

the cleaning, and not always satisfactory, while to hire it done is too expensive.

Cleaning Skirts

Brush the skirt well, then whisk off with a clean brush dampened in equal parts of ammonia and warm water, not wetting the goods. Where there is a recent stain, try removing with a mixture of equal parts of ammonia, alcohol and water rubbed on with a clean cloth. After the skirt is well cleaned as to dust and spots, and well dried, lay it on the pressing table or board, pin each plait down in proper fold, then baste the fold down with fine thread; cover the skirt with a piece of dark cloth, woolen preferred, which has been evenly and slightly dampened (not wet), and press with a moderately hot iron. If the skirt be a silk one, do not use a brush to dust, but wipe with a piece of old velveteen, which will clean without wearing the silk, and will prove in every way more satisfactory than a brush.

Silk, or ruffled skirts should be fitted with tapes sewn on the lower ruffles by which to hang them upside down; this will prevent the skirt from sagging and the ruffles from drooping. Wash frocks are better put in trunks or long boxes, whether they have been worn or not, for in hanging they grow stringy, are more easily affected by dampness, and lose their freshness, before they are worn.

Table Napery

A new table cloth of good linen needs no starch when laundered, but should be made very damp before being ironed. The napkins should be ironed without drying, and ironed until perfectly dry, and will thus be stiff enough. For the table cloth, have a very large iron, as it retains heat much longer than a small one, and the linen should be ironed until perfectly dried by the ironing. This will give it a gloss and stiffness that is "like new." As the table linen gets old and worn, it will need a little starch to stiffen the thinned body; dried and sprinkled as other clothes, to make the ironing better. After being ironed, the pieces should be thoroughly dried near a stove before putting away, as the dampness they will gather will give them the appearance of not having been ironed at all.

Directions for Preserving Eggs

A reader asks us to give again directions for preserving eggs with silicate of soda (water glass). The United States department of agriculture has issued a bulletin on the subject, and if you will send a postal card, with your address, asking that the bulletin be sent to you, it is worth asking for. Just ask for the bulletin treating on the subject of preserving eggs with silicate of soda, or water glass, and it will be sent you. We give here directions culled from those who have used the process, and when you have received the bulletin, it will help you out further.

Water glass, or silicate of soda is a thick, syrupy liquid, and weighs heavily; there are several grades of it, and you must be satisfied with none but the best quality bought of a reliable firm. It can be had in three or five pound bottles, and is usually sold at the rate of ten cents a pound, by small quantities. You would best begin with a small quantity. Preserving eggs will cost you about one cent a dozen, and the crocks, or jars may be used over and over. Everything must be perfectly clean and sweet, and the eggs must be perfectly fresh—gathered every day, or even oftener, according to whether some of your hens may be broody and want to set on the eggs after laid. One part of the water glass to sixteen

LATEST FASHIONS FOR COMMONER READERS

We have made arrangements to supply our readers with high grade, perfect fitting, seam allowing and easy to use patterns, designed by a leading firm of New York fashion publishers. Full descriptions accompany each pattern, as well as a chart showing how to cut your material with the least possible amount of waste. Any pattern will be sent postage prepaid upon receipt of ten cents. We will also issue a new fashion book quarterly, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, illustrating hundreds of new styles—Winter number now ready. We will send this book for two cents postage prepaid if ordered at the same time that a pattern is ordered, or for five cents, postage prepaid, if ordered without a pattern. Besides illustrating hundreds of patterns, this fashion book will tell you how to be your own dressmaker. When ordering patterns please give pattern number and size desired. Address all orders—Fashion Department, The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska.



7143—Ladies' Shirt Waist—This waist is made with the high military collar and long or short sleeves. There is a pocket on each side of the front. The neck may be also made low. The pattern, 7143, is cut in sizes 34 to 44 inches bust measure.
 7150—Ladies' Skirt—Serge, chevrot or broadcloth can be used to make this skirt. The skirt is cut in five gores and can be made with the high or regulation waist line. The pattern, 7150, is cut in sizes 22 to 32 inches waist measure.
 7155—Ladies' Dressing Sacque—Linen,

cashmere or challie can be used to make this sacque with the trimming of contrasting material. The sacque is very simple to make and is made with a large, round collar. The pattern, 7155, is cut in sizes 34 to 44 inches bust measure.
 7142—Children's Apron—This apron is just the thing for the school child, as it covers the entire dress. Linen, gingham or pique can be used to make this apron, with the edges of the pockets and collar finished with hand embroidery. The number of this embroidery pattern
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parts of water is conceded to be satisfactory. The eggs must be put into the preparation every day when gathered, and only perfectly clean shelled eggs should be used. The eggs must be kept under the solution at all times, and in a cool cellar, or cold place. The solution will probably become thicker and like gelatine, but the eggs must be kept under the surface. Send right away for the printed matter, and see what you can do in the way of "making money at home." You can at least have plenty of eggs for your own home use, even if the price on the market is beyond your means. Try this.

Query Box

L. S.—For making cloth waterproof, take three pints of pure linseed oil and add one ounce of sugar of lead and four ounces of white resin. Grind the sugar of lead fine, or have it ground where you buy it, and mix well with a little oil before adding to the other ingredients. Mix thoroughly, heating in an iron kettle and apply hot with a brush.

Ella S.—Where red, or other colored thread has run into separate white goods, try this: Boil the clothes in soapy water to which has been added a pint of good vinegar. This is said to whiten the goods, no matter how badly stained. Or, boil the goods in a strong solution of cream tartar, rinse well and let lie in the sun all day, wetting the goods frequently with the acid water, then rinse in clear water and the stain will usually be removed.

A "Sufferer"—The following is said to be an excellent corn remedy: Take of salicylic acid, one dram; extract of cannabis indica, five grains, and enough collodion to make one ounce of the three ingredients. Paint the corn with this mixture, using a camel's hair brush, after having soaked the foot in hot water and the dead skin scraped off with a bit of pumice stone; let the painting remain for two days, and on the second day, it is said the corn can be picked out easily.

Mrs. M. S.—A "normal salt solution" consists of an even teaspoonful of salt to one pint of boiling water; a "normal solution of borax," the same. When dissolved, which will be immediately, let cool, and bottle. Use as gargle for throat, mouth wash or snuffing up the nostrils, as an antiseptic. A saturated solution is prepared by putting into water as much borax as the water will take up, leaving a sediment at the bottom. This may be used for hands, putting into the wash basin enough of the solution to make the water feel slippery.

Odds and Ends

For a good reliable polish for furniture, try one part of boiled linseed oil to two parts of turpentine; mix thoroughly; have the furniture perfectly clean and free from dust, and well dried; rub the polish in, a little at a time, with a soft old cloth; old stocking tops make good polishing rags, and especially the silk ones. The woodwork of the furniture must be gone over carefully, and every bit of oil either rubbed off, or polished off, so as not to gather lint through having a greasy surface.

It is none too early to begin the warfare on the insect world, indoors or out; and while the menfolks are using the sprayer, and insecticides on the outside world, the housewife must bestir herself to catch the first intruder inside. During March is the safest time to hunt out the earliest comer of the bedroom terrors, and see that any left-over eggs are destroyed; look well for the eggs, and fill any possible hiding place with strong exterminating materials. If your bedstead is iron, a very good plan is to run a lighted candle or lamp