle States. In the northern and eastern section of the Union, where the winters are longer and colder, a larger allowance will be requisite.

The ashes of anthracite is of no use in making lye or soap. When the ash-hole is full, a cart should be obtained to remove and carry away its contents.

ANTHRACITE COAL GRATES.—The best anthracite coal grates for draught and comfort, are those that are set with only one aperture. Some grates are set with holes or openings to convey the dust and ashes up the chimney or down into the cellar. By this means the draught is interrupted or divided, and the result is generally a dull, cheerless fire, and a difficulty

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in kindling it. There should be no aperture except that at the top, which in width ought not to exceed two inches and a half; if wider, it will not draw so well. Broad shallow grates do not heat the room as thoroughly as those that are deep. The deeper the body of coal, the more perfectly it ignites, and the more warmth it produces. The grate should not hang too low, or its heat will soon burn out the pan beneath. The bars should be rather straight than curved or bowed out, and not too close together. Beads or knobs between the lower bars are extremely inconvenient when it is necessary to use the poker, to which they are such an impediment that they render it almost impossible to clear out the ashes properly. Fortunately for those who had to clean them, brass ornaments on coal grates are now entirely exploded. They are only found on old-fashioned grates, and then it is well to paint them black. The best grates are of cast iron; being more durable and retaining the heat longer than those of sheet iron.

Every coal-grate should be furnished with a poker, shovel, and tongs, (a blower of course,) a hearth-brush, and also a coal-scuttle. A block tin bucket or deep iron pan for carrying away the ashes will also be found indispensable, unless an old coal-scuttle is used for this purpose. Ashes should never be put into a wooden vessel, as there may be heat enough remaining to set it on fire. There are ash-buckets of iron, with a strainer or iron sieve fitting in about halfway up, for sifting the cinders at once.

Care should be taken that the blower does not warp, or burn into holes, by being kept on too long. It should not stand in the yard, as the damp will certainly rust it. When taken off the grate, it will do no injury if placed at once against the wall in the nearest passage or entry. A blower-holder of cloth or calico should be kept always in a convenient place, to

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prevent the handle of the hot blower from burning the hand. For want of a proper holder, we have known a newspaper or a handkerchief caught up to remove a very hot blower; and the consequence was that the paper took fire, or the handkerchief was irreparably scorched. The best and least inflammable holders are made of folds of old flannel, covered with woollen cloth, sewed round the edges, and slightly quilted or stitched through.

A large coarse thick cloth of canvas, tow, woollen, or of some very strong fabric, should be provided for the servant to lay down in front of the grate before he makes the fire. This will greatly assist in keeping the carpet clean, and on it he should place his scuttle and other apparatus. The cloth should have a stout, heavy binding all round, to make it lie smoothly and keep its place.

We have seen in some houses the hearth-rug turned wrong side up to prevent the colours from fading from the heat of the fire. This is not a good practice, as (independent of its very bad appearance) the colours will be much more injured by the dust and ashes that will unavoidably get under the rug, and be thus ground into the nap of its right side.

The dross or crust that collects at the back of the grate should be every morning scraped off with the tongs or poker; otherwise it will accumulate so as to become very inconvenient, and very difficult to remove.

The dryness of atmosphere caused by the heat of anthracite, is to many persons a source of great inconvenience. It may easily be remedied by having a long deep narrow vessel of sheet iron, lined with block tin, made to fit exactly the shelf or top of the grate, and kept constantly filled with water. It should be three inches or more in height, and may be painted black on the outside.

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If you find the room very warm, and wish to increase the evaporation of the water, you may do so by plunging into it a red-hot poker.

The utensil generally called in England a footman, is very convenient to hang in front of a coal grate, for the purpose of heating any little thing that may be required in an eating-room, nursery, or chamber. There are common ones made of iron, and a better sort of brass. They hook on to the bars of the grate, and can be drawn out by a handle to the requisite distance from the fire. Smoothing irons may be heated, a saucepan boiled, water warmed, bread toasted, apples roasted, and a tea, or coffee-pot, or a small kettle kept hot on a footman. The expense of this article is a trifle, and the convenience great. We highly recommend it.

COAL GRATE FIRES.—Previous to making the fire, remove the hearth-rug, and spread down in front of the grate a large coarse cloth kept for the purpose.

The fire having been entirely extinguished over night, (or at least long enough for the grate to become quite cold,) empty it completely of all its contents; first raking out the ashes by inserting the poker underneath, between the bottom bars. Then take out all the cinders, either with the tongs or with your hands: the latter is the easiest way and the most expeditious, and your hands may be defended by a pair of coarse thick gloves. As you take out the cinders, lay them aside for use: you need not, of course, save those that prove to be pieces of slate or stone, or that are only soft spungy flakes. If the coal is of the best kind, very few bad cinders will be found among it. If the weather is extremely cold, it will be well when the grate is empty, to burn in it an old newspaper or some straw; this will heat the chill air of the chimney, and the warm cur-

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rent will, by improving the draught, cause the fire to ignite the sooner.

When the grate is entirely emptied, sweep it out clean with a hearth-brush; and once a week at least, wash it out with a wet cloth. Remove the portable iron hearth from underneath, and empty the ashes into an iron pan, or an old scuttle brought for the purpose.

To build the fire.—First put into the bottom a very slight layer of fresh hard coal from the scuttle, selecting pieces about half the size of an egg, or rather smaller; this will prevent the charcoal from falling through as it burns. Lay upon this flooring of anthracite, a large shovel-full of bright live coals from the kitchen fire. They should be selected with the tongs, (so as to be free from ashes,) and carried in an iron fire-pan with a lid, to prevent their spilling on the way. No house should be without these fire-pans.

Having put on the live coals or kindlers, place over them three or four good pieces of charcoal, laying their points or ends together, so as to form a sort of pyramid. At the sides and back of this charcoal put a few rather small pieces of anthracite; and when that has ignited, fill up the grate, placing hard coal in front and disposing of the cinders behind. Place the largest pieces of anthracite on the top, and heap it up as high as the back wall of the grate will allow. Afterwards, put on the blower, (taking care that it fits in closely at the bottom,) and let it remain till all the fuel in the grate is lighted, and till blazes issue from between the coals at the top.

Let the servant that makes the fire employ himself about the room or in its vicinity, till it is time to remove the blower, lest he should forget and leave it up too long; in which case it will become red-hot, and bend and warp, or perhaps break; also the intense heat will burn and bend the bars of the grate,

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and exhaust the coal too soon. If red spots begin to appear on the blower, it should be taken down immediately. When on removing the blower, the mass of coal is found to have sunk in consequence of the charcoal burning down, some more large pieces of anthracite should be laid on the top. It may then be left to itself, till the usual hour for replenishing it; but the fire should not be permitted to sink below the second bar; whenever it does so, it begins to deaden. If an anthracite fire is allowed to get very low, it is extremely difficult to revive; and there is generally no other way than to empty the grate completely, and to kindle an entirely new fire, as in the morning.

In winter, an anthracite fire should be replenished at least every six hours; and if the weather is very cold, and the grate not large, it will require still more frequent attention. Generally, with a grate of good size it will be sufficient (the fire having been made up early in the morning) to clear out the ashes, and put on fresh coal about eleven o'clock; then at six in the afternoon. Whenever the fire is to be replenished, first put up the blower to screen the mantel-piece and surrounding furniture from the dust and ashes, and then rake underneath with the poker till all is cleared out but the live coals. Then, with the poker, work the cinders about over the holes of the upper hearth, to let the ashes fall through into the under one; and rake between all the bars, so as to let down the burning coals, and prevent hollows and large vacancies in the body of the fire. Next, take off the blower, and put on the fresh coal. If you have cinders, throw them on behind the hard coal, as they disfigure the fire when placed in front. In putting on fresh coal, slope it upwards from the top bar, so as to form a hill behind, against the back wall. If the grate and coal are both good, and the fire has not been allowed to get too low, you need

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not, on replenishing it, put up the blower; as, after a while, it will burn very well without it: and by using the blower too often, or too long, you exhaust the coal, and diminish its heat.

Let the hearth be swept every time that the fire is touched. An ashy hearth is a slovenly and disagreeable object, giving an uncomfortable aspect to the whole room.

In keeping up a good coal fire, regularity is indispensable. Even if it does not *look* low, it should always be punctually replenished at the stated hours; and the servant should be made to understand, that it is his business to do so, without farther telling; otherwise, there is much chance of its being frequently neglected and forgotten. Except at the time for regularly replenishing it, there is rarely any necessity of touching an anthracite fire. Injudicious poking and stirring will put it out, instead of improving it.

To extinguish it completely at night, take the tongs, and lift off the largest and best coals, one at a time, and lay them in the hearth. Then rake up on each side, the live coals that remain in the body of the grate; so as to form a deep hollow in the middle, like a valley between two hills. By this last process, (which is best effected with the point of the shut tongs,) the most glowing fire will gradually blacken and die out in a quarter of an hour; and the grate will become quite cold; so that in the morning, it can be conveniently emptied, previous to building the new fire.

If you wish a good fire in your chamber very early in the morning, let it be extinguished in the above manner about seven in the evening. About ten, or when all the cinders are cold, let a servant clear out the grate completely, and build up the morning fire, as before directed; leaving the blower and the scuttle in the room. If the grate is good, and the draught as it should be, the whole of the fuel may be laid on at once, even

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to piling on the fresh coal at the top. Some waste paper or shavings should be put in with the charcoal. At daylight, the occupant of the chamber can light the fire himself, by applying a bit of paper to the flame of the night-lamp, or with a lucifer match. Then, putting up the blower, he may return to bed, and remain there till the fire is in successful progress; which will be in a very short time; and on removing the blower, he will have a warm room for washing and dressing himself.

The practice that prevails in many families of never allowing their coal fires to be extinguished during the whole winter, is not a good one. If the object is to save charcoal, we think it will be found, on calculation, that the additional anthracite required to keep up the fire all night, will more than balance the expense of fresh kindling every morning; and besides a perpetual fire is almost perpetually dull and ashy. Also, the unremitting heat produces cock-roaches, and other disgusting insects; and in summer, if a coal-fire is kept up all night in the kitchen, it will add greatly to the general warmth of the house; making the chambers in the vicinity of the kitchen unwholesome and almost intolerable. Another, and very palpable objection is, that unless a coal-grate or stove is completely cleared out once a day, by removing every particle of cinders and ashes, and sweeping out the whole inside with a brush, no poking or raking that can be done, will prevent the fire from looking all day, choked and ashy at the bottom, and there will be very little glow even at the top, unless for a short time directly after the removal of the blower; and of course the fire will not throw out half as much heat as when burning clear and brightly all through.

Coal, to burn well in a grate, should not be smaller than an egg, or larger than a moderate-sized orange. A skillful fire-maker will fit in the large and small pieces, so as to consume

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both to advantage. We have known this done by servants who took great pride in the excellence of their parlour fires; for instance, a coloured man, who always assorted his coal, and brought it up separately in two scuttles, reserving his finest pieces for the front of the fire, and calling them his *facers.*

Coal should not be thrown on from the scuttle. It is best to put on the pieces with the hand, or with the tongs. There are small iron tongs made for the purpose. There should be a coal-scuttle for every fire-place.

Use the cinders as you go along, and let every grate consume its own cinders, which may be freed from the ashes by working them about with the poker or tongs on the upper or perforated hearth. It will not then be necessary to carry them out to be sifted; and the servants will not then have a chance of throwing them away to avoid the trouble of sifting. In some families, however, where the servants can be depended on, it is the custom (and a very good one) to have the cinders taken into the yard and washed in an old bucket, pouring on water and then draining it off. This makes them look black, and causes them to burn better.

When the heat of an anthracite fire is too great, (for instance, late in the spring or early in the autumn,) it can be diminished without extinguishing, by taking the tongs or poker and pressing down hard the coals on the top; or by taking off a few of the largest pieces; or by throwing on, towards the back of the grate, a small quantity of the fine powdered coal-dust, commonly called slack. Many persons, to diminish the heat, have a thick paste of ashes and water prepared in the cellar, and spread with a shovel over the top of the grate-fire. It forms a crust, under which the fire will burn dimly all day.

In making a fire for the first time in the season, there is

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mostly a difficulty from the coldness of the chimney. This may always be remedied, and the draught opened, by filling the grate with old newspapers or other waste paper, (as before mentioned,) and setting them on fire; or, if more convenient, you may make a blaze with a few handfuls of straw or shavings.

Anthracite fires, if managed *exactly* according to the preceding directions, will be found more comfortable, more economical, handsomer in appearance, and in every respect more satisfactory than if conducted in any other manner. This we know by experience.

When the practice is persisted in of keeping up the fire all night, the bottom should be raked and fresh coal put on the last thing before going to bed. Some persons have the scuttle left in the room, that they may replenish the grate at any time in the night. Early in the morning, it should be well raked with the poker, to clear out as much of the ashes as possible, and then filled up to the top with fresh coal. Afterwards put up the blower, and let it remain till all is well ignited. If, in the morning, the fire that has been burning all night is found very dull and low, it will be difficult to revive it without putting on some bits of charcoal or small wood, and letting them burn a while before the hard coal is added.

Never at any time put on fresh coal without first raking out the bottom of the grate and between the lower bars with the poker. You may, during the day, dispose of the ashes by raising the upper part of the iron hearth, and letting them fall down into the under part below. Then replace the upper or perforated hearth evenly, and sweep it clean.

Upon no occasion (whether the fire is of wood or coal) should the hearth be allowed to remain dirty or disfigured with ashes. It will give a slovenly and miserable look even to the most elegantly furnished apartment, while a clean, well-swept

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hearth imparts an air of cleanness, neatness, and gentility to a room of very moderate pretensions. An ever-dirty hearth, and a grate always choked with cinders and ashes, may be taken as almost infallible evidence of bad housekeeping.

COAL STOVE FIRES.—To make a good new fire in a close coal stove, begin by completely clearing out the pan or place that holds the fuel, leaving no remains of cinders or ashes. Put at the bottom a slight layer of small fresh coal, and then a shovelful of clear, bright, glowing coals from the kitchen, seeing that there is no ashes among them. On these live coals you may lay three or four pieces of charcoal and some good cinders, and then fill up the pan or pot with fresh hard coal, heaping it on the top. The coal for a stove should be the egg or nut size. Shut the large door of the stove, (leaving the little one open,) and you will soon have a fine fire.

After a while it will sink, in consequence of the charcoal having burned down: then directly put some more hard coal on the top; and be careful that the fire never gets too low, lest it be found impossible to revive it without clearing out the whole, and building it entirely anew.

If you cannot obtain charcoal, you may kindle with pieces of dry wood split small, and laid on the hot coals with a handful of shavings or waste paper.

You may somewhat diminish the heat by closing the little door, and thereby lessening the strength of the draught; and you may lessen it still more (and indeed gradually extinguish the fire) by setting the large door wide open. You may, if expedient, put out the fire, almost immediately, by parting it on the top with the poker or tongs, so as to leave a deep hollow in the centre.

In a small room, it is well to surround three sides of a close

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stóve with one of the thick block-tin screens made for the purpose. It will prevent the heat from injuring the wall or the furniture.

A stove, as well as a grate, should be thoroughly cleared out at least once in twenty-four hours. What is called a perpetual fire, or such as many persons boast of continuing unextinguished all winter, is wasteful of coal, and is never so bright and strong as that which is entirely renewed every day, without any remains of the old fire. If you wish a fine fire early in the morning, let the stove be entirely emptied over-night, and the new fuel laid or arranged in the manner described, the whole being built at once, putting some shavings or waste paper with the charcoal. Then, with a match lighted at a night lamp, you may ignite it at dawn, or whenever you please; and you will have an excellent fire and a warm room to wash and dress in, while the water in the tin pan on the top will have gradually become hot enough to use for any needful purpose.

If, however, you prefer keeping up the fire all night, having raked the ashes well from the bottom, fill up with fresh coal before you go to bed, and have the scuttle at hand to replenish it, if you think proper. In the morning, rake it well out at the bottom, and add fresh coal. If you find the fire very low and dull, put on some charcoal, or chips, before filling it up with the anthracite.

Be very careful that the joints of the stove-pipe fit tightly. Should they happen to open or gape apart in the night, when there is fire in the stove, the vapour escaping from the coal may have the most deleterious effect (even to suffocation) on persons sleeping in a close chamber.

On such occasions, when life is not entirely extinct, and a physician cannot be procured immediately, animation may be restored by promptly resorting to the following remedies.

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Open instantly the doors and windows, and allow the air to pass freely over the face of the patient; but keep his body covered with the bed-clothes, under which let his skin be rubbed hard, first with the hand, and then with warm cloths as soon as they can be procured. Make him swallow as soon as possible a half-tea-spoonful of cayenne pepper, mixed in a tea-cup of boiling water, and administered whenever it is cool enough to be taken without scalding the mouth. As soon as he can eat, he should have food seasoned with plenty of pepper and mustard. If he is made to inhale oxygen gas, he will recover the sooner.

The pipe of a coal-stove should be taken down about once a fortnight, for the purpose of clearing out the ashes that have been drawn up into it; and which, if allowed to remain, will impede the draught, and prevent the fire from burning well.

The coal for a close stove should be small. For a large stove, the egg coal; for a small one, the nut.

BITUMINOUS OR ENGLISH COAL.—Coal found in the western section of the United States, is generally bituminous; so also is that imported from England. It is much softer than the anthracite, emits more smoke, produces more dust and ashes, and the heat is far less intense, though the blaze is very bright. The grates used for burning it should be set open, with the whole space vacant from the bars upwards, instead of filling it up with fire brick, and leaving only a narrow slip or aperture, as for anthracite. To kindle the fire in the morning, having cleared out the grate, spread a few good cinders over the bottom; then bring some hot coals from the kitchen, and lay on them a few slips of pine wood: afterwards fill up the grate with fresh coal from the scuttle, and blow with a pair of bellows till the fire is well ignited.

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Or you may kindle it without live coals, by applying to the pine sticks lighted brimstone matches.

A fire of bituminous coal must be replenished much more frequently than one of anthracite. When it looks dull and has burnt hollow, stir it underneath with the poker, and then have some fresh coal put on. If you wish to keep it burning slowly all night, throw on the top a sufficient quantity of slack or coal-powder from the cellar.

To extinguish it at night, take off the best coals, and then rake out all the rest with the poker. If necessary, throw on some water.

In English houses, the servant that kindles the kitchen fire is always provided with a tinder-box of tin, having on the lid a socket which holds a piece of candle. This lid is made to come off; and in the cavity of the box beneath, is kept a quantity of tinder made from rags; a flint, and a piece of steel with a handle to it; also a few sulphur matches. Before daylight in a winter morning, the fire-maker (having taken the tinder-box up stairs with her) strikes out with the flint and steel a few sparks, which, catching the tinder, enable her to ignite a match, by which she lights the candle; and with the candle she goes down and kindles the fire, by applying lighted matches to some little slips of wood, which she places at the bottom of the grate.

In this manner a fire of bituminous coal may be made, if wanted, at any time in the night.

COKE.—This is the state in which the coal used in manufacturing gas is left, after the bituminous matter has been extracted. It remains in large, light, porous, black lumps, and is a very convenient and economical fuel for spring and autumn, and for rooms where only a moderate heat is required. It has

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less vapour than any other coal, (being not oppressive even to delicate lungs,) and can be ignited sooner; making a bright, glowing, and cheerful fire, so similar in appearance to that of anthracite, that few persons (unless they are told) can perceive any visible difference. Though excellent for spring and autumn, (as we know from experience,) and for the few chilly wet days that occasionally occur in summer, we do not recommend coke in those sections of the Union where the climate is severe: as to keep up a large steady coke-fire in extremely cold weather, all day and all the evening, will require the grate to be replenished with as much as it can hold six or seven times, at least: and still more frequently in a close stove. For the first early autumn or late spring fires, one grate full of coke will be sufficient for the day; or for the evening, (if made on at dusk,) heating the room so well at first, that it continues comfortable long after the fire has died out. In families where an open grate or range for coal, is used in the kitchen, coke has been found very good fuel to cook with in the summer, causing much less heat than anthracite in the lower part of the house; and it is so soon ignited in the morning, that its incapability of burning all night without replenishing, is little or no disadvantage.

In Philadelphia (where coke is very cheap) it can be obtained by application at the office of the Gas Company in the Franklin Institute, paying always in advance. It is well to order a cart-load at once, as the price for hauling from the gas-works is the same for ten bushels as for fifty.

To make a coke fire, let the grate be cleared completely, raking out all remains of the last fire, and sweeping it clean with a hearth brush. Then cover the bottom of the grate with a slight layer of small bits of coke, (cinders will do,) and place thereon a shovel full of bright, clear, live coals for

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kindling. On these coals lay three or four pieces of charcoal, (a very little will suffice,) or a few pieces of dry kindling wood, split small. If you use wood instead of charcoal, it is well to add a few shavings or some waste-paper. Then *fill up the grate at once with coke*, and put up the blower, fitting it closely in at the bottom. In five minutes you may remove the blower, without any risk of the fire not igniting well; but if you leave it up eight or ten minutes, you will, on removing it, find the whole of the coke in a bright glow, and the room will be very warm immediately.

With coke, as with anthracite, (unless you *intend* it to die out,) you must take care not to let the fire get too low in the grate. In replenishing it, after filling up the grate with fresh coke, rake between the bars, and then put on the blower for a few moments, while you rake well at the bottom, till the ashes is thoroughly expelled: then empty the iron hearth into the ash-pan beneath, and remove the blower, as the fire will no longer require it.

To extinguish the fire, lift off with the tongs any large pieces of coke that may still be burning; lay them on the hearth, where they will die out immediately, and save them for cinders to burn next day. Next, with the tongs or poker beat down the mass of hot coals, and then part them in the centre, leaving a deep hollow down to the bottom of the grate; or, if they are but few, work and stir them about a little, and they will soon go out.

In winter, if you have both coke and anthracite, it is a good way to make the earliest or morning fire of coke, (as it ignites so soon,) and then, when it has burnt down below the upper bar, replenish with anthracite, continuing the hard coal during the day and evening.

On an iron footman or shelf, hooked on to the grate,

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you may soon boil a tea-kettle or sauce-pan before a coke fire.

TO HEAT A BRICK OVEN.—Ovens should be heated with light dry wood. Chesnut is best; but if it cannot be procured, you may substitute pine. It must be split up small; not a stick being left thicker than your wrist. Faggots, or bundles of dry slender branches gathered up in the woods, are used for ovens when nothing else can be obtained. The oven wood should be all ready the evening before it is wanted for baking, that the oven may be heated early. In putting in the wood, place it near the mouth or door of the oven, (for there the draught is strongest,) and lay the sticks across each other in a square pile, as children do when they play at building houses. Put in sufficient oven wood at once; for instance, a large arm-full or more. The door of the oven must be left open all the time the fire is burning. Kindle the wood with some live coals and waste-paper, or shavings. After it has been burning well for about a quarter of an hour, with a long stick or pole push the fire farther back towards the centre of the oven, and stir and quicken it occasionally. When the fire is reduced entirely to a bed of coals, and when the coals look dull and whitish, as if dying out, remove them from the oven with a large shovel or scraper. Next, take a long stick, to one end of which is fastened a coarse wet cloth, (a wet mop is still better,) and with it wipe out the floor of the oven. Then let it rest for about five minutes. To try the heat, throw in a piece of paper; and if it burns instantly, the oven is too hot, and you must wait a little longer. A thermometer, held for a minute within the oven, is a good regulator; but, after all, experience is the best. The things to be baked should be quite ready by the time the oven is hot. You must have a peel, or long-han-

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dled, broad, wooden shovel, to slip under them when you set them in or take them out, that the heat may not burn your hands. As soon as they are in, shut closely the door of the oven. Pies and large loaf-cakes (except gingerbread, which burns easily) require a hotter oven than bread. It is best to bake the bread by itself; for it may be injured by letting in the cold air, if you open the oven door to put in or take out the other things. Once only will be sufficient to look at the bread while it is baking. If the loaves contain a quarter of a peck of flour each, they will require two hours at least to bake. During that time, it will be only necessary to look at them once, (which should be at the end of the first hour,) and then turn them round, that they may bake evenly; otherwise those parts of them that are nearest to the fire-place at the side of the oven, will be done too much in proportion to the rest. It is best always to bake bread in iron pans, sprinkled with flour, or slightly buttered. When they are taken out of the oven, wrap each loaf in a clean, coarse, *wet* towel, and stand them up on end to cool gradually. This will prevent the crust from becoming too hard.

If you are baking little cakes or tarts, look in at them in ten minutes after they are put into the oven, to see if they are nearly done. A large plum-cake or fruit cake will require six or seven hours to bake; and it should not be taken out till the oven has grown quite cold. Indeed it will be the better for staying in all night, keeping the oven closed. If a fruit cake cools too fast after baking, it will become doughy and heavy. Keep it covered with a cloth till quite cold.

The floor of an oven is best of tile, it being smoother than brick.

CHIMNEYS ON FIRE.—When you have reason to suppose that a chimney is dirty, keep the fire low, as a large blaze

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will be very likely to ignite the soot. Should it, nevertheless, take fire, you will be immediately apprized of it by the loud roaring noise, and the falling down of flakes of burning soot. If there is no water in the room, have a bucket-full brought immediately, so as to put out all the fire in the hearth; and while waiting for the water, throw on all the salt that may be at hand; or, what will be still better, a handful of flour of sulphur, as soon as you can obtain it. The sulphur will frequently extinguish even the fire in the chimney, if it has not yet become large. As long as it is burning, take care to keep all the doors and windows tightly shut, and hold up closely before the fire-place a blanket or some other woollen article, for instance, a table-cover or hearth-rug, so as to exclude the air.

If the roof is dry, let some persons go out at the trap-door, carrying with them buckets of water to pour all round, so as to prevent its catching from the sparks that issue from the chimney.

In Philadelphia, any person that allows his chimney to get on fire, is liable to a fine of five dollars; it being one of the regulations of the city, that all chimneys where wood is burnt shall be swept once a month.

ACCIDENTS FROM FIRE.—Do not allow yourself to contract the inexcusable habit of reading in bed at night. It never fails to injure the eyes; but there is a still greater evil attending it, the probability of your insensibly falling asleep, and the light catching the bed clothes, and consequently, endangering your own life, and perhaps setting the house on fire. The head of the family should see that no one of its members ever indulges in this senseless and sometimes fatal practice.

In escaping from a room on fire, creep or crawl along with

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your face close to the ground, as near the floor the air is purest, and there is less danger of being suffocated with the smoke. Persons frequently are saved by letting themselves down from the window, by means of a knotted rope, or by sliding down a sheet secured at one of the upper corners.

Children may be saved from the flames of a burning house, by means of large, coarse woollen bags, with a strong rope attached to each: these bags should be kept constantly in the sleeping-rooms, and in case of fire, a child may be put into each, (leaving only a small breathing place open at the top,) and then lowered down from the window.

When a house is on fire, beds should be placed under the windows, to receive the persons who are compelled to save themselves by leaping out.

Children, in winter, should be dressed entirely in clothes of woollen or worsted, as these are less liable to catch fire and blaze, than linen or cotton. Even their aprons should be of worsted; for instance, bombazet or merino. Small children should never be left alone in a room in which there is fire; and their sleeping apartments should, on no account, have the doors locked. Every winter, we have at least one instance of a little child perishing horribly, by the mother leaving it alone, tied in a chair, and placed near the fire, while she is engaged in a distant part of the house, or perhaps gone out on some errand. This is a practice too dangerous for any circumstances to excuse. So is that of the parents going out in the evening, locking up the house, and leaving all the rest of the family in bed. Such parents, on coming home, may find their house on fire, and their children perishing in the flames.

If the dress of a female catches fire when she is alone, if she cannot extinguish it by squeezing it in her hands, let her immediately ring the bell violently, or knock on the floor; but,

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if possible, avoid opening the door to run out, as admitting the air, will increase the flame. She should throw herself directly on the floor, and endeavour to smother the fire by wrapping the hearth-rug closely round her, or by tearing up a part of the carpet, if there is no woollen cloth at hand.

In some families a large piece of baize is kept in every room, for the purpose of extinguishing accidental fire; and the practice is a good one. In a chamber, a blanket can be immediately snatched from the bed, and used for this purpose. A man may smother out fire in the dress of a female, by taking off his cloth coat, and wrapping it round her.

Children should be early taught how to squeeze or press out a spark, when it happens to reach any part of their dress, and also that running out into the air will cause it to blaze immediately. They should also learn, that it is the nature of flame to ascend or run upwards.

The first application to a burn should be sweet oil, putting it on immediately, till other remedies can be prepared. Cotton should *never* be applied. It increases the pain and inflammation. For a slight burn or scald, some raw potato scraped fine, and tied on the place, (renewing it at intervals,) is an excellent remedy, and a very agreeable one to the sufferer.

It is extremely difficult to get a horse out of a stable that is on fire. It is said, that the best way is to accoutre him, as speedily as possible, in the harness or saddle he is accustomed to wearing, and when he feels it on him, he will think he ought to go; at the same time blindfolding him, by bandaging his eyes, or throwing a blanket, a coat, or something of the sort entirely over his head. Some years since one of the principal livery stables in Philadelphia took fire, and all the horses (we believe fifty in number) were saved by blindfolding them. Unless their eyes are covered, so that they cannot see

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the fire, they will run into it in the wildness of their terror.

BURN SALVE.—Take equal quantities of Burgundy pitch, yellow bees-wax, and sweet oil; simmer them together over the fire till quite melted, stirring the mixture frequently. Put it into a salve box, and do not use it till cool. Spread some of it on a soft linen rag, and apply it to the burn, securing the rag with a string or bandage. By repeating the application, it will be found an excellent cure for a burn or scald; and it will be well to keep some of this salve always in the house.

TO EXTRACT A SPARK OF COAL FROM THE EYE.—In travelling on rail-roads, particles of cinder from the chimney of the locomotive frequently fly into the eyes of passengers, causing intolerable pain, and, if not very soon extracted, producing inflammation. A trifling spark may sometimes be expelled from the eye, by pulling down with your fingers the lower eyelid, and at the same moment blowing your nose very hard. If this does not succeed, at the first stopping-place procure a bristle from a sweeping-brush, and tie its two ends together with a thread, so as to form a loop. Then let some one who has a steady hand insert this loop under your eyelid, and pass it carefully all round the eye. The loop will catch the particle of cinder and bring it out. If not successful at the first attempt, persist in it, and it will, in almost all cases, eventually extract the spark.

Another way (but a less easy one) is, after wrapping the corner a soft cambric handkerchief round the head of a pin, to let some efficient person (a medical man, if one is at hand) insert it carefully beneath the eyelid, and with it sweep all round the inside of

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the eye. This (repeating it, if necessary) will most probably bring out the bit of cinder.

An eye-stone (to be obtained at the druggist's) will also remove troublesome substances.

If the eye inflames afterwards, it will be well to have the lower part of the eyelid punctured on the inside with a lancet, so as to draw blood from it; and to have a small blister immediately applied behind the ear, for the purpose of exciting a counter-irritation. Also to take a dose of cooling medicine. It is best, however, to have recourse as soon as possible to a physician.

To avoid these painful and sometimes dangerous accidents, ladies should always travel with veils; holding them closely down over their faces, if they find the sparks from the locomotive likely to be troublesome.

FIRE-SCREENS.—Where there is a grate or an open stove, fire-screens are indispensable to comfort, and no room should be without one. The best are those with three slides. They are tall, upright frames of mahogany or other handsome wood, with heavy feet, moving on castors. The three compartments are square or rather oblong frames, covered with fluted or radiated silk. Two of these compartments are made to slide out from the sides of the principal frame, so as to add to the breadth of the screen when necessary: the third one slides upward to give it additional height. If the covers are of silk or damask, the colour should correspond with those of the curtains and other furniture.

The most usual parlour screens are upright frames of mahogany, standing (as all fire screens should) on heavy substantial feet, to prevent accidents from oversetting. The screen part, which extends about halfway down, is a square frame

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covered with silk, fluted or radiated; and along its base is a shelf broad enough to hold a book or a few sewing implements.

Instead of silk, fire-screens for libraries and chambers may be covered with varnished maps, pictures, comic drawings or prints, riddles, conundrums, &c.

A plain, cheap fire-screen for a bed-room, nursery, or kitchen, may be made of common wood, (any carpenter will do it,) and you can furnish it yourself with a cover of green moreen, or any other stuff that is dark and durable. It must be a tall upright frame, about a yard and a half high and a yard in width, made exactly like a large towel-horse, with ends or knobs rising above the top bar. There should be another cross bar about halfway down, to strengthen the frame. The cover should be a double piece of stuff, made to slip over the frame, and of sufficient length to descend to the floor, sewed at the sides about halfway down; the remainder hemmed and left open, so as to form two large flaps, which can be fastened up at pleasure with strings of ribbon or worsted ferret, or with loops and buttons, when you wish the warmth of the fire to reach your limbs. Again; if, in sitting very near the grate, you desire to guard your dress from the danger of being discoloured by the heat, you can let down the two flaps, and have your whole person protected by it. When not wanted as a fire-screen, you may remove the cover, and use the frame as a clothes-horse for drying muslins and other small articles.

It is always best to stand the fire-screen in a sideway position. It can be so placed as to shelter you effectually from the heat, without being itself exposed to the injury it may sustain from standing with its full front in face of the fire.

Hand-screens should not be forgotten in furnishing a room. They should be large enough to shade the face completely, and

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may be made very handsome by a young lady of good taste and well skilled in drawing. The usual foundation for such hand-screens is very thick pasteboard or very thin wood. The covers are of fine paper, ornamented with drawings, and pasted on very smoothly, the edge being finished with a border or binding of gold paper. We have seen beautiful fire-screens, having in the centre an excellent oval drawing in Indian ink, encircled with a wreath of flowers done in colours, which looked the brighter from being contrasted with the darkness of the centre-piece. There are very amusing hand-scrreens, covered with a variety of comic drawings, or with conundrums, &c., handsomely and legibly written. All paper screens should be coated with transparent varnish, otherwise they will soon become soiled and discoloured.

Large feather fans are good substitutes for hand-screens.

CHAIR-SCREENS.—To make a very good chair-screen, get a large sheet of the thick stiff pasteboard used by bookbinders and trunk-makers, (of whom it can be obtained,) and with a knife pare off the edges and trim it to the required size. It should ascend sufficiently above the back of the chair to screen the neck and shoulders of the sitter. Make a double case (like a pillow-case) of dark chintz or moreen, open at one end, to slip over the pasteboard. At each of the lower corners, sew a strong string of stout ribbon or worsted tape, and place two other strings about half a yard farther up, on the side edges or seams of the cover. When the cover is finished, slip it over the pasteboard, and sew it along the bottom edge, to keep the board from falling out. When ready for use tie it by the strings to the outside of the back of the chair. Three or four of these screens will be found very convenient in dining-rooms, to screen from the heat the backs of those persons who

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sit on the side of the table next the fire. Also, they will save the chairs from being scorched and blistered.

You may have slighter chair-screens, by simply making cases of thick moreen, without pasteboard; leaving the lower end open to slip down over the chair-back.

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LIGHTS, &c

LAMP OIL.—The best lamp oil is that which is clear and nearly colourless, like water. None but the winter-strained oil should be used in cold weather. Thick, dark-coloured oil burns badly, (particularly if it is old,) and there is no economy in trying to use it. Unless you require a great deal every night, it is well not to get more than two or three gallons at a time, as it spoils by keeping. Oil that has been kept several months will frequently not burn at all. When that is found to be the case, it is best to empty it all out, clean thoroughly the can or jug that has contained it, and re-fill it with good fresh oil.

There are large oil-vessels with cocks, and keys belonging to them.

CLEANING AN OIL-CAN.—Having thoroughly emptied it of the dregs of the oil, fasten a rag to the end of a stick, and with it scrub or wipe round the inside and bottom, till you have got out all the sediment. Next, wash out the can, by pouring in a lather of brown soap and warm water, rubbed about with a clean rag on the stick; and having rinsed it well with cold water, turn it up to drain.

Clean the outside of the tin with whiting wet with water, and rubbed bright with a rag. Then fill it with clear fresh oil.

ANOTHER WAY.—After emptying the oil-can, and removing the sediment from the bottom, as above, by means of a rag

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fastened to a stick, fill the can with warm water, in which a large table-spoonful of pearl-ash has been melted. Put on the cover, and let it stand all night. Then rinse it out with two or three warm waters, and put it to drain. Then fill it anew.

If the inside of an oil-can is allowed to collect sediment without frequent cleaning out, it will spoil the fresh oil that is put in, and cause it to burn badly.

Always keep the oil-can on an old waiter, or something of the sort, to receive whatever grease may come from it.

ASTRAL LAMPS.—In buying astral lamps for the table, choose the shades of plain ground glass, as they give the clearest and steadiest light, and are best for the eyes, particularly when employed in reading, writing, or needlework. Lamp shades painted in bright colours are now considered in very bad taste, and are nearly exploded in genteel houses. The fashion of having the shades decorated with flowers or other devices, cut on the glass and left transparent, is also on the decline: and most fortunately, as it is a very bad one for lamps that are intended for useful rather than ornamental purposes; though it may do well enough for mantel-lamps and lustres. The transparent flowering breaks and distracts the light, and its scattered brightness glitters in the eyes, and is eventually very pernicious to them, though it may not seem so at first; also the irregularity with which it falls renders the light much less easy for reading or sewing than the soft, steady, uniform rays from a shade of plain ground glass. For lighting up pictures, flowered shades should on no account be used, as they will destroy the effect of the painting.

To buy table astral lamps of inferior size, is by no means advisable. They only give light in proportion to their magnitude; and when they are small and low, the effort of seeing by

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them is so teazing to the optic nerve, that the eyes, however strong originally, seldom fail to become weak in consequence. It is also false economy, to diminish the light, by keeping the lamp low, for the purpose of saving a little oil; as many have discovered, when too late; after their eyes were irreparably injured by this foolish practice.

MANAGEMENT OF ASTRAL LAMPS.—Use none but the best oil, as that of inferior price and quality will be found more inconvenient than economical. Except in warm weather, the winter strained oil is the only sort that is fit for lamps, as it is not liable to chill; and when chilled, no oil will burn. It should look clear and limpid like water. Do not buy too much oil at once, as it frequently spoils by keeping, so as to become useless. For filling the lamps, have a covered tin pot or can with a long spout turned upwards at the point, lest it should drip after pouring. Keep a distinct oil-can for the parlour lamp. Choose firm light-woven wicks, fine in texture, and with even edges. Coarse, flimsy, loosely-woven wicks, absorb more oil than the flame will consume; and consequently, the cup or reservoir being too full of oil, the air-holes are choked, and the flame blazes out at the top of the glass chimney, so as to endanger its cracking. Keep the wicks in a place where they will be clean and dry; and always have in the house some extra lamp-glasses or chimneys, to be ready in case of accidents. They also should be perfectly dry.

No one should trim lamps with damp fingers.

It is well to have a small basket for the purpose of containing whatever is necessary for trimming the lamp. Across the top of the basket, (which should have side handles,) let there be fastened two tight strings of thick twine, to support the shade or globe of the lamp when you take it off. The lamp-

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scissors should be very sharp, or it will be impossible to trim the wick properly.

A lamp that is nightly in use should be trimmed and replenished regularly every morning, otherwise there will be no certainty in its burning, and it will go out unexpectedly at any time in the evening, leaving the room in darkness. After you have removed the shade and the glass chimney, raise the wick by turning the screw towards the right hand, and cut off with the lamp-scissors, or nip off with your thumb and finger the edge of the wick that has been burning the night before; but do not trim it too closely, or you will find it difficult to light again. It is sufficient, barely to cut off the rim of the brown crust. When you find that the wick is reduced by burning, to only about an inch and a half in length, it is time to take it out and put in a new one. In winter, a new wick will be required once a week; in the short summer evenings, it will of course last longer. Always do the wick before the oil. Clean out every morning, the cup or candlestick part that catches the droppings. Wipe out with a clean soft cloth, (for instance, an old napkin, or old silk handkerchief,) the glass chimney, and the shade; and dust well their outsides, and also every part of the lamp. Then replace it on the table to be ready for evening.

When you light it, remove the shade and the chimney, and ignite the wick with a paper match, a supply of which should always be kept in some convenient place. They should be made of waste writing paper cut into long slips, and folded, and creased very hard. If of newspaper or any other that is not stiff enough, the flame will run along them so fast as to endanger your fingers. As soon as the wick is ignited all round, put on the chimney and the shade, turn the screw to the right, and raise the light *at once* to the height at which it is to

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continue through the evening. The practice of keeping the wick low for a considerable time after it is lighted, is a bad one, as by doing so a crust forms round it which dims the light for the whole evening. Take care, however, not to raise the light so high as for the flame to blaze out at the top of the chimney, as that will certainly crack the glass, unless it is let down immediately by turning the screw to the left. When you wish to extinguish the lamp entirely, turn the screw to the left as far as it will go.

When you are about lighting an astral lamp, see that your fingers have no wet or damp on them.

Once a week the chimney and shade of the lamp should be washed out well with luke-warm soap-suds, then rinsed in clean water, and wiped and dried thoroughly.

The lamp should be taken to pieces, and undergo a complete cleaning once a month. To clean it: after it is all taken apart, empty the reservoir over the kitchen sink, throwing out whatever oil is in it. Have ready, in a pitcher, a pint of warm water, in which has been dissolved a large table-spoonful of pearl-ash. Pour this into the reservoir, and let it stand about three hours, shaking it round frequently. Then pour it out, and rinse the reservoir several times with clean warm water; for if any of the pearl-ash remains, it will form with the oil a sort of soap, and prevent its burning. Drain the reservoir thoroughly, by turning it upside down, and letting it stand a while on a plate. Take care that the pearl-ash touches no part of the *outside* of the lamp.

If the frame and stand of the lamp is plated, clean it but seldom, and then use powdered whiting of the finest kind or prepared chalk, made into a paste with whiskey, and rubbed on with a soft flannel. Then finish with a buckskin, and brush out the rough or embossed parts with a clean tooth-brush.

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If the stand or frame of the lamp is of bronze, clean it by merely rubbing it well with a soft dry cloth. The same if it is gilt.

When every part has been thoroughly cleaned, replenish it with fresh oil and fresh wick, and put the lamp together.

When all your lamps (mantel, &c.) have been in use for company, they should next morning be emptied completely of oil and wick, and washed out with luke-warm pearl-ash and water. If the oil and wick are left in them, verdigrease will accumulate, which, when they are lighted again, will cause them to smoke instead of burn. The oil that is taken from these lamps should be put into a can and saved to use for the kitchen. On the day of your next company, (and not till then,) replenish them anew. Unless a lamp is used nightly, no oil and wick should be left in it, even for a single day.

ENTRY LAMPS.—Entry lamps should be trimmed every morning, and lighted as soon as the sun has set; as at that time the hall or entry is always so dark, that no one can find their way through it without difficulty. Where the drawing-room is up stairs, there should be a second lamp, to light the stair-case and the upper passage.

After the large entry lamp is extinguished, on the family going to bed, a small brass lamp should be kept burning all night, on a table in the passage, or landing-place of the lower stairs, that a light may always be at hand, in case of any person being taken suddenly ill.

In houses that stand somewhat back from the street, with a little garden in front, it is well (particularly when visiters are expected) to place a lamp on a shelf fixed for the purpose, in the fan-light over the front door. This will light the guests on their way from the gate to the door-step, and is a great con-

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venience on a dark or wet night. Most of the best houses have permanent lamps at the foot of the door-steps.

Hall lamps of stained glass are very elegant, their colours throwing a beautiful tint on the walls and floor.

LAMP-RUGS.—These are small square rugs, to prevent the feet of the lamps from marking the table. The cheapest are made of oil-cloth, lined underneath with green baize, and bordered with a very thick worsted fringe, which may be bought, by the yard, at the trimming stores. The handsomest lamp-rugs are worked on canvas with crewels of different colours; the centre done in cross-stitch or queen-stitch, and the edge decorated with a standing border, or wreath of flowers ingeniously made of crewel. Some have a high close border all round, imitating velvet or plush. This is made by working the crewel over a mesh, or straight slip of wood, (like a ruler,) about an inch and a half broad, so as to form successive rows of long loops, with an interval of two or three threads of canvas between each row. When all is done, the loops are cut by running scissors through them; and then the surface is evenly sheared, so as to resemble very thick velvet. The needles used for this work should be large and blunt-pointed, like bodkins, and the crewel should be put into them three or four double, in very long needlefuls. Hearth-rugs worked all over in this velvet stitch, on *very* coarse canvas, are extremely rich and beautiful, and of the greatest durability.

In doing worsted work, you will find very convenient a receptacle for the needles, as you must have a separate needle for every shade of the crewel. A very simple contrivance for this purpose, is to take a gallicup, or something else that has a ridge round the top, and tie over it a bit of canvas. Keep this beside you to stick your needles in while at work.

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CHAMBER LAMPS.—Small japanned lamps are the most convenient for carrying up and down stairs, and for lighting to bed. They should be regularly replenished every morning, by unscrewing the top and filling them up with oil, first adding a new wick, if necessary. The wick should be about a quarter of a yard in length; and unless the lamp is kept burning all the evening, it will not require renewing for three or four days. The wick is put in by drawing it through the socket, and should be pulled up at the top with a pin to a convenient height for lighting. The grocers sell it in balls.

Every evening before dusk, as many of these bed-lamps as may be wanted by the members of the family, should be ranged on a japanned waiter, with a brass lamp of larger size burning in the middle, and a few paper matches placed on one side. The waiter of lamps should be kept on a small table (or on shelves connected by a frame) at the first landing-place of the stairs, or in a recess or retired part of the hall or entry below. By this convenient arrangement, every person that wants a lamp can supply himself at once, without waiting to ring for a servant to bring one, and can light it conveniently without coming into the parlour for the purpose. Lighting a small one at an astral lamp requires more dexterity and more nerve than falls to the lot of many persons; as, when the match is inserted into the glass chimney, the flame runs up instantly to the hand, and there is danger of dropping it on the carpet, before it can be carried to the hearth. All this difficulty is obviated by keeping a lamp-table in a place convenient to the parlour, with a lamp always burning, by which to light the small ones whenever they are wanted.

The long or ball wick used for common lamps may be much improved by cutting it into pieces several yards long, steeping them in a cup of vinegar, then spreading them out to dry, and

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when quite dry winding them on a card. The steeping in vinegar will cause the wick to give a clearer and better light, and when blown out it is extinguished immediately, leaving no smoke or disagreeable smell.

KITCHEN LAMPS—Should be of brass or block tin, with broad bottoms like chamber candlesticks. They also should be kept clean and replenished every day.

LANTERNS.—Every house should be provided with one or more lanterns to carry out of doors at night, or to take into a stable, barn, or any other place where an uncovered candle or lamp might be dangerous.

Lanterns with glass sides are so easily cracked that we do not recommend them. They are much better when glazed with horn, or perforated all over with small holes. If they have lamps in them, care should be taken to trim and replenish these lamps daily, that the lantern may always be ready if wanted at night. It is best to get a lantern with a socket at the bottom, so that either a lamp or a piece of candle can be placed in it, as may be most convenient. The piece of candle must not be very long, or it will heat the top of the lantern so as to burn the fingers of the person that carries it.

The small lamps used for placing in the sockets of lanterns are like those without bottoms or stands, that are made to place in broad kitchen candlesticks.

FLOATING TAPERS.—To burn all night in a chamber, no lights are so cheap and so convenient as floating tapers. In travelling, it may be found of great advantage to put in your trunk a small box of them, containing also the float, or

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little apparatus of tin and cork, that supports them in the oil. When you stop for the night, ask for an old tea-cup or something of the sort filled with lamp-oil, on the top of which place the float with a taper on it. Set the light in the chimney, and if you are incommoded by its beams, faint as they are, it is easy to accustom yourself to sleep with a silk handkerchief or a broad ribbon tied over your eyes. In the morning remember to take the float out of the cup, wipe it, and return it to the taper-box, that you may have it ready for the next night. The little tin pliers or tweezers, that come in the box, are used for taking the tapers off the float.

The best floating tapers (as we have found) are those with wooden bottoms, and of the smallest size. They come in boxes with a London mark. The box contains a little pair of pliers, a float, and tapers enough to burn every night for several months: the cost is generally but twenty-five cents, and no light consumes so small a quantity of oil.

As it is not well to waste any thing, however cheap, we recommend, in families who find it necessary to economize in trifling expenses, that the wooden bottoms of the floating tapers shall not be thrown away in the morning after the light is extinguished. Let them be saved in an old box kept at hand for the purpose, and when a box full is thus collected, they can be used over again by furnishing them with fresh wicks, made as follows:

To renew floating tapers.—Having saved a sufficient quantity of old bottoms belonging to tapers that have been used, wipe them clean one by one, and spread them out on a sheet of coarse paper. Melt some white wax, and take some of the very finest or smallest white cotton cord, such as is scarcely thicker than a coarse thread. Having melted the wax, dip the cord into it while hot, so as to cover it completely with a coat-

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ing of the liquid. Then dry it in the open air, and when quite dry and stiff, cut it into pieces of equal size about an inch in length, and put them through the holes of the old taper-bottoms, leaving a little bit beneath or on the under side to be turned up, and pressed hard against the wood with your finger, so as to stick fast and secure the wick from slipping out. Put the tapers into a box, and keep them for use.

NIGHT LAMPS.—There are a variety of lamps for burning all night in chambers; an excellent custom, which frequently prevents much inconvenience, particularly in cases of sudden illness. In every house it is well to have a lamp burning the whole night, in at least one of the rooms. Many persons are unwilling to sleep in a lighted room, thinking that the sight of the objects all around will disturb them, and that none of the shaded lamps sufficiently obscure the light. To obviate this objection, we know of no better contrivance than a floating taper placed in a cup of oil, and shut up in a small dark lantern; such as may be purchased at a tin-store for fifty or seventy-five cents. If there is a socket in the bottom of the lantern, it had best be taken out, that the oil-cup may set steadily on the floor. A little six-cent tin cup is the best thing to hold the oil; with which having filled it, place on the surface one of the cork-floats that come in the taper-boxes, and every night set a taper on the float.

After the taper is settled in the centre of the cork float, ignite it by holding a lighted paper-match to its side; place the cup of oil on the floor of the dark lantern, (which should set on the hearth,) and shut up the door. There will be a sufficient glimmering through the air holes at the top, just to show where it is, and if at any time in the night you should want a larger portion of light, you can open the door of the lantern or slide

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up one of the tin shutters at the side. If you have occasion to light a candle or lamp from the floating taper, take the oil-cup out of the lantern and set it on a small plate or saucer kept on the hearth for the purpose, and apply a paper match to it. A supply of paper matches should be kept in every room.

In the morning blow out the taper, and let the oil-cup be put away on the plate, for if lifted in the lantern it may spill.

If there is no chimney in the room, and the weather will not permit a window-sash to be raised, the vapour of any night light will be unwholesome to sleepers—therefore set it outside of the room-door on an old waiter.

You may remove oil-grease from a hearth, by covering it immediately with thick hot ashes or with burning coals. When thus swept off, if the oil is not quite gone, spread some more hot ashes, or a little Wilmington clay.

VERY CHEAP FLOATING TAPERS.—From a ball of common lamp-wick unwind a yard or two, of which you must take three threads. Have ready a piece of wax about the size of a large walnut, either common bees-wax, or the ends of wax candles heated a little and squeezed together into a solid lump. Take a tin cup or a small sauce-pan filled with water that is boiling hot. Throw into it the lump of wax, and when it is melted and floats on the top of the water, dip in the wick, curling it about in the melted wax. When the wick is sufficiently coated, withdraw it, and hold it up to drain and congeal; then lay it on a plate. When quite cold, cut it, with scissors, into bits about three-quarters of an inch in length, (not larger, or they may smoke,) and put them away in a box.

For using these wicks you must have one of those large circular cork floats, that are covered all over the surface with tin to keep the cork from burning. They come in some of the

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imported boxes of floating tapers. Put the wick through the small hole in the centre of the float, pressing or plastering the lower end against the under side of the cork, to prevent its slipping out through the bottom. Set this taper in a cup of the best oil, and it will burn well all night. Next night put a fresh wick into the float.

This will be found the most economical of night lamps.

CANDLES.—Candles improve by keeping for a few months; those made in winter are the best. The most economical as well as the most convenient plan, is to purchase them by the box, keeping them always in a cool dry place.

If wax candles become discoloured or soiled, they may be restored, by rubbing them over with a clean flannel, slightly dipped in spirits of wine.

Candles are sometimes troublesome to light. They will ignite instantly, if, when preparing them for the evening, you dip the top in spirits of wine, shortly before they are wanted.

Light them always with a match, and do not hold them to the fire, as that will cause the tops to melt and drip. Always hold the match to the side of the wick, and not over the top.

If you find them too small for the candlesticks, wrap neatly round the bottom end a small piece of white paper, not allowing the paper to appear above the socket. Cut the wicks at once to a convenient length for lighting, (nearly close,) for if the wick is too long at the top, it will be very difficult to ignite, and will also bend down, and set the candle to running.

Glass receivers for the droppings of candles are very convenient, as well as ornamental. These are to be had at the principal china stores, and those that are of cut-glass are extremely elegant. They have a hole, through which the candle is passed when they are placed on the socket of the candlestick

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or branch; and projecting all round in the form of leaves or shells, they receive the droppings of the wax or spermaceti.

The pieces of candle that are left after burning an evening, should be laid in a tin box kept for the purpose, and used for bed-lights. Even if the pieces are tolerably long, they should not again be introduced as parlour lights, for in genteel families it is not customary to commence their evening with half-burnt candles.

TO MAKE COMMON MOULD CANDLES.—For this purpose, you will require a set of tin moulds, containing tubes for four or six candles; a strong straight stick about half a yard long, to go across the top; and six or eight wooden pegs. You must have also, a ball of clean cotton candle-wick; and a sufficient quantity of fresh raw mutton suet. Lamb fat must not be mixed with it, as it will cause the candles to run.

To prepare the wicks, cut the cotton into double lengths, somewhat longer than the tin moulds. With a bodkin or something of the sort, draw the wicks (double) through the moulds, leaving a loop at the top of each, and a piece coming out at the bottom. Run the stick through these loops at the top; and secure the wicks where they come out at the bottom of the moulds, by wrapping them tightly round the wooden pegs, so as to prevent the tallow from running out when it is poured in.

Cut up the suet; put it into a pot over the fire, and melt it thoroughly, skimming it well. Then strain it through a coarse cloth, into a mug with a spout, and pour it hot into the moulds, filling them completely. Set them out of doors for the candles to cool; or, what is still better, stand the moulds in a vessel of cold water; or put a little ice or snow round them if you are in haste to get them cold. Freezing will make them white. When you are certain that the tallow is quite cold and

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hard, dip the moulds for a moment into warm water, to loosen the candles; and then, pulling them upwards by the cross stick at the top, draw them carefully out. If you draw them too soon, the wicks will come out and leave the tallow. Trim off the ends of the wicks at the bottom and top, and the candles will be fit for use next evening.

From a quarter of fine mutton, (including the leg and loin,) you may cut off sufficient fat or suet, to make four large mould candles. After they are made, (if the season is winter,) put them out of doors a night or two, that they may freeze white.

SMALL WAX CANDLES—Or bougies, for sealing letters, may be made in a manner similar to the above. You must procure from a tinner a set of very small moulds. The wicks should be of fine smooth cotton, and thinner than for large candles. The wax (either white or coloured) you can obtain from the druggists. Melt it thoroughly. As it is already refined, it requires no straining previous to pouring it into the moulds.

FINE HOME-MADE CANDLES.—For these the ingredients are in the following proportion:—Take ten ounces of fresh mutton fat or suet, a quarter of a pound of bleached white wax, a quarter of an ounce of camphor, and two ounces of alum. Cut or break up all these articles, and then melt them together; skimming them well. Have ready the wicks, (which should be previously soaked in lime-water and saltpetre, and then thoroughly dried,) fix them in the moulds, and pour in the melted liquid, proceeding as in the receipt for common mould candles.

Candles made in this manner of the above materials, are hard and durable, and will not run; burning also with a very clear light.

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DIP CANDLES.—These may be made of the fresh suet or fat of either mutton or beef. Melt the tallow in an iron pot, and then strain it into a deep pan or crock. Cut the wicks into single lengths, tying the upper end of each over a stick, or strong straight rod. Then dip them all together repeatedly into the pan of hot tallow, letting them cool awhile between each dipping. More and more tallow will stick to them every time. You may shape them evenly by filling an iron spoon with the tallow, and pouring it on the candles wherever they seem to want it most. When they are sufficiently large and thick, place them out of doors to harden. By keeping them out all night in cold weather, they will become white by freezing.

RUSH LIGHTS.—Rush lights are much better than small dip candles, and in country places where the rushes grow, the expense of making them is almost nothing.

When the meadow rushes have attained their full substance, but are still green, cut them and bring them home Trim off both ends of the rush, and leave the prime part, which should be about a foot and a half long. Then take off all the green skin that surrounds the pith, leaving only about one-fifth in a perpendicular strip running all the way up from bottom to top of the rush; this strip is to hold the pith together all the way along.

Have ready some melted tallow, and pour it liquid into a tall crock, or something as high as the length of the rushes. Then stand up the rushes in the grease, and let them soak in it thoroughly. Afterwards carry the crock into the yard, take out the rushes, and stand them up to cool against the wall or round a large tree. If allowed to freeze, they will be the whiter.

Rush candles give a clear and pleasant light for a sick room.

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FURNITURE, &c.

WALLS.—When the inside walls of a new house are to be painted, the plastering is hard-finished, as it is called, to prepare them for it; but the paint should not be put on for a year at least, (it would be better still to wait two years,) as before that time the plastering will not be in a state to receive it properly. Painting the walls of rooms has now become very customary in new houses, and though more expensive at first, has advantages over papering that have brought it greatly into use; being more durable, more easily cleaned when soiled, not loosening with the damp, and showing the furniture to greater advantage; particularly the curtains, mirrors, and pictures. The ceiling, of course, should be white; otherwise it will look low and gloomy, unless in a very splendid apartment, where it has been finely painted by an artist. With such a ceiling, it is usual to have the walls of the room painted in compartments, by the same hand. We have seen walls that were painted to imitate bas reliefs of white marble; the ceilings corresponding, and made to look as if coved or vaulted. Nothing can be in worse taste, than a painted ceiling with a papered wall, however expensive and elegant the paper.

The colour of the walls should, on no account, resemble that of the furniture, but should rather present a decided contrast. To give a good effect to a room, there should, as in a picture, be a proper and harmonious distribution of light and dark tints throughout all the objects; every one assisting to bring each

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other out. If there is nothing in the room either very dark or very light, the aspect of the whole will be indistinct and confused. If the furniture is as light-coloured as the walls, the whole will look weak and insipid. If both walls and furniture are dark, the effect will be heavy and gloomy; and the rooms will light very badly at night.

If you have fine pictures, (oil-paintings,) they will be worth taking every means of showing to advantage. Therefore, as bright colours around them would overpower their tints, let the walls be one uniform shade of a quiet and sober colour, something like pale gray, or stone colour, or pale olive; but on no account any thing of a blue, red, green, or yellow tinge. On each side of all the principal pictures it is well to place a bracket supporting a lamp; thus doing justice to the work of the artist, and assisting at the same time to light the room. Where there are no pictures, or only engravings, the walls may be painted of a *very pale* pink or blossom colour, an extremely delicate light green or blue, or of any buff or yellowish tint that will not interfere with the gilding of the mirror frames, &c. Generally, however, the safest colour to set off the furniture is one of the various tints of gray, including light stone-colour and dove-colour. The curtains, &c., should always be darker than the walls; otherwise the effect will be dull and insipid, for want of contrast.

Light blue looks extremely well for an entry and stair-case.

In choosing wall-paper, avoid that which has a variety of colours or a large showy figure, as with such a paper no furniture whatever can appear to its best advantage. The wall, whether painted or papered, should never be so conspicuous as to interfere with the objects of which it forms the background. The most tasteful papers, and those which best set off the gilt frames, lamps, &c., are those whose simple and unobtrusive

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figure is formed by different tints of the same colour, as shaded grays, &c. All wall-papers should be very light. For a bordering round the top, let the predominant colour correspond with that of the curtains. A deep rich bordering gives a very handsome finish to a papered wall.

Large figured papering makes a small room look still smaller. It is now much out of use.

CARPETS.—The carpets most used in America are the Saxony, Tournay, and Brussels, for the best apartments of handsomely furnished houses. Inferior to these are the Wilton, the Imperial, Kidderminster or Ingrain, Venetian, and Scotch; which last is the lowest in price, and worst in quality. Turkey carpets are now very rare. They are made square, all in one piece, and are extremely thick, heavy, and durable; but their colours and patterns have no beauty, and they accumulate much dust, and are so cumbrous as to be extremely difficult to shake.

Wilton carpets, though looking very handsomely when quite new, are less durable than any others; the surface, notwithstanding its rich and velvet-like appearance, wearing off almost immediately; every sweeping bringing away a portion of the wool. Persons who have had no experience of them can scarcely believe in how short a time a Wilton carpet or hearth-rug becomes thread-bare.

Venetian or striped carpets are rarely used, except for stairs and passages. They (as well as Imperial and Ingrain carpets) are made to be put down with either side outwards.

In buying a carpet, as in every thing else, those of best quality are cheapest in the end. As it is extremely desirable that they should look clean as long as possible, avoid buying a carpet that has any white in it. Even a very small portion of

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white interspersed through the pattern, will in a short time give a dirty appearance to the whole; and certainly no carpet can be worse for use than one with a white *ground*. A carpet in which all the colours are light, never has a clean, bright effect, from the want of dark tints to contrast and set off the light ones. For a similar reason, carpets whose colours are all of what artists call middle tint, (neither dark nor light,) cannot fail to look dull and dingy, even when quite new. The caprices of fashion at times bring these ill-coloured carpets into vogue; but in apartments where elegance is desirable, they always have a bad effect. For a carpet to be really beautiful and in good taste, there should be, as in a picture, a judicious disposal of light and shadow, with a gradation of very bright and of very dark tints; some *almost* white, and others almost or quite black. The most truly chaste, rich, and elegant carpets are those where the pattern is formed by one colour only, but arranged in every variety of shade. For instance, we have seen a Brussels carpet entirely red; the pattern formed by shades or tints varying from the deepest crimson (almost a black) to the palest pink, almost a white. Also, one of green only, shaded from the darkest bottle-green, in some parts of the figure, to the lightest pea-green in others. Another, in which there was no colour but brown in all its various gradations, some of the shades being nearly black, others of a light buff. All these carpets had much the look of rich cut velvet. The curtains, sofas, &c., of course, were of corresponding colours, and the effect of the whole was noble and elegant.

Carpets that present a great variety of different and gaudy colours, are much less in demand than formerly. Two colours only, with the dark and light shades of each, will make a very handsome carpet. A *very light* blue ground, with the figure of shaded crimson or purple, looks extremely well; so does a

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salmon-colour or buff ground, with a deep green figure; or a light yellow ground, with a shaded blue or purple figure. If you cannot obtain a hearth-rug that exactly corresponds with the carpet, get one entirely different; for a decided contrast looks better than a bad match. We have seen very handsome hearth-rugs with a rich, black, velvet-looking ground, and the figure of shaded blue, or of various tints of yellow and orange.

No carpet decidedly light-coloured throughout, has a good effect on the floor, or continues long to look clean.

To preserve expensive carpets, it is well to completely cover the floor beneath them with drugget, or with coarse matting, which is a much better plan than to spread a layer of straw between the floor and the carpet; the straw (besides the difficulty of spreading it perfectly smooth and even) accumulating much dust, that works up through the carpet. In buying a carpet, (having first measured the room, and calculated the exact quantity with the utmost accuracy,) it is well to get an additional yard or two to lay aside, that you may have it ready in case of transferring the carpet to a larger apartment, or for the purpose of repairing any part that may be worn out or accidentally burnt.

In fitting a carpet round the hearth, (unless there is bordering,) do not cut the piece entirely out, but slit it down at each side, and having herring-boned the edges to prevent their ravelling, turn the flaps or slips inwards, underneath the carpet. Or you may turn it over, and tack it down, so as to be outside of the carpet, and under the hearth-rug. In making the carpet, the selvage edges must be held together (the figure *exactly* matching) so as barely to meet, but not to lie over each other. It should be sewed on the wrong side, with the strong coloured thread that is made for the purpose; taking up both edges at

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the same time, but not so as to form a ridge. Each stitch must be taken behind or at the back of the last; passing the needle backwards and forwards, so as to point it alternately, first *from* your chest, and then *towards* it; and taking care not to hold one side of the selvage lower than the other, and not to draw your thread *too* tightly. If properly done, the seams will tread down perfectly flat. If you find, as you proceed, that you have puckered any part of the seam, pick it out, and do it better; as the slightest incorrectness in matching the pattern will disfigure the whole carpet.

When the seams are completed, bind the edge all round with regular carpet-binding.

A carpet-fork (to be obtained at the hardware stores) is an article of almost indispensable convenience for putting down carpets. It is to be stuck by a strong hand into the extremities of the carpet, after it is laid on the floor, so as to stretch it to the utmost, and make it fit tightly and evenly all over; while another person pulls it straight and smooths it. The tack-nails must not be too small, or they will fail in securing the carpet firmly. It is well to have ready a sufficient number of little bits of soft buckskin or kid leather, to stick on each tack, close under the head, which may otherwise fray or injure the carpet.

An extra breadth, tacked down in front of the sofa, will assist greatly in saving that part of the carpet from wearing out; and by taking care to match the figure exactly, it can be so fixed as to escape notice.

In an eating-room, the carpet should be protected from crumbs and grease-droppings by a large woollen cloth kept for the purpose, and spread under the table and the chairs that surround it; this cloth to be taken up after every meal, and shaken out of doors; or else swept off carefully as it lies. It will also require occasional washing. A crumb-cloth may be of drugget,

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finished round the edge with carpet-binding; of thick green baize; or very strong, stout brown linen.

Have always a regular tack-box, for the purpose of containing new tacks, and receiving those that come out of the carpets when they are taken up. Your hammer should of course have a claw or cleft for getting out nails. Take care to leave no loose tacks lying about the floor; as, if accidentally trodden on, they may cause great injury to the foot.

In putting away carpets for the summer, after they have been well shaken and beaten, fold them up, and lay among the folds a large quantity of shreds of tobacco, interspersed with bits of camphor. Wrapping them up closely in linen sheets or table-cloths, will prove an additional security against the moths. The linen should be pinned or sewed tightly round them.

To prevent the back of a sofa or a piano from rubbing against the wall, and defacing it with marks, prepare two narrow slats of heavy wood, about a foot long, and in thickness and breadth three or four inches. Cover them with carpeting of the same as that on the floor, and set them between the wash-board and the back feet of the sofa, which will thus be imperceptibly kept off from the wall.

A large, heavy, square foot-cushion of coarse linen, stuffed hard and firmly with hair, or with upholsterers' moss, and covered with carpeting, is a very usual and excellent accompaniment to a rocking-chair. These cushions must be made so compact and substantial, that they cannot be moved unless intentionally. If lightly and loosely stuffed, (as you will generally find those that are offered for sale ready-made,) they will be continually shoving from under your feet, and kicking about the room. It is well always to bespeak them yourself, and have them made to order. There is no foot-stool so comfortable and convenient as these heavy carpet-cushions, parti-

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cularly for chambers, sitting-rooms, and libraries. In handsomely furnished parlours or drawing-rooms, the foot-stools are generally of mahogany, and covered with the same material as the sofas, &c.; but they should always be heavy, so as not easily to overset.

A large brick, covered with a piece of carpeting sewed smoothly all over it, is a simple but good contrivance for placing against the door to keep it open when necessary.

BED-ROOM CARPETS.—The carpet on a chamber will last and look well much longer if there are extra pieces to lay round the bed, taking them up and shaking them every day. In front of the washing-stand, and some distance beneath, it is well to have a breadth of oil-cloth nailed down upon the carpet, which will thus be saved from much injury by the splashing of water in emptying pitchers and basins.

The custom of carpeting chambers all over in summer, though very general in American houses, is not a good one. It seems to add to the heat of the room, is very uncomfortable to the feet when the shoes and stockings are off, and causes an accumulation of dust which seldom fails to produce insects, and is in every respect a great sacrifice of convenience to show. Also, the carpet of course will not last half as long if in use all the year. In England, though the summers are much cooler than ours, the chamber floors, when not covered with matting or oil-cloth, have in the warm season no other carpets than three small ones that surround the bed, and are removed every morning before the bed is made. These bed-side carpets come in sets, are frequently very elegant, and are manufactured expressly for the purpose, each having a border and middle-figure. We could wish they were universally introduced into America,

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nothing being more easy to sweep and wash than the board floor, from which they can be removed in a minute.

In families that are unwilling to go to the expense of matting for their chambers in summer, we recommend that the carpet shall nevertheless be taken up and put away before the warm season commences; substituting for the above-mentioned regular bed-side carpets, three pieces of carpeting finished with worsted binding.

STAIR-CARPETS.—Having the stairs painted white (a custom now greatly in use) will save much trouble in scrubbing them. When painted, all they require is to be washed down occasionally with a flannel and cold water. The white paint on each side adds much to the effect of a handsome coloured stair-carpet. Observing the pains that are taken by many persons to prevent their wearing out, one might suppose that a stair-carpet was of all articles of furniture the most costly. Some are guarded by a covering of brown linen, which almost immediately becomes soiled, and after washing looks fit only to be cut up into kitchen towels. Others are covered all the way up the middle with a strip of drugget, (which is rather better;) and others are disfigured by slips of oil-cloth nailed along the ledge of every step. All recourse to these unsightly methods of saving a stair-carpet may be avoided, by simply purchasing at the beginning a yard and a half or two yards more of the carpeting than is actually required by the measure of your stairs. In putting down the carpet, let this additional yard be folded smoothly under, either at the head or the foot of the stairs, or partly at both. Whenever the stair-carpet is taken up to be shaken and beaten, (which ought to be at least once a fortnight, as the dust accumulating underneath grinds and wears it out,) the position of the extra quantity at the end

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should be changed. By this means, the same part of the carpeting will not be all the time wearing against the stairs; and what was last upon the ledge, will be now against the flat part.

We *know* that by this easy plan of buying at the beginning a small extra quantity, a *good* stair-carpet has been made to last ten years, without looking in the least amiss, and without the expense, trouble, and disfigurement of any covering or guard whatever.

For a long or lofty staircase, it is best to get two additional yards of the carpeting.

An entry or hall carpet will last much longer, for having a large mat at every door that opens into it.

Immediately within the street door, the vestibule (if not of marble) should be covered with oil-cloth. Also, oil-cloth at the back door, and at the head of the kitchen stairs.

A stair-carpet should never be swept down with a long broom, but always with a short-handled brush, and a tin dust pan held closely under each step of the stairs as you proceed; sweeping carefully the corners and between the bannisters, which should afterwards be wiped and rubbed with a cloth. If they are mahogany, they should occasionally be cleaned and polished in the same manner as mahogany furniture.

After a stair-carpet is taken up to be beaten and shaken, the staircase should be swept very clean, preparatory to scrubbing: unless it is painted, and then, as before mentioned, it need only be washed down.

TO SWEEP CARPETS.—Previous to sweeping a carpet, pick up whatever shreds or clippings may be lying about, as it will be found easier to remove them at once, than to be pushing them from place to place, all over the room, while you are sweeping it. Then sprinkle the carpet with some damp tea-

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leaves, which should always be saved for that purpose, by putting them into a jar, as soon as the tea-pot is emptied. The tea-leaves absorb the dust, and cause the carpet to look cleaner and brighter. Then go over the carpet with a corn broom briskly and lightly; for hard heavy sweeping, will wear off the surface of the wool. Having first swept one half, remove all the chairs, &c., to that part of the room, and then go over the remainder; carefully sweeping under the sofas and other fixtures. When you have reached the door that opens into the entry, have ready there, a tin dust-pan with a short-handled brush; collect in it all the sweepings of the carpet, and carry them away at once, to be thrown into the dust-hole.

Drawing-room carpets of the finest and most costly description, should be swept with a hair broom. For a very rich carpet on a small apartment, a clean hearth-brush may be used.

BEATING A CARPET.—When a carpet is taken up to be beaten, let it be carried out by two men into a large open place, (a green, for instance,) and well shaken. Then suspend it, wrong side out, on a stout line between two trees; or spread it over a fence. It should then be beaten very hard, by two or four men, (according to its size,) each person having a pliable stick or rattan, the end being strongly tied round with cloth so as to form a sort of knob, which, by blunting the sharpness of the blows, will prevent the carpet from being frayed, and the seams from splitting. After it has been well beaten on the wrong side, let it rest a while, till all the dust has blown away; and then turn it on the right side, and give it a thorough beating. When no more dust issues from it, lay the carpet on the green, fold it conveniently, and carry it back to the house.

Before it is laid down again, examine it all over, and darn or mend any parts that may need it; using for the purpose,

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carpet-yarn of the respective colours that compose the figure; a needle-full of each as it may be required. Also, if any of the binding is loose, see to repair it.

While the carpet is getting beaten, the floor of the room should be swept and scrubbed.

A carpet in constant use will require beating four times, if down the whole year.

A half-worn carpet may be made to last longer, by ripping it apart, and transposing the breadths; so as to make those that look thin and threadbare, go to that part of the room where they will be least observed. Or the best part may be taken out, and made into a carpet for a smaller room.

TO WASH A CARPET.—Having first removed the grease-spots, by the repeated application of Wilmington clay, scraped to a powder, and made into a paste with a little water, and having taken out the stains with hartshorn diluted with water, take up the carpet, (saving all the tacks, by putting them into a box,) and have it carried to an open place, to be well shaken and beaten thoroughly with rattans, so as to get out the dust. Then let the floor of the room be swept and scrubbed. When the floor is dry, bring back the carpet, and nail it down again, stretching it well with a carpet-fork. Afterwards, let it be well scrubbed all over, a little at a time, with a long scrubbing brush, soap, and cold water in which has been mixed a tea-cup full or more of ox-gall, to preserve the colours. Then wash off the suds with plain cold water, and finish with a drying cloth, with which it must be made as dry as possible. Afterwards, raise the window sashes, lock the door, and do not let the room be used till the carpet is quite dry.

An ingrain, imperial, or Brussels carpet washed in this manner, will look very much like a new one. A Wilton carpet,

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or any one in which the pile or wool is chiefly on the surface, cannot be scrubbed, or it will rub off, leaving the texture thread-bare.

Those parts of the carpet that are most soiled may be at any time scrubbed with a small hand-brush, when it is not considered necessary to undertake a general washing of the whole; always adding a little gall to the water to preserve the colours.

OIL-CLOTHS OR PAINTED CARPETS.—In buying an oil-cloth for a floor, (and there is nothing so good for the hall or vestibule of a house,) endeavour to obtain one that was manufactured several years before; as the longer it has been made previous to use, the better it will wear, from the paint becoming hard and durable. We have seen an English oil-cloth that, not having been put down till five years after it was imported, looked fresh and new, though it had been ten years in constant use on an entry floor. An oil-cloth that has been made within the year is scarcely worth buying, as the paint will be defaced in a very little time, it requiring a long while to season.

An oil-cloth should never be scrubbed with a brush; but, after being first swept, it should be cleaned by washing with a large soft cloth and lukewarm or cold water. On no account use soap, or take water that is *hot;* as either of them will certainly bring off the paint. When it has dried, you may sponge it over with milk, which will brighten and preserve the colours; and then wipe it with a soft dry cloth.

For a kitchen floor that is not painted, there is no better covering than a coarse, stout, plain oil-cloth, unfigured, or all of one colour; for instance, dark red, blue, brown, olive, or ochre yellow. These common oil-cloths are almost universal in the English kitchens and laundries. They save the trouble

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of scrubbing the floor, it being only necessary to wash them off with a wet cloth; and as they are impervious to damp, or to cold from open cracks between the boards, they make the kitchen as dry and warm as it could be rendered by a woollen carpet; and they have the advantage of collecting and retaining no dust or grease. It is surprising that these common oil-cloths have not been more generally introduced into American kitchens.

STRAW MATTING.—In buying matting for a summer covering to the floors of your best apartments, do not get that which is checkered or figured with two colours. The effect is never good, and it gives a common and ungenteel appearance to the rooms. If figured matting is used at all, it should only be in the inferior parts of the house. Thin, low-priced matting should also be avoided, as it cuts in streaks, and wears out so soon that it will be found in the end more expensive than that of the best quality. In fitting it to the floor, do not allow it to encroach on any part of the hearth; as that will preclude the convenience of your having a fire, should the weather be unexpectedly cold after the matting is put down, or before it is taken up for the season. In the middle and eastern sections of America, it is best not to put down the matting, and arrange the rooms for summer, before the middle of June; and it should be taken up and replaced with the carpets before the middle of September; certainly previous to the cold rains which we always expect about that season. If you have occasion for a fire while the matting is still down, lay the rug before the hearth.

Straw matting should be washed but seldom, as much dampness is injurious to it. When it is necessary, however, to clean a floor mat, do it by washing with a large coarse cloth dipped in salt and water; and as you proceed, wiping it dry with an-

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other coarse cloth. The salt will prevent the matting from turning yellow.

If, in putting down a floor mat, you have occasion to join it across, ravel about an inch at the end of each breadth, and tie or knot the lengthway threads two together. Then, turning all these knotted threads underneath, lay one edge over the other of the pieces to be joined, and tack them down to the floor with a row of very small tacks; each tack having a little bit of buckskin on it, to prevent the head of the nail from injuring or wearing out the mat. This ravelling the ends of the breadths, and knotting and turning under their threads, obviates the inconvenience of a thick conspicuous ridge if the edge of the matting is folded under in its full substance.

Worsted binding is generally used for matting; but as this is sometimes destroyed by moths, it is safer to secure the edge of the mat with the sufficiently durable binding of coloured linen or thick cotton broad tape, to be had of all colours at the carpet stores.

Straw matting is not advisable for a stair-case. It wears out very soon against the ledges of the steps, and is, besides, too slippery to be safe for those that go up and down, particularly if they have to carry articles that may be broken. Oil-cloth is also too slippery.

For a stair-case there is no better covering (at all seasons) than a good carpet. If the principal stair-case has been painted all over white, and the others dark gray, no covering will be needed in the summer season, at which time it is expected that all the furniture then in use shall be as light and as little inconvenient as possible.

RAG CARPETS.—Though we highly disapprove of putting rag carpets on kitchen floors, in consequence of the dirt

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and grease with which they soon become saturated, they may be advantageously used in an ironing-room; a servants' sitting-room; as bed-side carpets for domestics; or for other purposes in families where much economy is necessary. They are made of old cloth; for instance, of coats, pantaloons, &c., that can no longer be worn. After it has been well brushed and beaten, rip the cloth apart, and with very large scissors cut it into straight, even strips, about two inches wide, laying them in a basket as you proceed. Then with coarse, strong, brown thread sew together the ends of all the strips, and wind them into large balls. You may add strips of old carpeting, green baize, or red flannel. When you have collected a sufficient quantity, send them to the weaver and have them woven into a carpet, which, though certainly far from handsome, will be thick, strong, and durable.

Rag rugs are sometimes made entirely of old ingrain carpeting.

PICTURES.—In purchasing specimens of the fine arts, select only such as are good. A small and excellent collection is of far more intrinsic value, and evinces better taste than a large number of bad, or even tolerable pictures, that, instead of ornamenting your walls, and adding interest to your apartments, only degrade and disfigure them.

Do not mix engravings and oil-paintings on the walls of the same room. Drawings in crayons and in water-colours may, however, be placed with prints. Take care to hang none of them so high as to be seen to disadvantage. Those that are small should be placed quite low, and judiciously interspersed among the larger ones. Each of the largest and finest oil-pictures ought to be lighted by a pair of lamps, placed on brackets, one at each side.

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To prevent the necessity of driving nails into the wall, it is now very usual, in handsome apartments, to have a brass rod fixed all round the cornice, just below the ceiling; and to this rod, are fastened long ribbons, (all of the same colour,) to which the pictures are suspended, with a handsome bow at each ring. Even where there is not a brass rod, it is better to hang the pictures by long ribbons, from brass-headed nails or hooks, driven at the height of the cornice, than to have nail-marks dispersed all over the walls.

For halls and libraries, maps on rollers are more appropriate than pictures.

In getting engravings framed, see that the glass is as clear as possible; for a greenish or reddish tinge will cause the print to look badly. The effect of an engraving is greatly improved, by leaving round it a large margin of the white paper.

To brighten the glass, rub it with a buckskin and whiting, made a little damp; and then wipe it with a silk handkerchief. On no account wash it, or the water will get in beneath, and stain the engraving.

When an oil-painting is soiled, smoked, or in any way defaced, (also when it wants varnishing,) it is best to send it to a regular picture-cleaner; as an inexperienced person may do it irreparable injury; and few of the receipts for those purposes are to be depended on.

If an oil picture is hung over a mantel-piece, the canvas is liable to wrinkle with the heat.

To keep clean the gilding of picture-frames, dust them with a soft feather-brush; or go lightly over them with a loose bit of the inside of wadding, or of carded cotton.

When much soiled, the best remedy is to send them to be gilt anew; as the usual receipts for cleaning gilt frames will be found, on trial, rather injurious than beneficial.

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CURTAINS.—Unless the chairs, sofas, &c., are covered with satin-hair, the curtains should, of course, always correspond with them in colour, if not in material. Also with the carpet. As we have before observed, the colour of the curtains should contrast that of the walls, always being darker and entirely different. With regard to the fringe, lace, or bordering of the curtains, if the colours do not harmonize or contrast agreeably, and according to the dictates of good taste, the effect will be bad, no matter how rich or expensive the materials. For instance, two dark colours or two light ones should not go together. Scarlet curtains trimmed with blue or yellow do not look well; but bright scarlet has a good effect with dark green or black. A rich, deep crimson contrasts finely with an extremely light and beautiful blue; or with a golden yellow. Curtains of a full blue, may be trimmed with black, dark brown, orange, or bright yellow. Light blue curtains look extremely well with purple trimmings, or with rich brown. Brown curtains appear to advantage trimmed with light blue or pink. Dark grey or slate-colour may also be trimmed with very pale pink or blue. For green curtains, light lilac trimming looks well; also golden yellow. Curtains of buff, orange colour, or bright yellow, may be trimmed with purple, brown, black, deep crimson, or light blue. Curtains of a rich purple, trimmed with orange, or golden yellow, have a magnificent effect. A very light blue trimming also assimilates well with purple.

In handsomely furnished houses, the most usual materials for curtains, are silk and worsted damask, figured satin, and merino cloth; always with shades or inside draperies of muslin, which should be taken down and washed several times during the season. Chintz curtains are now seldom seen in America, except for bed-rooms.

It is not a good custom to keep the curtains up during the summer, as it fades them, and covers them with dust; besides

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which, they seem to increase the heat of the rooms, and impede the free entrance of the air. Venetian and linen blinds are the best shades for windows in summer time.

TO CLEAN CURTAINS.—This should always be done before they are put away for the summer. Having taken down the curtains, and shaken them well, brush them with a small long-haired brush, so as to get off all the dust, particularly from between the gathers, pleats, or flutings. To do this conveniently, the different parts of the curtains should be separated. Prepare a sufficient quantity of good wheat bran; put it into a large pan, and place it before the fire to dry; stirring it frequently with your hands while drying. Afterwards, if the curtains are of silk, mix with the bran an ounce or more of finely powdered indigo blue. Having provided several pieces of clean soft flannel, spread the curtains (a piece at a time) on a large table, and sprinkle them with the bran, a handful at a time. Next, take a bit of the flannel, and with it rub the bran round and round on the curtains, letting it rest a while, before you brush it off. As you proceed, take clean bran and a fresh piece of flannel, and continue till you have gone sufficiently over the curtains, which by this process will be much brightened and improved in appearance. Then fold them lightly and smoothly; and if they are of merino, worsted damask, or cloth, lay among them numerous bits of camphor to preserve them from moths, and pin or sew them up closely in old linen sheets or table-cloths. Then put them away in a chest or closet.

If glazed chintz curtains are cleaned regularly in this manner, when they are taken down towards the close of spring, they will not require washing for several years.

Ottomans and sofas, whether covered with cloth, damask, or

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chintz, will look much the better for being cleaned occasionally with bran and flannel.

VENETIAN BLINDS.—As they are intended for convenience rather than for ornament, it is not necessary that Venetian blinds should, like curtains, have a conspicuous effect in the room. On the contrary, it is better that their colour should as nearly as possible match that of the wall. *Green* Venetian blinds are getting out of favour, as that colour fades very soon, spots with wet, and shows the dust too plainly. Venetian blinds should every day be dusted with a small brush or a turkey wing, and wiped with a soft dry cloth.

LINEN WINDOW BLINDS.—These blinds, as they soften the glare of the sun without excluding the light, are extremely useful in sitting-rooms and libraries. It is best to have them of *fine white* linen: if coarse, the light that comes through them will not be clear, the thick, uneven threads disturbing or confusing it. Brown holland blinds darken the room too much. You can procure linen wide enough to make each blind without a seam. They should be sufficiently long to reach from the top of the window to the bottom, a little below the sill; and it is well to make them full large at first, as they will shrink in washing. They are furnished with pulleys, tassels, &c., and are fitted up by the upholsterers. Care must be taken that the little wheels or pivots over which the cord is made to run, are not grooved too shallow, as that defect will cause the cords to slip off so continually as to render them nearly useless.

PAPER BLINDS.—These very cheap blinds are made of wall-paper lined with thick domestic muslin, and bound with

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worsted ferret. They are useful in common bed-rooms, for attics, and for kitchens. Being double, they darken the room as much as can be desired, when let down entirely. They look best made of plain, unfigured wall-paper; and should be pasted smoothly on the muslin lining, both being cut so as to fit the window from the top to the sill. When quite dry, bind them all round, and sew into the bottom of each a roller made of an old brush-handle or something of the sort, cut off to the proper length. Nail to the middle of the window frame, over the top of each blind, a long double string of worsted ferret, so as to fall or hang down on both the outside and inside. By tying or untying this string, you can fasten up or let down the blind to any height that is convenient.

SHORT BLINDS.—These are very useful in obviating the inconvenience of being seen by persons passing the windows, or of being exposed to the view of opposite neighbours. Short Venetian blinds, opening in the middle, though the most expensive, are the best and most lasting. Those of worsted stuff are seldom used but for office-windows. For sitting-rooms, chambers, &c., the blinds generally in use are of white muslin. Those of plain unfigured Swiss or Scotch muslin look much the best, but are more easily seen through than when the muslin is striped or cross-barred; if the latter, let the cross-bars be small and close. Large cross-bars give muslin a very ungenteel look for all purposes, even for window blinds. Two yards of six-quarter or ell-wide muslin will generally be sufficient for a pair of blinds. They should reach to the top of the lower sash, and descend to the window sill. Hem the bottom of each blind, and make a case in the top, through which run a tape, (securing it by a few stitches in the middle,) and leaving long

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ends of tape to wrap tightly round the nails which fasten the blind on each side to the window frame.

There should be two sets of blinds, as they will frequently require washing. It is well always to starch them a little.

MAHOGANY FURNITURE.—The handsomest and best mahogany is generally used for furniture that is *not* carved. As the beauty of the wood shows to no advantage in carving, that of the best quality is reserved for plain furniture. If not well-seasoned, new mahogany will warp and crack, particularly if kept in a warm room. It is best always to buy it from a cabinet-maker of established reputation. New furniture that is offered for sale considerably *under* the usual price is, in most cases, found to be a bad bargain. Furniture made in the winter, and brought immediately from a cold ware-room into a warm apartment, is very liable to crack. It is well to place your principal table so that the grain of the wood shall be *across* the fire-place rather than lengthways or with the end of the grain towards the heat. Observing this precaution has prevented many a table from cracking. If possible, it is always best to have your new furniture made in the spring, that it may have several months for seasoning, before the commencement of fires.

If a mahogany table becomes very much defaced by scratches, hackings, or scorchings, let it go to a cabinet-maker's to be planed and polished. It will then look as well as new.

Tables, &c., with marble tops, though the most costly at first, will be found, perhaps, cheapest in the end. They are easily kept clean, by merely wiping them every day with a soft cloth, and washing them once a week with cold water, soap, and a flannel; they require no cloth to cover them, and there is no danger of their splitting or warping with the heat.

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ROSE-WOOD.—This is the wood of the amyris, a small West Indian tree. Its colour is not red, but of a dark rich brown, and it is now much used for veneering handsome furniture. Chairs, sofas, &c., of rosewood, should not be covered with a dark-coloured material. Sky-blue, orange-colour, or bright green harmonize extremely well with it.

To keep rose-wood furniture in good order, it should be rubbed gently *every day* with a clean soft cloth, and this will be sufficient. Preparations of wax, oil, &c., cannot be applied without injuring its appearance.

CURLED MAPLE.—This is a very pretty wood, is easily kept in order, and never changes colour. It is extremely suitable for chambers, libraries, and for dining-room chairs. It is seldom used for drawing-room furniture, being considered too light, and not sufficiently rich. For a sofa, or for chairs with stuffed bottoms, maple should always be contrasted with a very dark colour, (for instance, black, brown, purple, or deep crimson,) its effect being bad with light blue, green, yellow, &c.

Curled maple furniture requires no other cleaning than rubbing with a dry cloth.

BLACK WALNUT WOOD.—This is now much in use for furniture, and looks extremely well when not opposed to a very dark colour. Where the wood is black walnut, the sofas, cushions, &c., look best of sky-blue, grass-green, scarlet, rose crimson, or bright brown. None of these colours, however, should be *too* light, or the contrast will be too great. Dark brown, dark crimson, dark green, or purple, have a very gloomy and heavy effect when united with black walnut.

Clean it as you would mahogany.

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