



Soap, the Oppressor

The folks at my house half the time are thinkin' about dirt; It sort of gives 'em horrors, an' they act as if it hurt. The sight of just a little makes 'em daffy as can be— They're always washin' sumthin', an' half the time it's me.

It ain't because I wet my feet that gives me cold an' such; 'Tain't runnin' round that keeps me thin—it cause I'm washed so much. It does no good to tell 'em, they're so stubborn. But I hope That some day they'll discover what deceitful stuff is soap.

I tell you, very often when my hands was clean and white I've gone along to wash 'em, 'cause it did no good to fight; When I've stuck 'em in the basin it was plain enough to see The soap would make the water as dirty as could be.

If folks would give me half a chance, with soap that didn't cheat, I guess they'd be surprised to find I'm nachurally neat. I'd take on flesh and leave off havin' colds an' such, I know— An' no one could complain about the parts of me that show.

—Burgess Johnson in Everybody's Magazine.

"After the Holidays"

If you have not spent all your money, it will be a good thing to take advantage of the January sales and the marked down prices on the winter goods. There is always sure to be remnants, and if one is a judge of quality, the remnant counter is a better place to invest your surplus than the "bargain counter" ever can be.

In the matter of underwear, there are many things that will sell for enough less than the before-holiday prices to enable you to fill any vacancy in the wardrobe of your family. It is a good time to replenish the supply of "findings," and get ready for the work that will surely claim your attention very soon.

Styles and fashions change so rapidly that remodeling of half worn, or "good as new" garments becomes a necessity. If one is apt at making over, and can handle sewing implements skillfully, there is a world of economy in the work. In some large cities there are really good dressmakers that make a specialty of making over garments, but many women who do their own sewing will find it no very hard task with the aid of the excellent paper patterns now obtainable.

Many mothers of large families can save for their own new garments by making over the last season's garments for the children and young people. If one of the girls of the family shows a taste for sewing, she should be encouraged to learn all she can, even serving a term with some first-class seamstress, or attending the sewing classes taught in the training schools at such reasonable prices. A girl who can make her own clothing can dress far more richly for the same outlay of money than can the girl who has to hire everything done. Materials are cheap, and it is the bills for making that eat up the allowance. Encourage

her by getting a good machine, cutting table, well-filled work basket, and other necessities for doing the work well.

A carpenter, or other mechanic would never think of trying to work at his trade without tools, and a woman or girl should have the necessary tools for her trade, as well. Good work can not be done without them.

Refreshments

A few years ago, the dining room or lunch counter in the big dry-goods store was unheard of, and the woman shopper thought it her duty to shop or attend to business until she was ready to faint for lack of food, rather than take the time and money to get her lunch at the downtown restaurant, which was supposed to belong to the men. But of late she has learned wisdom, and the big stores have all taken advantage of her wisdom, and there are lunch counters and basement rooms where a very good meal is served between certain hours at a reasonable price, or a cup of excellent coffee, clam or other strengthening soups or broths with crackers may be had for five cents the bowl. Many of these stores have a regular dining room where high-priced dinners are served to those who prefer them; but either of these shows that woman has begun to economize her strength and heed nature's warning when the consuming faintness comes upon her, and she makes her way to the rooms or counters, and fortifies herself for further exertion. These convenient adjuncts to trade are crowded with shoppers of all classes, men as well as women, where for a small sum they can enjoy substantial "pick-ups" of whatever suits their purse and their appetites, served in a cleanly manner by cleanly waiters.

The Pineapple

It has been found that the fruit of the pineapple contains a digestive principle closely resembling pepsin in its action, and to this is probably due the beneficial results of the use of the fruit in certain forms of dyspepsia. On casein of milk pineapple juices act as a digestive in almost the same manner as rennet, and the action is also well illustrated by placing thin pieces of uncooked beef between two slices of fresh pineapple, where in the course of a few hours its character is completely changed. In diphtheritic sore throat and croup pineapple juice has come to be very largely relied on in countries where the fruit is common; the false membrane which causes the closing of the throat seems to be dissolved by the fruit acid, and relief is almost immediate. — Medical Magazine.

Using the Pineapple

Pineapple is at all seasons obtainable, and one large pineapple selling for ten to fifteen cents, is all that is required to make a well-filled dish. To make the fruit at its best, peel and dig out the eyes, then shred or tear it to pieces with a silver fork and set it on ice for several hours. It will become soft and juicy; sugar it well; or serve as salad on crisp tender green lettuce leaves, with a French dressing poured over it at the last moment. The juice of the fruit will blend with the dressing,

making a mixture that is very much liked.

As a filling for layer cake, pineapple is delicious. Any good white cake baked in layers will answer. Boil one cupful of granulated sugar and one-fourth cup of pineapple juice which has been strained, for six minutes after adding one teaspoonful of lemon juice. Beat the white of an egg to a stiff froth and stir into the boiled syrup gradually, whipping the mixture as the syrup is added, with an egg-whip. Beat this for five minutes longer, or until a stiff cream, then add enough shredded or finely-chopped pineapple to the icing to make it moist, and spread between the layers.

For Cleaning Laces

For dry-cleaning expensive laces, the following mixture should be used to soak the lace in: Pure alcohol, one gill; sulphuric ether, two ounces; best benzine, one pint; chloroform, two ounces. Mix and shake well before using. This will cleanse and restore any lace or ribbon, but is expensive. Baste the lace on flannel and dip, squeezing gently from time to time until quite clean, then wind around a bottle to dry. The liquid can be placed in a bottle, tightly corked after using, and allowed to settle; then the liquid can be poured off, leaving any sediments, such as dirt, or grease, and it can be used again. If this is done every time it is used, it can be used for cleaning as long as any liquid is left. All the ingredients are very inflammable, and it must not be used where there is any fire or flame of any kind, and must be kept tightly corked. Before putting it into any cleansing materials, the lace must be basted loosely on a piece of clean white flannel, using cotton thread, and while in the liquid, should be gently squeezed with the hands, the very dirty places being carefully rubbed with the finger tips. If this is done, there will not ordinarily be any danger of tearing it. When the lace is quite dry, remove the tacking and lay the lace on a clean sheet of white paper and sprinkle over it pure calcined magnesia in finest powder. With a very soft brush, brush this powder thoroughly into every part of the lace, shaking it from time to time and brushing in fresh powder. It should be beautifully white. To whiten lace that has become very yellow, dip again and again in a solution of peroxide of hydrogen, gently squeezing occasionally, until white and clean, then rinse in bluing water and finish by winding round a bottle to dry. Before it is quite dry, dip in a solution of one dram of isinglass and one ounce best gum arabic in a pint of water, squeeze gently out, remove from the bottle, lay on a clean flannel, cover with a clean muslin and iron out smooth.

For the Home Seamstress

For sewing lace around a circular piece of cloth, some preparation of the lace is necessary. Here is one woman's way: Roll the lace into a tight roll and sew down the end with a few basting threads. Stand the roll in a shallow dish of warm water just deep enough to cover the edge that is to be sewed on the goods; let it stand in the water three or four minutes; if left too long the water will soak up and wet the whole roll,

which is not desired. When the edge for half an inch or so (on wide lace), or as deep as desired, is well wet, take out of the water and leave in the roll until thoroughly dry. When it is dry, and unrolled, the edge which was in the water will have shrunk so the lace will curve around and lend itself readily to the round edge of the goods, requiring no fulling on, as otherwise would have to be done.

For separate lace collars or yokes to be worn with dutch necks, mount the yoke or chemisette on a French guimpe, which should be made of lawn, cut to fit well on the shoulders and at the arm's eye; this should reach just below the bust, finished with a narrow casing and drawstring so they can be tied around the body and kept in place. Any paper pattern house can supply you with a pattern for such a guimpe.

To lessen materially the difficulty of ironing a shirtwaist sleeve, open the sleeve from shoulder to wrist after joining the underarm seam, hem the raw edges, finish the forward lap with lace and join the sleeve again with buttonholes and tiny pearl buttons; the result will not only be pretty, but will make the ironing very easy.

Many persons, when putting on braid attempt to sew it on with the machine without basting; but the machine is almost sure to hold the braid too tight, causing the goods to draw and ruining the effect. All braids should be either put on by hand, or carefully basted.

Where straight and bias edges are put together, careful basting must be done, and the bias edge must be put on the under side, where the machine will take care of the fullness without puckering.

Mildewed Catsup

Mrs. D. asks what she shall do with her catsup which has white specks on top. The only thing to do is to remove the top as far as the white specks of mildew are found, being careful not to mix it with the rest. Clean the neck of the bottle and turn the contents into a preserving kettle, adding two tablespoonfuls of sugar and half a dozen cloves and bring to a good boil, scalding thoroughly, but not allowing to scorch. Thoroughly clean and scald the bottles and use new corks; have the bottles hot, and re-fill with the boiling catsup to within an inch of the top; fill the space with hot olive oil and seal at once; cork and dip the neck of the bottle into wax, either sealing wax or paraffine wax.

Query Box

Mrs. J. M. J. wishes information as to the uses of Lingon Berries, as they are new to her. Some one please answer.

Mrs. J. M. J.—The size of the shoe would be six and one-half; the D refers to the width of the last on which the shoe is made.

Eustace B.—For the sore throat, one of the best gargles is one-glass of water, quite warm, containing one teaspoonful of baking soda and three drops of carbolic acid; gargle the throat with this once every hour. This gives almost instant relief.

Mrs. L.—The black lace that looks so discouragingly rusty should be soaked for some hours in a solution of two tablespoonfuls of strong vinegar and one pint of water, then rinsed in strong cold coffee and ironed while damp between two pieces of flannel.

T. R.—Almost any book dealer will get you a work on physical culture if you ask him to. In a city the size of yours, you should have a public, or school library, and be able to look over books on the subject, and thus knowing what you are buying. Not a few of the books issued