

class. Seeds of perennials should be soaked for about twenty-four hours before planting, and when the water is drained off, each variety should be mixed with light, dry soil and put in a box by itself to facilitate easy handling. Large seeds should be sown deeper than the fine seeds, and the very fine seeds should be scattered on top of the prepared seed bed and either very lightly covered with a mere dusting of soil, or pressed into the soil by laying a broad, flat board on top and weighting it down for a moment. For the very earliest sorts, April is usually quite early enough to trust them to the border, but most of them are better held until the first of May or June, when all danger of frost is over, and the ground well warmed up.

Fluids and Inks

A reader asks what is the difference between writing fluid and ink. What are called writing fluids in distinction from inks, are fluids that will flow freely from the pen without clogging, have a good color when written, but do not in all cases retain that color after the lapse of a few months. Ink, distinguished from writing fluids, retains its colors if rightly made, for centuries, and it is evidently necessary that it should do so, for on account of its use in legal documents, the most important interests of society are dependent upon that very quality. There are many recipes for making both inks and fluids, and in various colors, and for home or family use, both inks and fluids can be made in pint, quart or half-gallon quantities much cheaper than it can be bought. The best forms of writing fluid are made either from logwood extract, or a decoction of logwood with the aid of a bichromate of potash in the former case, and the chromate (yellow) in the latter, or from some of the forms of Prussian blue. The best inks have been found to be those prepared from gall's, or other sources of tannin, a salt of iron, with the addition of some coloring matter. The staple black ink of commerce is essentially a ferrous-ferric gallate in extremely fine division held in suspension in water. There are many excellent formulas for making ink in large or small quantities, inexpensively, and the product will be much better than one can buy in the small bottles on the counter.

Renovating Cloth

An old-fashioned method of renovating cloth was that of first removing any spots of a greasy nature with a sponge dipped in strong soap-suds, and then scouring the surface with fine sand slightly dampened, this being worked well over the cloth with a piece of coarse flannel and then removed by means of a hard brush; finally a few drops of olive oil were sprinkled over a soft brush with long-haired silky bristles, such as is sometimes used for smoothing men's silk hats, and worked evenly over the whole garment, to restore the satin finish.

Query Box

Mrs. L. H.—Cotton foulard has a soft, silky finish and comes in printed designs and colors copied from the handsome foulard patterns. It is washable, and admirably adapted for house dresses.

Allie M.—Dead Sea fruit is legendary. There is a legend to the effect that growing upon the shores of the Dead Sea are apple trees, the fruit of which, while very lovely to the eye, is found to be filled with only bitter ashes. The fruit symbolizes disillusionments and disappointments.

Reader—Vallombrosa is the name of a noted Abbey in Tuscany, in the Appenines, in a valley surrounded with forests of fir, beech and chest-

nut trees. It was formerly the home of an order of monks. About 1863 the order was suppressed or removed, and the buildings made use of as a royal academy of forestry

Distressed—Where white goods have absorbed stains by being boiled in water containing coloring matter discharged from colored goods, it is hard to remove the stain. Try soaking the goods in borax water over night, and in the morning boil in a strong solution of cream tartar and soft water for half an hour; then wring out and lay in the hot sun to bleach; repeat, if necessary, though it may not be effectual.

Jennie L.—For cleaning with gasoline, there are soaps that require that soap be used with it. There are preparations on the market claiming to be such mixture, but personally I know nothing about them. You might try one of them. I can not give addresses in this column.

Housewife—There is a preparation on the market, such as you refer to, made of starch and aniline dye, and it is used as a substitute for eggs in bakeries. The color is a pure yellow, and makes a cake that appears to be made of many eggs, and the egg-price is charged for the cake.

Good Things to Know

For taking rust out of white goods where everything else fails, stew rhubarb stalks in the usual way, using plenty of water to make the stew quite thin. Soak the rust spots on white goods in this for three-quarters of an hour, then take out and rinse in cold water to free it from the rhubarb, then pour boiling water over it to take out the purple-stain of the rhubarb. This is simple and inexpensive.

It is recommended to drop into the boil water a slice of peeled lemon, and the clothes will be beautifully white. This will not injure or stain the clothes. Soaking clothes in buttermilk will whiten them, and take out mildew. After the soaking, rinse, and boil in a thin suds.

To prevent stencil work from fading, the dye must be set before washing. This is recommended: After the border is made, dip clean white cloths in salt water, place the border between the wet cloths and press till dry with a hot flatiron.

To remove stain from wood, the surface must be sand-papered or scraped until the unstained wood is reached; or it may be smoothed down with a plane; or, in some cases washing it with alcohol will do.

It is said that beaten paths are only for beaten men; there would not be any paths had not some one "blazed the trail," and the one who went ahead is the one that wins. It requires courage and endurance and enthusiasm to lay the route through the unknown country.

The shoulder-seams of shirtwaists usually have a pulled-down look because they need raising at the point of the shoulder in front only, and more cutting out under the arms. Cut the neck straight around in front, not to be lowered there, or a stock will not fit on it nicely.

Velvet is especially becoming to a person with a thin, sallow face, or with a face which is losing its early bloom, as it gives a softened appearance to the texture of the skin.

Cleaning Silver

While there are many excellent polishes for silver on the market it is not always easy to distinguish between the good and the bad, and it is a good thing to pass by those advertised to remove all tarnish instantly without rubbing. Articles which remove dirt without labor must be strong enough to eat the material they are used upon. If the silver is very black, and there is a lot of it, it may be advisable to im-

merse it for a few minutes in a large dishpan of boiling water in which a tablespoonful of salsoda has been dissolved; this will remove the tarnish, and with a little rubbing the silver will shine like new. But this treatment is not to be used very often. For a general polish, take half a cup of whiting, half a cup of water and four tablespoonfuls of household ammonia, and this is cheap and effective. Put the mixture into a bottle and shake well; wet a soft cloth with it, apply it to the silver until all stains are removed then polish with a soft flannel or chamois skin.

Early Radishes

Wash fresh round red radishes, cut off the leaves and fine roots and, with a sharp knife, cut down the outer skin in five or six sections, beginning at the root end and taking care not to separate the petals so formed at the base. Then throw into very cold (ice) water not salted, for an hour or two, when each radish should be firm and crisp, with the petals standing out distinctly.

A Destructive for Roaches

This remedy for the pest is recommended, and is not a poison: Make a sifted powder of the following ingredients, and sprinkle every crevice and crack where roaches may be found—One pound of borax, one-half pound of plaster paris, one-fourth pound pulverized sugar, one-fourth pound ground cloves.

While house cleaning, hot salt

water, or hot alum solution poured into the places they frequent will kill both the insect and the egg. Have the solution boiling hot and pretty strong.

Boil poke root until tender; mix the water in which it was boiled with molasses to the thickness of syrup and spread on plates. The roaches will eat and die. The poke root can be found on almost any farm, about rich places. It is poisonous.

Cooking Parsnips

Wash and scrape parsnips freshly taken from the ground, and do not soak the large ones; put into boiling water and cook until tender, then cut into thin slices, put into a dish and pour over them a sauce made by stirring to a cream one tablespoonful of butter and one of flour, a cup of boiling water, salt and pepper to taste. This sauce should boil for a few minutes before pouring over the parsnips. Any left-over parsnips may be mashed and fried.

THE TEST

Billy—"Huh! I bet you didn't have a good time at your birthday party yesterday."

Willie—"I bet I did."

Billy—"Then why ain't you sick today?"—Philadelphia Record.

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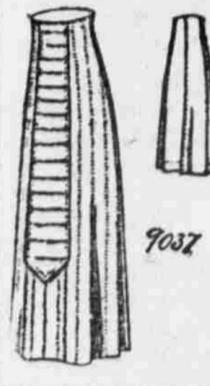
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