

to make the roll round. A spool of thread should be put into the roll at each end before sewing down, and an eyelet-hole worked on either side of the thimble bag for the end of the thread to be drawn through, ready for the needle. Make a pointed pocket for the scissors below the spool pocket. Below the thread pocket, the article should be lined with one or two leaves of suitable flannel, and in this flannel needles of various sizes should be run, crosswise, and the thread drawn through the needles to keep it in place. A bodkin, cotton and yarn darners and glove needles should be added. This can be rolled up compactly and tied with a ribbon or tape sewed on the outside of the free end of the material, the corners of which should be rounded, and the whole bound with ribbon. For one who moves about much, or travels, this is a very convenient affair, and many men or boys would be very grateful for such a gift at Christmas time.

Teach the little ones to be helpful about the house. It is a good thing to get small brooms, ironing boards and real irons, little tubs and washboards, and the like for the embryo housewives. A little girl will never look on the laundry work necessary for the dolly's comfort as anything but pleasure, and can thus be learning a very important lesson. A box of good tools is a fine thing for the boy.

**Little Helps**

In cleaning windows, rub with a cloth dipped in a thin paste of spanish whiting and ammonia, let it dry on the glass, then rub off with a clean, soft cloth. It beats soap and water, which almost invariably "streak" the glass. Windows cleaned in this way keep clean a long time.

When fly-time is over, take down the screens, brush well, and paint so as to prevent rust, then put them where they will not get damaged by having things piled on them, or stick through the wire.

Get two ounces of washing soda and an ounce each of powdered pumice stone and powdered chalk sifted together; make a paste of a little of this with cold water and spread on your marble slabs; let stay a little while and wash off with soap and water. All dirt and stains will come away with it.

Use plenty of turpentine or carbolic acid in the scrub water for the floors; it means death to insects hidden in the cracks.

Many blemishes on wall paper may be removed with an eraser such as is used to rub out pencil marks.

For the spots on the table, dampen a rag in ether and rub the spot, and it is claimed it will disappear.

Here is said to be a fine furniture polish: For a small job, get one pint of linseed oil, one pint of turpentine, half a pint of gasoline, and five cents worth of muriatic acid. Mix well in a bottle. Wash the furniture and let it dry, then apply the polish liberally with a piece of old cotton stocking top; rub thoroughly into the wood. The muriatic acid cuts the greases and blemishes, while the other ingredients fill and polish the wood. Vigorous and persistent polishing is required. When the piece of furniture has been touched in all parts with the preparation, take clean cloths and rub until every particle is absorbed in the wood. It will not act as a varnish, but will renew cloudy looking pieces made dingy by gas, steam, sediments, dust or other wear. It is highly recommended.

**The Laundry**

Do not ruin the soft fine flannels of the baby by careless washing. Put them to soak in strong suds of cold water made with the best of white

soap, using soft water always. Let lie for about an hour, then gently pat and squeeze and press with the hands until the soiled parts are clean; squeeze (do not wring) them out of this suds and put them through a weaker suds, handling them the same, then rinse in soft cold water of the same temperature as the suds, squeezing as dry as possible, or running them through a wringer, then shake thoroughly, both lengthwise and crosswise. All the suds should be rinsed out of them, and two rinse waters are none too many. If the flannels are white, a few drops of bluing should be in the last rinse water. Dry them as quickly as possible in the open air, but do not let freeze. Iron with a rather warm (not hot) iron when nearly dry. If ironing is objected to, fold smoothly and lay under a weight. Do not let flannels lie about when soiled, as they are apt to look stained and discolored.

Black goods, black and white, gray, very dark purple, must be soaked in strong salt water, or a cupful of turpentine may be put in the wash water. Finer black cottons may be soaked in a strong tea made of whole black pepper boiled until the strength is extracted. For all kinds of black and white things, a handful of salt in the last rinse water improves the color. Any colored cotton or linen goods may be safely washed in thin flour starch, and when ironed will not have that "smeary" look so much disliked. Use no soap, and rinse in clear water. The fabric will be stiff enough.

Soak madder tints, browns, brown-reds, tans, and their shades in a solution made of one ounce of sugar of lead to one gallon of water, letting soak in this ten minutes before putting in the wash.

**Query Box**

L. L.—To prevent ants from climbing walls or tree-trunks or vines, paint a horizontal line, with gas tar, on the walls, or around the trunk.

Mrs. C. L., of Missouri, wishes to know how to bleach a switch which is too dark for her hair. The switch was made of her own hair of an earlier date.

Mrs. C. L. also wishes to know what will remove the "grassy" smell from matting. It sickens her, and the matting is on her bed-room.

E. J. C.—There is nothing known that will in all, or a majority of cases permanently remove superfluous hair. Electrolysis often fails, besides being expensive, and the operation very painful.

"Johnny D."—The reason why scratching with the nails is dangerous is that there is always more or less poisonous secretions under the nail, which infects the scratched surface sometimes seriously.

"Elderly Reader"—There are few materials more becoming to an elderly lady than velvet. When used close to the face, it has a beautiful effect in softening the lines of age.

"Sistene"—Fur cloth is not the real fur, but an excellent imitation of it, and the material is very popular for coats and jackets. It requires care in cutting and making, and should have a good lining.

Mrs. J. L.—For a one-piece dress for an elderly lady, velvet is very handsome and warm. The long coat will be worn. Black and very dark blue are the season's leading colors.

Housewife—When one gives the "cup" as a measuring article in cookery, it is supposed that the one cup shall be used for every measurement, no matter what the size of the cup. A cup is supposed to hold half a pint, but it does not, always.

**Contributed Recipes**

Chocolate Layer Cake—One cup of sugar, half a cup of cold butter, two eggs creamed together, half cup of

milk, four level teaspoonfuls of baking powder, two cups of flour. Mix and beat thoroughly. Put two-thirds in two tins, and to the remaining third add some grated chocolate, about one tablespoonful, then bake in tins as the other two parts. For filling, use one-fourth cake of Baker's chocolate, one cup of milk, one tablespoonful of corn starch; cook until thick, then sweeten to taste. Have the dark layer between the two white layers.

The next time you are baking, I wish you would try this cooky recipe; the cookies are fine: One cup of butter, one cup of sugar, one egg well beaten, one level teaspoonful of soda, two tablespoonfuls of cold water and one level tablespoonful of ginger. Stir well, then stir in pastry flour to make a dough that can just be rolled out smoothly; roll thin, and with a cutter the size of a silver dollar (a quarter-pound baking-powder can is fine) cut out the cookies and bake. Put away in tin cans or lard-pails, and when they are all gone, make some more.

If you have a slice of toast left one morning, save it to put with the left-over slice the next morning. Butter your baking dish, put in one slice of toast, shave over it some cheese (about half a cupful) clap on the other slice of toast, add a little salt and pepper, pour over milk to nicely cover, and set in the oven to bake. It calls for about one cupful of milk, and should bake twenty minutes.

A tablespoonful of vinegar put in lard in which doughnuts are to be fried, will prevent them absorbing too much of the fat. Lard in which doughnuts are cooked should be smoking hot (not scorching) when the dough is dropped in it. As soon as done, take out and lay on brown wrapping paper.—Mrs. W. A. Travis, New York.

In darning damask, draw a few threads from one end of the material and use for the darn, and if neatly done, it will not be noticeable.

**Cleaning Out the Corners**

Some one has said that the attic and the bonfire were the two allies of the courageous housewife. Every home is cumbered with things that are of no earthly value to the family, kept merely because of a thought that at some future time they may "come handy," yet ten chances to one, when the time comes when they could be used, they have either been forgotten, or their particular whereabouts are unknown. Or, they may be kept merely because of the sentiment associated with them. It has been necessary to care for, clean and house them, again and again, and they have taken up room that might be better occupied. There are several ways to get rid of them. One is to give them to some one who can find a use for them; another is to pass them on to some one of the institutions which have a happy faculty of placing even the most outcast belongings where they may serve a present purpose, and another is, to consign them to the bonfire. It is just as well to sort them out mercilessly, harden your hearts to their appeals to our memories, and give the room and care to something of present value.

The same condition is recognized outside the house, and a general cleaning up in all departments of the homestead will make life more bearable to the whole family.

Housewives are learning to love cleanliness, and to seek methods of obtaining it without undue drudgery. The creed of William Morris is to "Have nothing you do not know is useful and think to be beautiful." Cosy corners and crowded "dens" are no longer tolerated. The love of cleanliness is demanding simple things and simple conditions, and de-

manding that nothing but the absolutely necessary shall be provided. We are finding our ideals in the simple sanitation of the hospital furnishings.

**For the Home Seamstress**

For making the plaited skirt, try this: Double the cloth, either two single widths, or one folded width, according to demands of the pattern, placing right sides together, and taking care that the "nap" or design runs the same way in both. Place the pattern on the doubled cloth, and be sure the line of perforations indicating the straight thread of the goods is laid as it should be. Stick pins through the perforations marking places for plaits, and use plenty of pins to stay the pattern. Cut out. Remove the pattern, and fasten pins securely up and down; turn over one side of the cloth directly over the first row of pins; baste near the edge, turn and baste the other side the same way, then remove the pins. Run a basting on pin rows, showing depth plaits are to be made, but do not turn the cloth; bring the plaits to the straight bastings, and both sides will be perfectly even. Each plait should receive the same care as you come to it.

It pays to shrink almost all kinds of wash goods. Some must only be sponged carefully, while others, such as linen, pique, duck, gingham, and wash fabrics generally, may be laid in cold salted water, folded just as they come from the store, and allowed to get thoroughly wet, then hung on the line until nearly dry, then well pressed, keeping the grain or thread of the material perfectly straight both in length and width, to avoid stretching. Many goods, when cut off by the clerk, have a "near-bias" raw edge, and when this is laundered, it is very much out of shape. Shrinking will give the straight end to the goods. The fit of any garment depends upon the way it is cut, and directions on the label of pattern should be strictly followed as to straight or bias threads.

**TACT**

A reproof tactfully conveyed was suggested when Lord Kitchener visited an out of the way district in India where a new fort had been erected. He was astonished to find that it was commanded by a hill close by. "I congratulate you, colonel," said Kitchener to the officer who had selected the site. "It's a capital fort. And how soon do you begin to remove the hill?"

A fashionable photographer, however, has undoubtedly achieved the pinnacle of tactful achievement. A woman with a decided squint came to him for a photograph.

"Will you permit me," he said, promptly, "to take your portrait in profile? There is a certain shyness about one of your eyes which is as difficult in art as it is fascinating in nature."—Youth's Companion.

**THE FAVORITE POETS**

- For a dyspeptic.....Chaucer
- For a religious one.....Pope
- For a jousting.....Shakespeare
- For a cook.....Burns
- For a paperhanger.....Longfellow
- For a diver.....Dryden
- For a philologist.....Wordsworth
- For a conchologist.....Shelley

—Life.

"Now, children," said the Sunday school teacher, "I want you to remember always what I have taught you today about the Pharisees and the publicans. Who were the men the nation despised because they levied more taxes than they ought?" And the class shouted in chorus, "the republicans."—Ex.