

The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McVey

When Your Best is Done

When you've done your work as well as you can
And your past is clean and your conscience clear,
When you know that you haven't wronged any man,
When you've made no foe to be faced with fear,
The busy world may be still inclined
To deny rewards you have longed to claim,
But it can not rob you of peace of mind
Or bring to your cheeks the blush of shame.

And the world, however it may connive
To keep you down and to hold you back,
Must respect the hopes that you keep alive,
Though its praise may be for the gifts you lack,
And the scorn on the lips of the richest man
Is not a thing you have cause to fear,
When you've done your work as well as you can
And your past is clean and your conscience clear.

—S. E. Kiser.

Fall House Cleaning

As soon as the first chill of autumn strikes us we begin to think of indoor comfort and cleanliness, and the thought comes to make the home rooms as attractive as possible. It is not a difficult task, nor, comparatively, an expensive one, yet it will call for a little money and some labor. Papered walls are not expensive, if you do the paper-hanging yourself; by doing this, you can get better paper, and good paper lasts much longer than the cheap kind. If the plastering is loose or broken, it will be well to have it mended; but you can do pretty well yourself with it by pulling off the loose plaster and then pasting over the hole several layers of any kind of scraps, over which you can then run the regular wall decorating paper. If the hole is very large, several layers of paper to fit may be pasted on, then a piece of muslin over this, which will fill it out and make it stronger.

Water-tinting, kalsomining, or even good white wash, may be used, and it is cheap enough so one can give it an extra coat in case it gets dirty soon, as often happens when one has a poor chimney. Unlike paint, a tinted wall can not be washed or wiped off, but a fresh coat can be put on at any time; almost any one who is willing to take pains can do a good job; it is the work that costs, not the covering.

It is the fashion to have plain, very light ceilings, and for the ceilings, the tinting material, kalsomining, alabastine, or good white wash may be used. The ceiling usually shows the effects of the smoking chimney sooner than anything else.

For a north room, the walls should be done in light cream, buff, yellow, or other warm tinting; for a south room, or one flooded with a western light, grays, soft greens, blues, and like cool colors should be chosen. Clean walls, clean ceilings, and a few pleasing pictures make a fine setting for the winter firelight.

Fall Renovating

When planning your fall settling, there are many little matters that are of much importance. For the furniture, a brush that will not mar the polish should be used to search out the dust in joints and moldings, some old flannels, linens and cottons for polishing, and some simple preparations for cleaning obstinate spots. It is well to pass by all preparations advertised to remove all damages instantly without rubbing. The removal of such things without muscular labor can hardly be done without damage to the surface of the furniture.

An excellent polish is made as follows:

Raw linseed oil, three parts, mixed with one part turpentine, and well shaken; rub on with one flannel rag and polish with a clean one. This is an efficient reviver, and gives a fresh appearance to furniture treated with it; it also removes finger marks and dirt.

Another, is one-fourth pound of gum shellac dissolved in one pint of denatured (not wood) alcohol, keeping it warm until the shellac dissolves by setting in a vessel of warm water. Moisten a cloth with the polish and rub over the surface briskly, polishing with a clean flannel cloth.

Sweet oil removes finger marks from varnished furniture, and kerosene removes them from oiled furniture; ink spots may be removed with salts of lemon. Oil of lemon is said to be an excellent polish.

Varnish for trunks, and many other purposes is made by putting one-half pound of gum shellac, broken into small bits, into a quart jar, covered with denatured alcohol, seal tightly, put where it will keep warm, shaking several times a day until dissolved; then add a piece of gum camphor the size of a hen's egg; shake again; let dissolve, then add one ounce of lamp black; if too thick when ready to use, (about three days), thin with alcohol. Pour a little into a saucer and apply to the surface. If made right, it will dry in five minutes, giving a patent-leather-like gloss, and will not come off until it wears off; is durable, and can be applied to shoes, shines well; resists water and wears well.—Mrs. C. L. Clemens, Michigan.

Last Winter's Wardrobe

When you are getting out the clothing packed away last spring, you always find more or less wrinkling and creasing which must be removed before the garments can be worn. Instead of going over them with the tedious process of a damp cloth and hot flatiron, if you can safely hang them out where they may be left to get the damp night air, especially during a heavy fog, you will find them free from all creases, and just moist enough to run the iron over, pressing from the wrong side. With care every woman can become skilled in pressing her own garments, men will soon learn how to press their own wear. By doing this work at home, many dollars can be saved, as the regular professional pressers will not look at a garment for less than the dollar-mark. Plaits should be basted in place, using a very fine thread for the basting, so it will

leave no mark on the pressed goods. There are so many good cleaning fluids that one should be at no loss for the removal of spots or stains. Of course, all repairs should be made at once, or, if altering is to be done, this should be attended to. If the garment is hopelessly out of date, it should be ripped apart, sponged, pressed, and made into a garment for the younger and smaller members of the family. During the years just passed, our people have been so extravagant as to give to the rag man all the discarded garments; but the higher prices and leaner purses will teach us all lessons in economizing. Much of the materials may be used for making bed-covering, and it is a piece of extravagance to throw away such materials. Gathering up all scraps worth using, and cutting into any desired shape, they can be sewed together on the machine in a few hours, and the covering made from their use will last just as long as new cloth, especially that used in the comforts sold over the counters. Even the men's clothing, especially the light-weight summer wear, may be thus used to advantage. Many women who can not leave home for wage earning, would be glad to do the cutting and sewing, if she knew where to find the work.

Query Box

M. M.—For a person with gray or white hair, choose either gray or lavender; or a judicious mixture of white and black may be worn. White, unrelieved, like black, is a trying color, and gives a hardness to the face. Lacy neckwear is best for elderly faces.

Mrs. L. C.—Cold creams will not "bring out hair" on the face. If you have a natural tendency to grow facial hair, it will grow, no matter what you use, or what you don't use. If any one can produce a formula which will certainly grow hair on a hairless skin, it will command a good price for the "hairless" heads all about us.

Nellie R.—To wash white crepe de chine, make a good lather of pure white olive oil soap, and tepid water. If hot water is used, it will yellow the goods. Use only the suds—no soap on the article. Wash through one, or two, as the need may be, basins of water of the same temperature, rinsing in clear water of like temperature, then roll in a towel to get partly dry; then iron with a moderately hot iron on the wrong side. If the work is rapidly done, it should not noticeably shrink.

"Patsy"—For the garment that "shows a yellow tinge," since washing, put a piece of crepe paper the color you would like it to be—red will give a pink tinge—and boil a few minutes, then strain into a vessel; test the color with a bit of white, and if the color is right, immerse the garment in it, and you will find it a very pretty color. A delicate flesh color is always becoming.

Easy Bread-Making

In the morning, soak one yeast cake in two cupfuls of warm water; when dissolved, add one cupful of sugar, two cupfuls of sifted flour, and one teaspoonful of salt. Let stand in a warm place until evening. Have cooked eight or ten good sized potatoes, mash thoroughly and add the

water they were boiled in along with extra water enough to make a gallon. Let cool, then add the yeast and about three tablespoonfuls of salt; keep the yeast in a cool place until used.

To make the bread, take one large cupful of the yeast for each loaf wanted, and mix in sifted flour until stiff enough so it will not stick to the hands, but use as little as possible so the bread may be of the lightest; too much flour will make the bread hard. Turn dough out on the kneading board, knead it well and make into loaves at once; put into greased pans, let rise to twice the bulk of the dough, and bake until the loaves shrink from the sides of the pans.

Coffee Cake—To make, take one cupful of the above yeast, one large egg, half teaspoonful of salt, one cupful of sugar, one-third cupful of melted lard or butter, one-half teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, a sprinkle of nutmeg, and three cupfuls of flour—or just enough flour to make a stiff batter, one cupful of raisins (seedless, that have been washed and put into a hot oven to puff). Mix the raisins with two teaspoonfuls of the flour to prevent their sinking to the bottom of the dough; put into greased pans, let rise to double the bulk of the dough, and just before putting into the oven sprinkle over the top a mixture of one teaspoonful of sugar and one-fourth teaspoonful of cinnamon.

Remnants and Aprons

If you are a thrifty woman, you can hardly get along without plenty of aprons, and even the most utilitarian of these may be made very attractive and becoming to the wearer.



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