



The Home Department

Conducted by
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The Hurrying Hours

How often the thought comes home to me,

As the moments hurry away,
Of the many things I intend to do,
Somehow, sometime, some day.
They are promises that have never been kept,

Though I always meant to be true,
But time is too short for all the things
That a body intends to do.

I will answer a letter, or read a book,

I will write a bit of rhyme,
I will do the things that I ought to do,

Some day, when I have the time.
So I look beyond, as I hope and plan,
For the days that are just ahead;
While the day that is here goes into the grave

With its opportunities dead.

Today is the only day we have;

Of tomorrow we can't be sure;
To seize the chance as it comes along
Is the way to make it secure.

For every year is a shorter year,
And this is a truth sublime:
A moment misspent is a jewel lost,
From the treasure-house of Time.

—Arthur Lewis.

Beverages

A well-known writer on medical topics tells us the following: "I would especially recommend the daily use of distilled water or buttermilk for the aged as a plentiful beverage, because of the increase of calcareous deposits with the advancing years, and the accumulation of too much earthy salts in the tissues and bones. Such foreign matters are detrimental, as they bring on premature senility by destroying the elasticity of the blood vessels and thus interfering with the strength and with the circulation. Distilled water bathes the living tissues, snatches up obstructions to growth and activity, eliminates poisons, and gives to the body the freshness and vigor of youth. It can not abstract any formed matter from living tissues, but invigorates and energizes it by removing waste matter which, in the very nature of things, obstructs healthy activity and development. It is one of the most powerful solvents, acting directly upon the calcareous deposits left in the arteries and joints by the use of raw water heavily impregnated with lime, dissolving and eliminating it from the system, and is of very great benefit in cases of rheumatism." There are several distilling devices on the market, of more or less value, which can be used in the family, as, in many cases, the distilled water could not otherwise be obtained, or would cost too much for the average purse. Distilled water is not filtered water.

Legal Rights of Women

A correspondent wishes to know the title and price, as well as address of publisher, of a "volume that gives in plain language the legal status of a woman." She says: "No plain farmer's wife, or laborer's wife, has the time or opportunity to search through vast law books, full of legal terms, for the few and far-between chapters or sections giving the meager legal rights of women." She would like advice upon the subject, and I hope some of our

brothers, well informed, will let us know where such knowledge can be obtained. It is unhappily a fact, that women, even intelligent, well educated, well-read women, know little of the "rights," property, or otherwise, given them by the laws of their state. Each state has a set of laws of its own. Many women are robbed and cheated out of their earnings or possessions—not by outsiders, but by their husbands, who should be their best friend; but, according to the laws of many states, the husband has the power, whether he exercises it or not, of pauperizing his wife, and cheating her of even her earnings through work at odd times which is done without neglecting her home or her family. In some cases, this wrong is ignorantly done by the husband; but not every husband is above stealing from his wife if he thinks he can do so with safety. Frequently, a woman's welfare is safer with any other man than in the hands of her husband. Let us hear from our brothers, who know where such knowledge is to be obtained. Women are becoming thinkers, and the wife will work far more cheerfully, save and help earn, if she is assured that she can legally hold any of the results of such labor. It is the keen sense of injustice, and the loss of faith in the man who should be her protector, which causes the extravagance of many an otherwise, careful, economical woman. "What's the use to save," she says, "when I have nothing that I can call my own, no matter how I work or how much I save?" And we can but echo—"What is the use?"

Silk Waists

In washing silk waists, soap must not be rubbed on them, but a good suds, made of pure white soap, such as castile, or ivory, with a few drops of household ammonia added; especially soiled spots may have a very little white soap rubbed on them, but should be marked with a thread before being wet, so as to know where they are. The ammonia in the water is generally sufficiently cleansing. Silk scorches so easily that great care must be taken when ironing. Now and then, a piece of silk yellows under the iron in spite of care; but this should be treated just as you would any other scorch; apply a mixture of benzine and alcohol, then lemon juice and salt, laying in the sun.

For the Toilet

Crash, or any of the rougher grades of linen toweling is all right for the back and limbs, for what one needs for those parts is friction, and this you must get when drying off from the bath; the rough toweling is about as good as anything that can be had. But for the face, neck and hands, you need towels of a soft, fine pattern, for patting the face dry; the skin should not be scrubbed beyond the shoulder blades; neck and face should be so kindly treated as not to loosen the skin.

Borax is one of the bathroom necessities, and for gargles, douche, and washes, it has no rival, except it be table or coarse salt. Sniffing salt or borax solution up the nostrils every morning and evening, letting a little of it trickle down the throat, will purify the entrance to the lungs and greatly relieve catarrh. Salt or

borax solution is excellent when used as a throat or nose wash, a wash for weak eyes, and will cause the eye-lashes to grow if used on them. For the bath, sea-salt is better than the table or cooking salt.

For cleansing the hair, try this: Use a suds made by adding enough hot water to a little green soap to make a good lather; then rub thoroughly into the scalp with the finger-tips, being careful not to scratch with the nails. After using the green soap, a lather of castile soap may be used if necessary, but it usually is not. If the hair is too oily, a few drops of ammonia may be used, but ammonia is apt to dry and crack the hair. Instead, use a teaspoonful of baking soda in the first basin of water when rinsing, and the rinsing should be careful and thorough. Use several tepid waters, until the last used is perfectly clear. The hair should be dried with warm towels, but not by fire heat. Hair that is too oily is said to be overfed, and hair that is always wet or damp with perspiration is like a tree the roots of which are drowned out.

Home-Made Perfumes

The formulas for such things are none of them difficult to compound, but they are not particularly inexpensive, as it does not pay to buy cheap materials. A pleasant violet perfume may be made from one-fourth pound of violet pomade oil, five and one-half ounces extract of cassia, and eight ounces of alcohol.

A pure extract of violet is made by taking one-half pound of violet pomade or oil, and one pint of deodorized alcohol. Pour the alcohol over the pomade and let stand in a warm place for a month; then, if desired, the liquid can be poured off and more alcohol added. The next drawing will not be as strong, but will make excellent toilet water. Deodorized (not denatured) alcohol should be used.

Another, called wood violet, is made by taking three ounces extract of violet, one ounce each extract of rose, tuberose, and cassia, one ounce of tincture of orris root, three-quarters of an ounce of ambergris, ten drops of bitter almonds and five and one-half drams of rose water.

A violet sachet powder, to be used in drawers, clothes presses, closets, boxes or trunks, is made by taking two ounces powdered benzoin, five grains musk (less can be used, as musk is very strong), five grains lemon grass, one-fourth ounce of orangeflowers, three-quarter ounce of cassia, finely powdered; two ounces rose petals, four ounces orris root, and five grains of bitter almonds.

The making of oils, essences, extracts at home from the petals or leaves of plants and flowers, is not always to be advised, as the success of the process depends upon patience, skill, care of mixing after gathering and drying, and some knowledge of simple chemistry, as well as vessels and conveniences for the work which few housewives can command. It is quite as cheap, and much more satisfactory to buy either the finished product, or use drugs for ingredients.

Query Box

T. N.—Before breaking the eggs, set on ice, or lay in ice water for an hour or two, until thoroughly chilled; then separate and the whites

will beat up stiff and quickly with less work.

"New Cook"—To prevent the bacon "going all to grease," and shriveling up, soak the slices in cold water for half an hour before frying, then cook in covered vessel.

Alice L.—It is claimed that if celery salt is shaken on the hands and well rubbed in before wetting, the odor of the onions will be removed. Celery leaves will do as well, if within reach.

Lola—Take the burner from the lamp, remove the wick, and boil in water in which beans have been par-boiled; or, boil in a strong solution of salsoda for half an hour, then wash and polish.

S. K.—To keep down the crop of flies, sprinkle the garbage pile, or can, and also the floors of barns, sheds and manure piles with a strong solution of chloride of lime. This will destroy the eggs laid in the decaying materials.

Fannie R.—For removing old paint, make a lye with one can of potash and half gallon of water, apply with an old paint brush, and do not touch with the hands, as it burns. Wash off and dry well.

U. F.—To make cherry syrup, choose red, fully ripe cherries, extract the juice in any preferred way, though a fruit press is best; then make as any other syrup, allowing three pounds of granulated sugar to one quart of strained juice. Bottle while hot and seal.

Mrs. A. J.—For fabrics yellowed by poor washing or laying away, wash in the usual way with clean soft water and good soap, then put to soak over night in clear water containing a teaspoonful of cream tartar to each quart of water. Rinse out next morning, dry in the sunshine, and they should be beautifully bleached.

Worth Knowing

It is said that a cheap refrigerator may be made by filling a box three or four feet square, with five or six inches of common clean, coarse salt—the kind that comes in barrels for stock, and keep well moistened. Put the vessel containing milk or butter and other kinds of food, down in the salt a few inches, cover closely, and it will keep the foods nicely, and serve as a good substitute for an ice box.

For excessive perspiration of the feet, bathe the feet each night with hot water and plenty of common bar soap containing resin, then give the feet a good rubbing with salt, and this will help to harden them.

When rubbing floors with sandpaper to take off stains or to render it smooth, different grades, from coarse to fine, may be used, until the work is satisfactory, but steel wool, which may be purchased at a painter's supply shop, is the best for a final finish.

Stains may be taken out of mahogany with weak aquafortis or oxalic acid and water; dip a cork in the solution and rub the stain until the color is restored, then wash carefully with water, dry and polish as usual.

To remove stains from marble, mix two ounces of bicarbonate of soda, one of powdered pumice stone, and one of finely powdered chalk. Sift and make into a paste with water, spread all over the marble and leave over night. In the morning wash with soap and warm water.

With the near prospect of "canning time," all the fruit jars should be gathered up, well washed, scalded, tops fitted to them, and put together where they can be reached when wanted, ready, with a little additional scalding to sterilize, for the filling of fruit or vegetables. Much time and worry will be saved by having new rubbers or new tops, plenty of sealing wax, paraffin, new corks,