

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ends of the button box; buttons are cheap, and no matter if they are a little old fashioned, so they are all alike. Then put the odd buttons away for uses on something else. A few stitches in the worn ends of the button-holes, or even working them over neatly, will give an entirely new look to it. Neatly patch the lining about the armhole, and hem it down securely at the sleeve joining, or wrist; if the lining of the body has given out wholly, necessitating a new one, rip the old lining out carefully, dampen slightly and iron out smooth; have ready some sateen or farmer's satin, according to the fineness of the garment, and cut out a new lining by the old; if you have paid attention while ripping out the old lining, you will know just how to apply the new lining, and re-line the garment. Baste neatly and carefully before sewing it fast, and take just as much pains with the old garment as if it were a new one.

If one knows how to cleanse and restore old garments, those of good materials can be made up "like new," and save many a dollar with but little work. Soap bark is one of the best and least expensive cleaning agencies. It can be purchased at any drug store, and may be used on anything but delicate tones or white.

To prepare the soap bark for use, pour a quart of boiling water over five cents worth of the bark, which comes in small packages of about two tablespoonfuls, and steep, but do not boil, for two hours. The water should not perceptibly evaporate while it is steeping; strain the liquid

into a china bowl, and when the material to be cleansed is ready, sponge thoroughly on both sides, giving particular attention to soiled spots, and when all the pieces have been sponged, rinse thoroughly in clear water, wring well and hang in the shade to dry; when nearly dry, iron on the wrong side until dry.

Some Unusual Jobs

In the experience of the housewife, there are at times renovating problems, which usage has not solved, because they are not often called upon to face the difficulty. Among these is the washing of feathers and renovating the same, in order to render them fluffy and light. Not many now use feather beds, but about every one who can get them uses the feather pillow, and in many families, these have been "handed down" until they are seemingly full of lumps and just a heavy, matted mass. If you send them to the professional renovator, you are never sure that you get back the same feathers, or as good. Try to do the work at home. Make a bag of thin ticking and rub its entire inside and outside surfaces with common yellow bar soap, dipping the soap in water often so that it may be generously applied; empty the feathers out of the old tick into the soaped one, fasten it securely, by either sewing up the open end or tying it, and boil in a wash boiler half full of soft water for ten minutes, punching the feathers with a stick frequently and lifting the bag up and down. Then lift it out and drain a little while until cool enough to handle, when squeeze as much water as possible out of the feathers and hang the bag in a dry, shady place; feathers should not be hung in the sunshine if at all warm weather. It will probably take a few days to dry the feathers, and they should be frequently worked with the hands, separating the lumps, and when quite dry, will be as free of all unpleasant odors as when new, and quite fluffy and light. At this time of year, many old fowls, guineas and turkeys will be slaughtered, and the soft feathers of these should be treated in this way, and will be very satisfactory for either pillows or cushions. If the barbs are stripped from the stiff quills of feathers, they are just as good as the soft feathers. I hope you will try this way of renovating your old feather pillows, for it will at least cleanse and purify them.

Cooking the Old Fowls

Nothing can be more appetizing than a well-cooked old fowl. But it must be well cooked. The old, tough hen should be fattened, if possible, and then properly dressed, let hang for a day or two to ripen the flesh, and this can be done without harm, during the winter weather. Joint the fowl, and put it over the fire with plenty of water; if you want broth, have the water cold; if you want the flavoring to stay in the meat, put it on in hot water, bring to a boil and let boil for half an hour, keeping up a brisk bubble. After that, set it where it will just simmer, and let it simmer gently until done. It may require five hours' simmering, or maybe ten; but simmer until done. Keep plenty of water on it until it is nearly done, then let the water slowly cook away, until perhaps a pint remains in the kettle, meantime salting to taste. It does not necessarily mean that the "meat will fall from the bone," to be done; but the meat must be thoroughly cooked to the bone, so it can be picked off. Let stand in the portion of water until cold, and the water will be jellied. The meat will be perfectly tender, and can be eaten

even by the toothless, and the flavor will be delicious. Try cooking your old fowl this way. Tough meat must not be boiled, for that just toughens it all the more, and by the time it is tender, it is as tasteless as rags—which it resembles. Corned beef cooked in this way is most appetizing.

For the Toilet

Don't forget the vinegar and corn meal when washing hands that chap. At any time after having the hands in soapy water, they should be wet with common vinegar, and a little corn meal rubbed over them. The acid kills the alkali which is nearly always abundant in common soaps which are used for kitchen and laundry work. Use soft water if it is to be had. For the cracks in the fingers which are so painful, if you do not have the harness or shoemaker's wax, tie the place up over night with a bit of cotton on which carbolated vaseline is spread. A small jar of the vaseline will cost five to ten cents, and is good for many ailments due to cold weather.

Instead of using so much soap, remember that little bags filled with bran or oatmeal are excellent cleansers. A great deal too much soap is used about the housework; for instance, in dishwashing, there is little need of soap suds, if one has the water hot enough to remove the grease and scraps of food. Many housekeepers never use soap in their dishwashing. The dish rag and the dish towel should be well washed and scalded, and if they are kept soft and clean, the soap may be omitted in the dishwasher. For wash-

ing pots and pans, the hands can be kept out of the water by using a little mop, or a steel table fork to guide the cloth. The water must be hot, and a few drops of household ammonia or a teaspoonful of borax will soften the water.

Mutton tallow is one of the best of toilet preparations. Get the leaf fat and melt it yourself, straining after it is melted. The fat should be put into a double boiler, and the outer vessel should be kept full of boiling water until the fat is melted.

An excellent dressing for the hair is made of a quart of bay rum, an ounce each of castor oil and tincture of cantharides; shake this well, and apply to the scalp with the finger tips. If the hair is very oily, use half the quantity of the castor oil. Apply night and morning.

A Use for Petroleum

Petroleum can be used to advantage as a preservative of wood, though it is not a paint. No coloring matter should ever be used with it. Petroleum penetrates the wood and fills the pores so no air or moisture is admitted. Ordinary linseed oil paint forms a coating over the surface, thus excluding the atmosphere.

LADY WANTED

To introduce Dress Goods, Habits, and Petticoats. Make \$10.00 to \$30.00 weekly. Best line—lowest prices—sold through agents only. No money required. New spring patterns now ready. Samples and case free. STANDARD DRESS GOODS COMPANY, Desk 436, Binghamton, N. Y.

5 Fine POST CARDS FREE

Send only 2c stamp and receive 5 very finest Gold Embossed Cards FREE, to introduce post card offer. Capital Card Co., Dept. 314, Topeka, Kan.

GRAND TO LIVE

And the Last Laugh is Always the Best.

"Six months ago I would have laughed at the idea that there could be anything better for a table beverage than coffee," writes an Ohio woman, "now I laugh to know there is.

"Since childhood I drank coffee freely as did the other members of the family. The result was a puny, sickly girl; and as I grew into womanhood I did not gain in health, but was afflicted with heart trouble, a weak and disordered stomach, wrecked nerves and a general breaking down, till last winter, at the age of 38, I seemed to be on the verge of consumption.

"My friends greeted me with 'How bad you look! What a terrible color!' and this was not very comforting.

"The doctors and patent medicines did me absolutely no good. I was thoroughly discouraged.

"Then I gave up coffee and commenced Postum. At first I didn't like it, but after a few trials and following the directions exactly, it was grand. It was refreshing and satisfying. In a couple of weeks I noticed a great change.

"I became stronger, my brain grew clearer, I was not troubled with forgetfulness as in coffee times, my power of endurance was more than doubled.

"The heart trouble and indigestion disappeared and my nerves became steady and strong.

"I began to take an interest in things about me. Housework and home-making became a pleasure. My friends have marveled at the change and when they enquire what brought it about I answer 'Postum, and nothing else in the world.' Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

LATEST FASHIONS FOR COMMONER READERS



9147—LADIES' DRESS

Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches, bust measure. It requires 6 3/4 yards of 40-inch material for the 36-inch size.

9144—LADIES' ONE-PIECE APRON

Sizes, small, medium and large. It requires 5 1/4 yards of 27-inch material for the medium size.



9109—MISSES' COAT

Sizes 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 years. It requires 3 yards of 44-inch material for the 15-year size.



9138—LADIES' SHIRT WAIST

Sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches, bust measure. It requires 2 3/4 yards of 36-inch material for the 36-inch size.



THE COMMONER will supply its readers with perfect fitting, seam allowing patterns from the latest Paris and New York styles. The designs are practical and adapted to the home dressmaker. Full directions how to cut and how to make the garments with each pattern. The price of these patterns is 10 cents each, postage prepaid. Our large catalogue containing the illustrations and descriptions of over 400 seasonable styles for ladies, misses and children, mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents. In ordering patterns give us your name, address, pattern number and size desired. Address THE COMMONER, Pattern Department, Lincoln, Nebraska