

WOMAN AND HOME.

USEFUL HINTS CONCERNING THE CARE OF CLOTHES.

How the Baby Should Be Looked After. The Finger Nails—A College Prize. Family Doctor—Fashion Plates—Hints for the Household.

As most people like to have their clothes last as long and look as well as possible, a few hints on the care of clothes may not come amiss. All must admit that clothes that are cared for properly will outlast those that are neglected, aside from their also appearing better. It does not matter how fine the material may be of which they are made, if they are dust grimed from carelessness in brushing, or ill fitting from neglectful folding or hanging, they will never make as good an appearance as those made from a cheaper and poorer grade of cloth that has been cared for.

There is no color that shows the dust sooner than black. If a smooth faced fabric, the dust may be easily removed with a brush broom or bristle brush, or if left some time unbrushed, it is not of so much importance, for it may be removed at almost any time before using, but if the cloth is corded or rough faced, it is of the utmost importance that it shall be brushed thoroughly as soon as convenient. After coming in from outside the clothes are very apt to retain a good deal of the dust of the street, and at such a time, if possible, they should be brushed thoroughly ere putting away. First, the hat or bonnet must be brushed well, trimming and all. If of felt or straw a bristle brush, such as is used for clothes, is the best, but if of velvet a finer one, which is made especially for such a purpose, should be used. If it is of cloth a fine corn broom will do very well, and some also use this article for felt, but generally it is too coarse and is not as good in any way as the bristle brush. In brushing a felt hat or bonnet, always brush one way to keep it looking nice.

After being caught in a rain or snow storm with a felt hat, and it is wet, on coming inside do not put it to dry without brushing. With the brush begin at the rim and go round and round, always the one way, brushing very hard, until the crown is reached, brushing this in the same way until you finish in the center of the top of the crown; then put it away to dry and when wanted it will look almost as good as new. Never put a felt hat away while wet without brushing, or it will be spoiled when dry. Men's felt hats may be kept looking nice if treated in this way after being out in a storm.

If the outside garment or wraps is of smooth or corded material, it should be well brushed and hung away, but if rough faced, it will need to be taken into the air and well shaken before brushing, to remove even a part of the dust that is sure to adhere to it. A dress, whether rough or smooth cloth, should be taken out into the air and shaken, owing to its being next to impossible to get into the crevices of the draperies, where the dust is certain to find a lodgment, with a brush broom or bristle brush. Never use a brush of any kind on a silk dress, as a piece of woolen cloth will do the work a great deal better, and will not injure the fabric, which a brush generally does. It is a good plan to hang heavy dresses and wraps on the line once in a while, when a stiff wind is blowing, which will do more toward cleansing than all the brushing that could be given them. To be sure, this is not to be recommended for light, delicate material, but only for such goods as hold the dust. It is very important that men's dark colored clothing should be brushed frequently, for, if neglected, it will be found impossible to remove the dust, and if the clothes are black, they soon have the appearance of being off color long ere they should be.

Never turn a coat inside out when hanging it up, or you will surely ruin the set of the collar. Where convenient, wire frames are the best to use for this purpose, but lacking these, hand the coat by the loop at the collar with the right side out. Never hang a dress up inside out, but if possible allow it two or three days to breathe before hanging. Hang it with the front facing out, by the loops usually placed on the waistband at each side breadth. This way of hanging a dress will keep the drapery and plaits, if there are any, in position, and is the mode recommended by an experienced dressmaker. Some have the loops by which to hang up their basques on the waist line inside of the collar, but the best authority advises them to be sewn one under each arm. The same nails used for the skirt are not generally too far apart, but if they should be, one of the skirt nails, and another one driven into the wall the distance wished for the basque, can be used. Hang the basque first and the skirt over it. To be sure, where there is much trimming on a basque, or it is of delicate fabric which will not bear crushing, it may be well to hang it alone away from the skirt, but usually it is best to hang both together. In a room having no closet or wardrobe, always cover the clothes if hung on wall with a cambric or cretonne curtain. This plan is excellent for covering clothes in a closet also, and will save a good deal of wear from brushing, for no matter how close the closet may be, dust is sure to find an entrance, and as it must lodge somewhere, it generally finds a resting place among the clothes.—Boston Budget.

Taking Care of the Baby.

A baby that is not kept perfectly sweet and fresh loses half its charm, and is defrauded of its just rights. It should be bathed in warm water every morning, and, as it grows older, the temperature gradually lowered until at 5 months old, the bath is just taken off the water. Most babies love their bath, and are more apt to scream at being taken out of it than when put into it. If there is a shrinking from the plunge, a small blanket can be spread on the tub, the child laid on it, and gently lowered into the tub. At night it should be held on the lap and quickly sponged with a sponge, wrung out of warm water. Its mouth should be washed with a soft piece of linen dipped in cool water. All creases where the flesh touches should be powdered with pulverized starch, or any good toilet powder. This is most important, and must never be omitted, as the delicate skin easily chafes. Where there is redness, or any symptom of chafing, lycpodium powder should be used. It is most healing, and can be applied even if the skin is broken. When there are frequent discharges, the parts should be washed in thin, boiled starch instead of water. It is criminal neglect to allow a baby to suffer from chafing.

The head requires particular attention. No daintiness in other respects can atone for the disfiguring brown patches which are sometimes allowed to remain there. The top of the head should be well washed with soap and water every morning. If, in spite of this, traces of scurf appear, the spots should be rubbed at night with olive oil, and gently scraped off in the morning. If the application is not successful, it should be repeated until it is. But there will be little trouble if the matter is attended to when the brown flakes first show themselves.

As the baby grows older and the teeth develop, bibs should be provided, if necessary, to protect the front of the dress from the

abundant flow of saliva. Unless carefully watched, kept as dry as possible, and rubbed at times with a little cosmoline, the chin and neck are apt to become chafed.

Even a very young baby can be trained in good habits in a way that is surprising to any one who has not done it. If its wants are attended to at a certain hour every morning, a healthy child will seldom soil a napkin. The training cannot be begun too early, and the habit should be firmly established before it is six weeks old. It saves much trouble to the mother and discomfort to the child.

A little baby spends the greater part of its time in sleep. It is as if nature were preparing it for the battle of life by giving it as much repose as possible before the struggle begins. It should never be awakened unless it sleeps for a long time past the hour for its being fed. To rouse a sleeping child to gratify the curiosity of visitors or friends is extremely injudicious. As it grows older and is awake more, a certain time should be fixed for the morning and afternoon nap, and for putting it to bed at night. If these hours are adhered to, they will generally find a sleeping baby willing to yield to their soothing influences. It is best from the first not to darken the room, nor keep it specially quiet. The child becomes accustomed to sleep through slight noises, and they do not waken it. The eyes should be protected from a glare of light by placing the head of the crib toward the window.

A baby should never be allowed to sleep with an older person. The best bed is a stationary crib, with woven wire mattress, and a thin, soft, hair one placed over it. This should be protected by a square of rubber sheeting; two must be provided, and the one not in use hung in the open air and sunlight every day. If there is the least trace of an unpleasant smell, the rubber should be washed with some disinfectant solution. The covering should be warm and light. A down comforter is the ideal for winter, if it is well aired in the sun every day or two. In summer an ample mosquito netting well raised on a pole, or suspended from a hook, should cover the crib.—Elizabeth Robinson Scott in Good Housekeeping.

Don't Neglect the Finger Nails.

Because you live in the country and do housework, and even some good honest toil on the farm itself, is no reason why you should neglect certain little niceties of life, such as the care of your hands and teeth. You probably will not be able to keep the former so white and soft as if you used them only for dainty embroidery, but a few minutes each day spent in caring for them will show at least that they are well kept, and signs of toil that cannot be eradicated you need not be ashamed of. The nails can be kept nicely trimmed; they cannot be even moderately long, but they may be shapely and pointed. Perhaps you cannot afford to buy the outfit of a "manicure," but you undoubtedly have a pair of small embroidery scissors; the file you must replace as best you may with the one in your penknife, or, falling that, with a piece of coarse sandpaper; and the chamois polisher, costing anywhere from sixty cents to \$2, you can make yourself. Take a child's block about an inch thick and three inches wide by five long—large enough to grasp it firmly—tack a bit of soft cloth for padding, and over that a piece of the chamois you keep for polishing silver on one of the edges, and you have an article that may not be ornamental, but will answer every purpose.

Soften your hands by washing in warm water with some good toilet soap for a few minutes; then with the small scissors trim the nails, rounding them nicely, and cutting the corners very low. With some blunt instrument (if you have not a file) push back the flesh from the base of the nails, and trim away all the dead skin. Now apply your polisher, and brush vigorously for a few minutes. Do this once a week, and every day spend a few minutes in the use of the polisher, and your hands will repay you in their neat appearance for the time you have spent. A solution of oxalic acid kept in a bottle with a glass stopper will remove all stains of ink or fruit, and a match or a small stick dipped in the solution and passed under the nails will remove any discoloration that does not come off with washing. There is a pink powder sold by druggists for polishing, but this may be dispensed with. If, however, you get any, be sure that you get the best and not a spurious article. You should have a pair of old kid gloves, or, better still, wash leather, to wear when you are weeding in the garden, or doing any housework that will admit of it. I speak with a conviction born of sad experience, for I am a farmer's daughter myself, and never thought of caring for my hands when I was a child. When I was old enough to care it was too late, and I have found out that no amount of after care can make up for that early neglect.—Cor. American Agriculturist.

A Harvard Annex Girl's Essay.

In Harvard university the Bowdoin prizes are the highest rewards attainable for English dissertations, and they range from \$100 downward, being accessible to all students of the university, undergraduate or graduate. This, of course, excludes the young lady students of the Harvard annex, which has no organic connection with the university. By an accident an essay on the subject, "The Roman Senate Under the Empire," written by Miss E. B. Pearson, was submitted to the judges, Professors Torrey and Young. Without the identity of the writer being discovered the judges awarded the essay the first prize of \$100. The essay was signed merely "E. B. Pearson." The class and department of the university were not designated, as is required, and Professor Torrey expressed some surprise that the author of so able an essay should not have complied with a provision so simple. He searched the catalogue of the university for the name of E. B. Pearson, and on not finding it somebody gave the suggestion that this person might be discovered in the annex. In this way the fact came out—the author was a young lady.

So the essay of Miss Pearson was necessarily ruled out of the list, and a prize of \$75 was awarded to a young gentleman instead, while Miss Pearson dropped at once from the Bowdoin prize of \$100 to the lumber annex prize of \$50, thus paying \$70 outright for the privilege of being a woman.—New York World.

The Manicure's Outfit.

Another necessary adjunct to the dressing table is the little Parisian box used by the manicure, and which may be bought for a small sum of any chemist or perfumer. It contains a boat shaped implement, covered in chamois leather, and furnished with a handle, and there is a tiny box of fine pink powder of a slightly gritty nature. You breathe on the nails, and then sprinkle them with the powder, and polish briskly on the chamois part. But before this process is reached, you must first use the other little implement, which is of ivory, with one end shaped almost like a pen, the other fitted with a small brush. In the center is a flat file, on which you carefully shape the tops of the nails, rounding them off at either side to follow the line of the finger. Scissors should never be used for the finger nails, as by cutting them you make the nails coarse and thick. With the ivory point you clean the finger nails, and also gently push back the flesh to reveal the white crescent and to pre-

vent the skin splitting and forming "hang nails," which quickly appear if the skin adheres to the nail.—The Lady.

Following the Fashion Plates.

The patterns sent out by pattern houses are often absurdly elaborate. They are made up to extract trade and they do not represent the best taste of fashionable people. While pattern makers have done an inestimable good in helping mothers to shape the frocks and clothing of their children, saving hours of worry and vexation, they have done a great evil in prolonging in places remote from the great cities the mania for over elaboration in the dress of women and children. Every mother naturally wishes her child to look pretty and neat, and too many mothers hurried by fashion plates have spent hours of toil in making elaborate dresses for their children, only to find, when the dresses were finished, that they were ugly and unsatisfactory. There is but one remedy. Let mothers take the goods the fashion makers provide, but avoid all elaborate designs, designs which are put in merely to fill out the books. Make simple clothing for the children, and enjoy yourself a rest from anxiety about their dress, and take the pleasure that comes from a neat, orderly household.—Woman's Work.

The Walk of Woman.

It cannot be out of place here to suggest the advisability of opening classes where children, girls especially, might be taught the science of walking. Mothers should be a trifle more careful in this matter, but many who are rigidly careful in all other particulars seem almost slovenly in this important point. In fact, after showing them navigation by means of their legs, duty is believed to be at an end, and no matter how wretchedly the child moves the parent rests satisfied with only spasmodic attempts at correction. Whether the ungraceful wobble, the halting step and painful stoop so commonly seen is attributable to carelessness or unnatural dressing, certainly it is that six out of every ten women walk abominably. To be upright and easy in one's movements is only as nature intended, and unless deformed there is not the slightest excuse for the absurd locomotion noticed on the streets every day. Why children are permitted to grow up pigeon toed, round shouldered, crooked and awkward is a proposition left open for further discussion.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Family Medical Adviser.

When you choose a doctor, it is well to give him to understand that you are depending upon him, and that you consider him already in a certain sense responsible for the physical well being of yourself and your family. The late Dr. Alpheus Banning Crosby well said that his idea of a wise patient was "one who, having selected an intelligent physician, holds him personally responsible for his life." Having selected your physician, then make him in reality the medical adviser of every member of your family. Take him into your home and give him the opportunity to become acquainted with the personal and family history and physical condition of every member thereof, so that he may be able to trace their hereditary tendencies, recognize their predispositions, understand their peculiarities, and anticipate their weaknesses—in short, to know their constitution. Having this knowledge, he will be able to give them the wisest advice in health, and the most successful treatment in sickness.—Demorest's Monthly.

Paste for Paper Hangers.

Paper hangers' paste is best made by first heating the water to the boiling point; then add flour, stirring constantly to prevent the formation of lumps. The flour should be sifted into the water through a sieve to insure more equal distribution. Agitation must be continued until the heat shall have rendered the mass of the desired consistency. In order to increase its adhering strength, powdered resin in the proportion of one-sixth to one-fourth of the weight of the flour should be added. Oil of cloves or a few drops of carboic acid added will keep the paste from souring.—Chicago Times.

After the Bath.

Let me here remark that no bath is perfect in its results without the long and brisk friction of hands or a coarse towel afterward. Friction not only stimulates circulation, but it makes the flesh firm and polished like Parian marble. It is sometimes astonishing to see the change made in an ugly skin by friction, and a lady who wishes to possess a healthy body, firm to the touch and fair to the eye, with the elasticity of youth well prolonged into age, must give willingly of her strength to the daily task of rubbing the body thoroughly.—Dress.

Preserving Natural Flowers.

To preserve natural flowers by the wax solution process, dip the flowers in melted paraffine, withdrawing them quickly. The liquid should only be just hot enough to maintain its fluidity, and the flowers should be dipped one at a time, held by the stalks, and moved about for an instant to get rid of air bubbles. Fresh cut flowers, free from moisture, make excellent specimens in this way.—Good Housekeeping.

To remove the glossy appearance from a diagonal cloth coat, first free from dust, then sponge or brush with warm water and ammonia, a teaspoonful of ammonia to a pint of water, and a small piece of castile soap, then rinse in water and afterward sponge with hot coffee and rinse again in cold water; then hang to dry. Before it is thoroughly dry stretch well with the hands or it will shrink.

The head nurse of the Children's hospital in London says that the six general qualifications for a good nurse are "presence of mind, gentleness, accuracy, memory, observation and forethought." She finds it "a popular female delusion" that every woman is born a nurse.

The prevent flies from spoiling gilt frames and fittings, brush them with a camel's hair brush wet in water in which onions have been boiled. The flies have aristocratic tastes, and will not go where they come in contact with anything savoring of onions.

Lemons will keep good for months by simply putting them into a jug of buttermilk, changing the buttermilk about every three weeks. When the lemons are required for use they should be well dried with a cloth.

If you wish to keep a sharp knife don't put it in hot grease; stir your potatoes while frying, or turn meat with a fork or an old case knife kept on purpose.

Never sun feather beds. Air them thoroughly on a windy day in a cool place. The sun draws the oil, and gives the feathers a rancid smell.

Cabbage is made digestible by first slicing, then putting into boiling water, with a pinch of soda and some salt, and boiling just fifteen minutes.

To clean straw matting, boil three quarts of bran in one gallon of water, and wash the matting with the water, drying it well.

AN UNLIGHTED CIGAR.

ACTIONS OF TWO SMOKERS MEETING ON THE STREET.

True Equality of the American People Shown—Etiquette of Cigar Lighting in Cuba—Street Politeness in Spain, Smokers in England.

It is in small matters that national characteristics are best seen. Nothing, for instance, could better show the true republican equality of the American people than the actions of two smokers meeting on the street. The one is a well dressed, well to do citizen, carrying an unlighted cigar. Toward him is coming a seely looking individual, socially and peculiarly the very antipodes of the first, but he is puffing away contentedly at a weed, the materials of whose composition would puzzle the state analyst to discover. The first man stops. "Can you oblige me with some fire?" he asks. "Why, certainly," responds the seely one, and with the courteous action of a Brumell he removes his cigar from his lips, knocks off the ash and hands it to the well to do citizen. Then and there the "two for" and the "straight Havana" meet and mingle their fires and aromas, and with more polite bows the two men pass on.

In the Cuban islands there are special and strict forms of etiquette relative to this universal practice of smoking. Should a gentleman stop another on the street to ask a light he would construe a refusal to oblige him into a direct and intentional insult. But having once held between his fingers the partly consumed cigar of whose fire he has been borrowing, the owner thereof would be exceedingly hurt and offended were he to offer to return it. No, he must, instead, open his cigar case and proffer a fresh weed in return for the fire.

THE REASON FOR IT.

To connoisseurs in cigars the reason for this act is obvious. A cigar which has been bruised against another in the act of lighting it loses a considerable portion of the delicacy of its flavor, and should that one against which it is thus rubbed be of an inferior flavor and aroma, these qualities in itself are, to a delicate taste, completely destroyed. It must be rather irksome under these latter circumstances to have to lose an exquisite "weed" for the sake of a strange etiquette which commands the acceptance of a cigar of much inferior flavor and value. However, a breach of this point is never made, and a well bred Cuban would die sooner than show any irritation.

In most European countries, with the exception, perhaps, of cigarette smoking Spain, the strict etiquette of smoking is much less severe. The majority of smokers in England, for instance, carry matches in their pockets, and should a passing smoker, with unlit pipe or cigar request a light, it is a match that is handed to him. Small boys through the streets of all big English towns selling boxes containing 250 wax vesta matches for two cents; there is consequently very little excuse for a smoker to be without light. The rainy and windy conditions of the climate are equally well provided against for smokers by "fuses," "vesuvians," "flamers," which are varieties of matches having large heads composed of gunpowder paste, which will remain ignited until consumed in any kind of weather.—New York Press.

Swells Across the Atlantic.

In going about Europe one becomes very soon convinced that the English gentleman is much the best dressed man on this side of the water. I have never seen a Frenchman, an Italian or a German who patronized the tailors of his own country who even approached remotely to being well dressed. Some of the Italian swells that I noticed at the stations as I passed through wore sienna red overcoats, lined with light red and ornamented with cheap muskrat collar and cuffs. Put under this a light check suit, striped shirt, and on the head a careless green or brown soft hat, and you have an idea of the style of a swell of the smaller villages of Italy.

In the larger towns it is not much better. The men have a tendency to flaming plaids and extraordinary checks, and have a perfect passion for wearing overcoats loaded down with the cheapest and inonest looking fur known to the trade. Their clothes are nearly all ill fitting and badly made. The most picturesque are those who still adhere to the cloaks, which they wrap around them after the fashion of the conspirators in the opera. You very rarely see a high silk hat in Italy, and only occasionally a stiff Derby. The hat is generally a soft felt, similar in shape to that worn in the far west of the United States. But it is generally more flaming in color. Dark green and terra cotta red are very common colors worn. Some of the spectators at the stations were the most extraordinary fur caps made out of the fur of the cat or the rabbit. They were shapeless and clumsy.—T. C. Crawford in New York World.

Mr. Arnold's Impressions of America. Mr. Matthew Arnold recently gave some impressions of America to an audience at Bradford, England. He told them that "in America all luxuries were dear, except oysters and ice; that American women have a natural, free and happy manner, in pleasing contrast with that of middle class women in England, who look to one class as the only example of 'the right thing'; that American buildings are commonplace; that the nomenclature comes on the ear of a cultivated person like the incessant clatter of pines; but that the Americans do not persist in so doing in making invidious distinctions between persons by the use, for some, of the affix 'seigneur,' a term which came from the great frippery shop of the middle ages."

In the end, however, Mr. Arnold determines to conciliate, if possible, the people among whom he lives. In the comparison of America and England he, in the end, permits the old country to kick the balance. He finds the glorification of the average man a religion with American statesmen, the addition to the funny man a national misfortune, and the American newspaper an object of reprobation. Americans will not admit that their civilization is lacking in elevation and interest. Tall talk is their substitute for that elevation which humanity craves.—Home Journal.

The Uses of Tar.

Professor Lunge draws attention to the many advantages to be derived from the use of tar in treating building material. Drain pipes, roofing tiles, building stones, brick, etc., when soaked in a bath of hot tar, become absolutely water tight. The dead black color thus imparted is by no means an objection in many cases. The article should be well dried and allowed to remain for some time in the tar, which should be heated at least to the boiling point of water, and should also be first free from water and volatile oils. After all, why should we ever have leaky roofs and damp cellars? It costs little if any more to avoid them. By all means let the bricks that are used in the basement wall be made impervious to moisture by soaking in tar, and then make the cellar floor tight with asphalt. Why worry ourselves with avoidable troubles?—Philadelphia Times.

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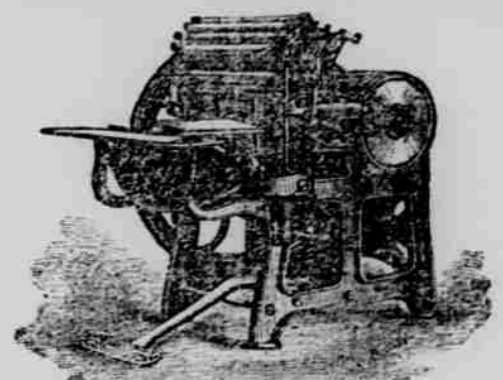
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