



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Gleanings

They have a pretty little theory nowadays which they call the theory of interest. This means, so far as I can make out, that Johnny must never be allowed to suspect that he is learning anything in school. You must keep him amused, entertained, and while his attention is distracted, you may slip in a bit of useful information here and there along the way.—*Woman's World.*

"It's a sad reflection that our teachers are such savage and ferocious creatures that they cannot be trusted to slap a child when he needs it, and it is reassuring to know that Johnny can always protect himself from debasing physical violence by the simple words, "Don't you dast touch me; you'll go to jail if you do!"—*Ibid.*

Every physician will tell you that about half his patients need no medicine; that they only need right living. But he will also tell you that this class of patients will not let him be honest with them. If he tells them they need no medicine, they will not believe him. They will think he does not understand their case, and will proceed to some other doctor who, perhaps, is not so conscientious, and who will give them medicine, harmless or otherwise, and they are satisfied.

I am quite sure that it is better to have everything brought before one in books. In that way, the problems reach us when we are cool and not warped by the sophistries of an instant passion. Life itself presents its problems with a terrible distinctness and directness, and at the very hour when we are least able to judge calmly. Hence this Pisgah-sight of things off the top of a book is only a rational preparation for the ugly grips that must follow.—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

For the Baby

To prepare farina for the baby, take one tablespoonful of farina and gradually sprinkle it into a mixture of four ounces each of milk and water, boiling together; add a pinch of salt, stir until well cooked in a double boiler, for an hour. When fed to the baby, pour a little top milk on it and feed with a spoon. When making farina porridge great care must be taken to prevent its lumping, and it will be perfectly smooth if the farina is gradually sprinkled in and constantly stirred.

To coddle an egg, take a perfectly fresh egg with the shell on, and drop it into a saucepan of boiling water, remove immediately from the fire and allow the egg to remain in the hot water for seven minutes; when broken open, the white should appear like jelly. Before giving it to the baby, add a pinch of salt and a few crumbs of browned toast; give only half the egg at first, gradually increasing to a whole egg. Another good way to feed an egg to the baby is to beat it up, raw, in a pint of milk, adding a very small pinch of salt.

Planting Roses

In growing garden roses that bloom from early June until frost, remember that the healthiest rose-bush in the greenhouse will prove a disappointment if its tender roots are thrust into a soil that lacks nourishment. The soil should be well spaded to a goodly depth, and a ripe, old fertilizer (cow manure

preferably), should be well incorporated with the loam. But in this, judgment must be used, as too much, or too new manure will cause the rose-beds to be manure-sick, and disagree with the plant. We often read that the rose-bed cannot be made too rich; but like much else that we read, this is misleading. A well-rotted cow manure, well mixed with good garden loam, with plenty of clay in it, is the best; but the clay loam must be light and loose, rather than heavy and sticky.

For the Sewing Room

To apply lace insertion on a straight edge, roll the edge of the goods and overhand the lace on this edge, holding the goods to you and rolling the edge toward you, easing the lace on the underside so that when finished it will not pucker. To put lace insertion on a design, the same effect as overhanging (whipping) may be obtained by pinning it on the right side of the goods in the required design, and sewing with very small, overhand stitching on the outer margin. The inside edge must be gathered with fine cotton and small stitches and basted where needed. Turn over to the under side and cut away the material between these bastings to within a sixteenth of an inch of the basting, then fold the work with the lace toward you, and with number fifty cotton thread overhand through both lace and material with very fine stitches. The goods will roll itself.

It is well to put all one's money in values of material rather than in trimmings. If you cannot afford good lace, use tulle or a simple figured-net lace. For lingerie and summer dresses, omit all trimmings rather than use the cheap, poor quality; tucking, a simple beading or lace insertion with neat neckwear and belt, will give a much better effect than quantities of cheap, poor trimmings. Keep the lines of all garments simple and soft, and choose harmonious colors. Remember that one really good garment is worth a half-dozen poor ones.

Simple clothes do not always mean inexpensive ones; it does not mean to be dressed plainly, nor to do without all trimmings or fancy touches. The knowing how, and what is or is not suitable, are the chief secrets the dressmaker and wearer should study in order to be "well dressed." A great many women are far better dressed in the good "ready-to-wear" clothes than they ever can be in what they make themselves. Not every woman is or can be a dressmaker, and thousands of women cannot even be "tolerable" seamstresses. They have no talent for the needle, thimble and scissors.

Answering Queries

All cracks, dark corners, loose joints in the woodwork where roaches and other noxious insects hide should be gone over with boiling hot suds, salt or alum solutions, pouring the boiling liquid into the openings, then fill the openings with something like sawdust mixed with glue, newspaper shredded in paste, or anything that will prevent their forming future nesting places in them.

Rats and mice about a building are very destructive, and should be killed with traps or poison. Things used for this purpose must be handled as little as possible—not at all, would

be better—as the rodents are wary of human smells. In using poisons, or traps, they must be put where domestic animals, poultry and little meddlesome children cannot reach them. One of the quickest exterminators for mice is half a teaspoonful of cornmeal with which a teaspoonful of strong arsenic is well mixed. This is a deadly poison, and should be set in some out-of-the-way place, and all other foods put out of reach of the animals, so they will be forced to eat of this. If one is very careful, the mixture can be set out at night and removed in the early morning before children and poultry are at work. But it must not be neglected.

Odds and Ends

To find the quantity of lace necessary to go around the outer edge of a circle: Find the distance across the center of the circle, which is called the diameter; multiply this diameter, no matter how many inches it may be, by 3.1416, and the result of the multiplication will give the circumference, or the distance around the outer edge of the circle, within the thousandth part of an inch. This is the method to follow, for any size circle. For practical purposes, for a 24-inch circle, one should purchase 76 inches of lace, which is about a fraction of an inch too much.—*Housekeeper.*

The turn-over collar worn with the tailored neck-tie should be mounted on a deep collar-band. This band is intended to be well starched in the laundry; the turn-over should be very slightly stiffened. All kinds of embroidery, white or colored, may be used for these collars.

For a ruffle of embroidery to be put on any undergarment, ordinarily allow once and a half the length of whatever is to be trimmed. To put it on, "nick" the top in four equal parts, gather between each of these notches, using a separate thread for each part; measure and crease the top of the garment where the ruffle is to be sewed, exactly the same distance from the bottom as the depth of the ruffle, and with a pencil mark this line into quarters, beginning in front. Next make a small tuck in the garment on this crease and place the gathered edge of the ruffle close up under this tuck; baste the tuck over the gathered edge and stitch down on the lower edge of the tuck. This will hide the raw edge.

Beading is much used as a trimming, and serves to join lace or embroidery, between tucks, or to connect parts of garments such as the neck and collar, sleeves, and shoulder-seams. It can be used anywhere that ordinary insertion is used. It may be put on with a flat margin and feather-stitched, the edge being turned under, or may be rolled and whipped on.

Getting Rid of Fleas

"A Reader" asks for method of exterminating fleas. There is nothing cheaper or more effective than air-slacked lime. Get a barrel of it, or a bushel; but be sure to get a plenty. Scatter it freely in all the outhouses, throwing it up the sides of the walls; scatter along the pathways, in all runways; in the dog-kennels. For the house, take up all carpets or rugs, beat and sun well; wash the floors with hot water and plenty of soap, then scatter the lime over the floors, into the cracks and joints of wood, in corners, over the cellar

floor, and everywhere a flea can hide. Leave on for a day, or longer where it will not be tracked about, and then clean up. You will hardly have to make a second application; but if needed, do it with a will. The lime will do the work.

Query Box

Mrs. K. B.—The Chinese sacred lily plant should be kept growing as long as its foliage is nice, and then set in some place in the border where it can grow undisturbed. It will not bloom in the house any more, and it may be several years before it will give a few blooms out of doors.

Z. M.—Recipes for chili sauce will be given in season, when it can be made, but it may not be like the commercial article; if well made, of good vegetables, it should be much better.

L. N.—One of the very best cements is made by mixing plaster of paris and gum arabic together, with water enough to make a thick solution; apply to the broken edges with a small brush, bind the pieces firmly together and set away to get perfectly dry before using.

F. F.—For dyeing the brown switch, take pyrogalic acid, 15 gr., alcohol, two and one-half drams, distilled water, ten drams; dip the switch in this until the desired result has been obtained. For a black color, make a strong tea of walnut hulls, leaves, or bark, and soak the switch in this until the desired color.

Teresa C.—To clean silverware without friction, once a week lay the silver pieces in boiling hot sour or buttermilk, leaving them there for an hour. Rinse in hot water into which has been stirred a tablespoonful of household ammonia for every pint of water, wipe dry with a piece of the softest linen, and they will remain bright for a long time.

B. B.—The poem will be given soon. Use the maple syrup and sugar the same as in recipes for other brown sugars and molasses.

Our thanks are due for kind words and some excellent recipes. We are grateful for both.

House-Cleaning Helps

For cleaning oiled woodwork, use a soft cloth dipped in coal oil, and the work will be done better than if soap and water were used. The oil leaves the wood looking better than before it was used. Use coal oil for cleaning furniture; whatever it is used on will show improvement. It must be well rubbed into the wood, and not left to catch lint and dust.

When chilling strong-smelling foods in the ice-box, put the food in a glass fruit jar, screw the lid on tight, and set in the refrigerator. All kinds of strong smelling foods can be cooled in this wise without imparting their odor or flavor to the more delicate viands.

Common white lead, such as painters use, is one of the best cements for broken china or glassware. Apply the white lead thinly to the broken edges and press tightly together, fastening so it cannot slip, and set away in a warm place, leaving for a week or even several weeks, according to what is broken. It will resist both water and heat.

To soften old paint brushes, heat vinegar to the boiling point, and put the bristles (not the fastenings) into the vinegar and let simmer for five or ten minutes. Then take out and wash well in strong soap suds, and see how soft the brush is.

When washing painted woodwork or floors, add a teaspoonful of coarse salt to a gallon of tepid water, and wash with this; this will cleanse the surface, add a gloss and preserve the wood.

Oil-painted walls may be cleaned with soap and water, using a soft