



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

My Mother's Cookie Jar

In a dim old country pantry where the light just sifted through, Where they kept the pies and spices and the jam and honey, too. Where the air was always fragrant with the smell of things to eat, And the coolness was a refuge from the burning summer heat,— It was there I used to find it, when I went to help myself— That old cookie jar a-setting underneath the pantry shelf. Talk of manna straight from heaven, why, it isn't on a par With those good old-fashioned cookies from my mother's cookie jar.

They were crisp and light and flaky; they had lots of sugar on; And I think the way they tasted that the fountains of the dawn Had been robbed to give them flavor, and the sweetness of the south Had been kneaded in them somehow, for they melted in your mouth. How I used to eat those cookies when I came in from my play; Yet the jar was never empty, spite of all I put away. Oh the "days that were" were better than dyspeptic days that are, And I wish I had a cookie from my mother's cookie jar!

I am sick of fancy cooking; I am weary of the ways Of the butler and the waiters. Give me back my boyhood days! Give me back the good old kitchen, with its roominess and light, Where the farm hands did their "sparking" almost every winter night. Give me back my boyhood hunger and the things my mother made; Give me back that well-filled pantry where I used to make a raid. Take me back, as though forgetting all the years which mark and mar— Let me taste once more the cookies from my mother's cookie jar.
—A. B. Braley, in Home Magazine.

May-Day and Moving

Although the first day of May has long been considered moving day, most of families change their residence during April, and if agents are to be believed, house-hunting is one of the delights of the times, as every taste and purse can be immediately suited on inspection of the shelters they offer. But the woman who has fretted and worried herself into serious illness hunting for those "bargains" of the real estate agent's list, declares that only those having long purses or indifferent tastes can find what they may even "make do." It makes all the difference in the world—the size of the purse and the tastes of the would-be renter. There is no end to flats, apartments, rooms, dwellings and cottages, but the family that would suit a slim purse with good light, perfect plumbing, respectable exterior, good neighbors and reasonable conveniences, together with sanitary surroundings, must look long and despairingly, and at last prepare to pay a good price after long and exhausting search; and even then, more than likely will have to take something that will fall far short of requirements. The critical house-hunter will ask questions something like these: Is the neighborhood respectable? Does the landlord require references? (If not, the chances are against having good neighbors.) Is there a vacant lot

adjoining or opposite? If there is, ten chances to one, the owner will at once begin building, tearing up the street and filling it with building materials; or it is a menace to health and decency, as a vacant lot in a city becomes a dumping ground for every kind of refuse, offensive alike to sight and smell; or it is the scene of wild orgies by the idle children of the neighborhood. An adjoining saloon, butcher shop or bakery is not a desirable neighbor, as the first is an offense against morality, while the other two draw roaches, mice, and other vermin which are impartially distributed throughout the building. There are so many things which "make a difference," that the change of residence is one of the hardest problems to settle satisfactorily which the housewife has to face.

For the Home Seamstress

For the old lady whose back is bowed with weakness and years, the round back of her gown may have three darts in the lining from the waist line to the shoulder blades, and the outside material be smoothed in place over them; in some cases, the outside will need a few plaits at the center of the waist line to dispose of the extra fullness. If the figure is broad at the hips, but not full, put some darts in the lining of the skirt at the apex of the hips and smooth the outside material over this, unless there is no lining, when tucks, shirrs, etc., may be used. If the hips are full, make a deep dart in the front and the back of the center of the hips in the lining, and the lining should be soft enough to enable you to fit it closely, avoiding stiffness. If the abdomen is prominent, darts in the front gore of a skirt are a necessity, and the top of the skirt must also be carefully fitted to prevent its pulling up and the bottom standing out.

The outside material of a tailored gown may be fitted perfectly around the waist line by using a wet cloth and a hot flat iron, combined with a deft method of turning and twisting the iron which tailors certainly possess. A tailor places a wet cloth on the wrong side of material and shrinks the latter into shape with a warm iron over the cloth until the cloth is dry; the iron does not remain quiet, as that would mark the goods, but is on the move, working away as though endowed with life. A collar or lapel that "fulls" is treated in the same manner, using a medium heavy iron, but for a large piece, like a skirt, or a coat, a heavy iron is used, moving it actively one way, and never allowing it to rest in one place. This is one reason why a man tailor does better work than a woman can—because he has the strength to use the suitable iron for the work.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Re-silvering a Damaged Mirror

Pour upon a sheet of tin foil three drams of quicksilver to the square foot of foil; rub smoothly with a piece of buckskin or chamois skin until the foil becomes brilliant. Lay the glass upon a flat surface—a table or board—face downward; place the foil upon the damaged portion of the glass, lay a sheet of paper on the foil, and place upon it a block of wood or a piece of marble with a perfectly flat surface; put upon it sufficient weight to press it down tight; let it remain in this position for a few hours, and the foil should

adhere perfectly to the glass. Every particle of the foil should be evenly pressed down on the glass, else there will be "blisters."

Wall Hangings

To paste oil cloth on the wall, make a paste the same as if you were to use paper, only put some glue in while the paste is hot—two ounces of glue dissolved in a little water to a gallon of paste; put the paste on both wall and oil cloth, and apply the cloth to the wall, as you would paper, and it will stick. This for ceiling as well as sides. The common table oil cloth is often used, but the cloth prepared expressly for the walls is better, having a fleeced side to go next to the wall.

To make paper stick on a ceiled wall (boards), get a cheap grade of muslin, and take strips as long as the walls are high, or the ceiling wide, and begin by tacking one end of the cloth at the top, then stretch, and tack a short distance along one side, then an equal distance on the other side, tacking in the middle as you go along, continuing until the length is fastened to the wall, then take another strip, fitting the edges of the strips together, do as with the first strip, and repeat until the walls and ceiling are all covered. Some paper hangers wet the muslin with a paste in which two or three ounces of dissolved glue is added to each gallon of paste, then paste and apply the paper as to a plastered wall. The cracks between the boards would better be filled with the same kind of filling used in floor cracks, thus giving no room for insects, and making the wall smoother. If paper is put on the boards without the muslin, it will break along every joining of the boards. Some persons paste and tack strips of old muslin or lawn over the joinings and cracks, and thus save expense.

For papering hard finished plaster or painted walls, go over the surface with a size made by soaking and dissolving one pound of glue, and when thoroughly dissolved, pour over it three gallons of boiling water containing one tablespoonful of powdered alum. If the walls have been whitewashed or kalsomined, wash with hot vinegar; or make the paste of vinegar instead of water. If the walls are very rough, smooth down the roughness with a smooth piece of hard wood and apply a coating of paste to dry on them before applying the pasted paper.

A Recommended Whitewash

Put one peck of unslacked lime in a large iron kettle; pour on sufficient water to slack it to a smooth paste; add one quart of coarse salt, and let it stand for one week, when it will be ready for use. The vessel must be large enough to allow for the increased bulk of the lime when slacked. It is said never to flake or rub off when used indoors, and is good for outside work. For whitewashing the cellar, add enough copperas to give a yellow color to the wash, and vermin and insects will seek other quarters.

For the Laundry

Before wetting the lace curtains, shake them well to remove all dust, and mend the breaks as well as you can. Lay them in a tub and pour over them to cover water in which a tablespoonful of borax to a pailful

of water has been dissolved. Let lie in this water several hours, or over night. When ready to wash, squeeze out what water you can, and if you have a washing machine, put them in a strong suds made of soft water and any good laundry soap, then work the machine as for any tubful; if it is a good machine, it will not damage the curtains. When clean as the water will make them, put them through the wringer, and then put them into the boiler, as any other white clothes; let boil fifteen to twenty minutes, or half an hour, then put through the machine again, put through clear rinse water, and they are ready for the starch. If no machine, after taking them from the soak water, put into strong suds, squeeze and work them about until the dirt is well out of them, then either put through a wringer, or squeeze as much water out of them as possible, put into clean boiling water, let boil as usual, run through another lighter suds, rinse in clear water, then through blue water. The lace must not be twisted or rubbed, but squeezed and patted about. Starch thinly, and if you have a stretcher, put them at once on that; if not, lay a clean sheet on the carpet, fastening it down smooth with pins or tacks, and pin the curtain on that, pulling it in shape.

Lace doilies, tidies, scarfs, and other knit or crocheted articles may be cleaned in the same way. If there are holes in the curtains, wet a piece of old curtain, matching as well as possible, in thick starch and pat or press the piece over the hole smoothly, and let dry on it.

Gleanings

The custom of taking sulphur in the form of brimstone and treacle has little in its favor, and there are many things much better for the physical spring house-cleaning, such as carefully selected diet, eating laxative foods, and abstaining from unhygienic habits. The habitual use of sulphur internally is apt to impair the digestion and spoil the appetite; its chief recommendation is its laxative properties. In the form of ointment, used externally, for many skin disorders and parasites, it is invaluable.

The rhubarb used for medicinal purposes is obtained from Thibet and Chinese Tartary, the dried root being the portion used. The drug is largely used for children, though why, it is difficult to say, as nine times out of ten it does more harm than good. Children should not have such drugs forced on them, as attention to diet, the eating of fresh fruits, dried figs, prunes, etc., with hygienic clothing, cleanliness and sanitary surroundings, are all that is required. For both children and adults, it is far better to abstain from the use of medicines in any form, unless there is a real necessity for it, and then a competent physician should advise.

The leaves of common garden lettuce are esteemed as a cooling and agreeable salad, but as the flower stalk develops, it develops a bitter taste, and when the stem is cut or broken, a milky juice exudes which, when dried, forms a brown solid called lettuce opium. By some it is used as a substitute for the real opium, where the opium drug is inadmissible; it is somewhat uncertain in its action. The eating of the lettuce leaves in the form of salad is said to be "good" for sleeplessness, and is certainly harmless as a narcotic. A pillow made of hop leaves is recommended as a relief for insomnia.

Query Box

Discouraged — Where paper persists in cracking and tearing off the walls or ceiling, make a smooth