



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McVey

At Dusk-Fall

'Tis sweet to rest; the years bring peace—
The peace that comes of pain's surcease.

Of life's decay.

And I, who used to chafe and fret,
And watch the hours, with wild regret,

Slip fast away—

I grow contented not to do;
To idly watch Time's sands slip thru,
Nor grieve at waste;
And as the world goes raging by,
I smile to think at last that I
Am done with haste.

I do not fret that idly now
I halt and stumble on the brow
Of life's long hill;
Around me Nature's pulses beat;
I list the rhythmic, strangely sweet,
And pain grows still.
For somehow, in the measured rhyme,
Voices I loved in olden time
Call softly, "Come."
My restless soul grows calm and still;
I know that just beyond the hill,
I'll find my home.

I know the dear Lord leadeth me,
Though where, or how, I may not see;

His way is best.

And like a child that longs for sleep,
My tear-drenched eyes forget to weep
Upon His breast.

His hand upon my heart He lays;
I e'en can meet the "evil days"
And bear the rod;

For evermore, through storm and strife,

I hear His promise—"I am Life—
For I am God."

—Helen Watts-McVey.

For House-Cleaning

Where the piano has gathered the purple shade which spoils the polish, or where it is marred by finger marks and slight scratches, this method of cleaning it is recommended: Take a couple of bowls of barely lukewarm water and make a light suds with ivory soap; have a fine sponge, a chamois skin and a soft linen towel. Wring the sponge out of the water in one of the bowls nearly dry and with it wipe or wash with little pressure a space on the case of the instrument about a foot square; then have the chamois skin wrung out of the other bowl of water and go over the space already wetted with the skin; then polish dry with soft linen or old silk; repeat the process on another space, until the whole case has been gone over. Do the work quickly and thoroughly. There are several oils or liquid cleaners that will remove all dirt and stains and make the mahogany or rosewood cases look like new. Renew water if it is soiled.

Where one does not care to re-paper walls, or where it can not be done with success because of dampness, a coating of alabastine, or any of the water mixture colors should be tried; it is a cheap material, easily applied, and can be made in very harmonious tintings. It comes in all colors, and combinations are easily made. Not being expensive, it can be renewed as often as one likes, and the walls will always be fresh and clean.

A box of unslacked lime placed in a damp closet or cupboard will absorb all moisture and sweeten stagnant odors. Chloride of lime may be used.

When cleaning house, use plenty of turpentine in the scrub water, as this kills moths, bugs and other hidden insects. In cracks, pour a boiling hot solution of powdered alum and water, or strong brine. One need not drench the floor or premises so that the water will go through and ruin the ceiling underneath; just enough may be poured in to saturate the contents of the opening.

Cleaning Delicate Fabrics

Where articles can not be tubbed, yet must be cleaned, the following method has been successful: Set a vessel containing the amount of gasoline necessary to be used (according to size of garment or article) in a larger vessel containing boiling water; be sure to do this in the open air, away from all fire. The hot water will warm the gasoline; then shave one bar or less, according to need (one bar of soap to gallon of gasoline) of ivory soap; and stir in to the gasoline; let stand covered for a few minutes; then wash the article by "sozzling," dipping up and down in the gasoline; if spots or specially dirty places, these should be rubbed between the hands in the bath. After thoroughly washing until clean, rinse the articles in clean gasoline and hang in open air until the gasoline has evaporated. Before hanging the article, shake well to remove any possible flakes of soap. After the gasoline has evaporated, if it has been hung in the hot sunshine, there will be no odor; but if there is, press with a warm iron, as heat removes all odor. The gasoline can be used again on darker colors, and should be tightly corked and labeled. Gasoline must not be used in a room where there is a possibility of fire reaching it.

When handling black marble, it can be beautifully cleaned with spirits of turpentine. For cleaning white marble, use a paste made of one-fourth pound of whiting, one-eighth pound of soda, and one-eighth pound of laundry soap melted. Boil the mixture until it becomes a paste, and before it becomes quite cold spread it over the marble and leave for twenty-four hours; then wash it off with soft water and rub dry with a soft cloth.

For a home-made fly poison, beat together the yolk of one egg, one-third cup of sweet milk, one level teaspoonful of sugar and the same of ground black pepper. Put on plates and set where flies are buzzing about. Within a few hours you will find many dead flies, and they should be swept up and burned.

Query Box

L. L.—Crush a very ripe tomato on the ink spot and leave for half an hour; then wash with warm water and a very little white soap.

Tillie—To keep the paper boxes in the drawers from sliding about take a common thumb tack, or a carpet tack and push it through the bottom of the box into the bottom of the drawer.

Emma H.—Under the name of Alice Hawthorne, Septimus Winner gave us the song, "Listen to the Mocking Bird," in 1855. The idea of the song was furnished by an old colored man who wandered about Philadelphia whistling like a mocking bird.

Housewife—An old, tried furniture polish is made of one-third spir-

its of turpentine to two-thirds of sweet oil, well shaken. Apply with an old flannel, and rub well into the wood, then rub dry with another cloth. This will clean all surface marks, and with plenty of rubbing, will give excellent polish to even unvarnished hardwood.

M. K.—Get two widths of cretonne long enough to extend over the ends of the bed six or eight inches, and have a width to reach the same over the sides; mitre at the corners of the foot, and add a founce of the same material to the bottom edges of the cover. A bright cretonne costing fifteen to twenty cents a yard will make up very prettily. The cover may be left open at the corners, if liked.

Mrs. H.—An old fashioned recipe for a preserving syrup which has never been improved upon is to allow to each pound of sugar half a cupful of water, and for every three pounds of sugar the white of one egg to clarify; mix the three ingredients while cold and without beating the whites of the egg; then bring to the boiling point and skim; simmer five minutes and skim again. It is then ready for use.

This should be used instead of adding the sugar direct to the fruit, and will give the fruit a much richer flavor and better color.

Wooden Newspaper

Mrs. C. asks what is the matter with the newspaper; it is very brittle and can no longer be "crumpled" for polishing, besides tearing at the least touch. It is another testimony to the results of the war in Europe. Paper is becoming very scarce, and material for making it is not to be had, so the sheets of newspaper that come into the home are made of wood pulp. If one looks closely, the little wood fibres may be seen, especially in the margins where printing does not obscure them. The larger part of the wood so used is ground up, while some of it is reduced by the action of chemicals; the chemical pulp has the longer fibres, and a certain proportion of it is added to the ground wood pulp to give the finished paper the required toughness to be handled at all.

Disinfectants

Merely to scrub, brush and sweep is not enough, for there are many places about the house or premises that require a much stronger looking after. Of all the disinfectants, carbolic acid is the favorite; while it has an odor peculiarly its own, it is not unpleasant, and in proper dilutions it does not burn or stain. It may be used in bulk, or in the form of a spray and so penetrate small cracks and crevices. It is a very strong germ killer and is also a deodorant, is easily applied, is not very expensive, while its efficiency and convenience is a strong recommendation. For general purposes, rooms, etc., a 5 per cent solution is used; for mopping floors, disinfecting clothing, and the like, a 3 per cent solution is strong enough. Clothing and implements to be disinfected should be left in a bath of the liquid for at least an hour. The acid dissolves with difficulty and for this reason hot water should be used. Solutions of borax and peroxide of hydrogen are used for sterilizing combs, razors, brushes, etc. Borax is an excellent disinfectant for sores,

but it should not be used too strong or too frequently as it sometimes produces bad effects when absorbed in the system.

Potassium permanganate is a strong deodorizer, and is used largely in drains, pipes and water tanks. Copper sulphate is used for disinfecting stagnant water; chlorinated lime is considered one of the best for disinfecting water closets, privies, garbage cans, cellars, and other like foul places. It can be used in powdered form or mixed with water in proportions of four to six ounces to the gallon of water; while it is a powerful deodorant, it has an offensive smell of its own, and is destructive to metals, and must be used carefully. Zinc chlorides are sometimes preferred because of this, and a five per cent solution is very effective.

Many disinfectants, such as sulphur, hydrocyanic acid, formaldehyde and carbon disulphid are used in a gaseous state called fumigation. Burning sulphur as a household fumigant is the most effective and sure.

Excellent Beverages

When one has heavy work to do, requiring the aid of a strengthening drink, nothing is so helpful and so harmless as home-made drinks, which in all cases should take the place of alcoholics. For oatmeal drinks, stir a quarter of a pound of oatmeal into two or three quarts of water, according to your thirst and the heat of the day. Boil this together for an hour, then let cool and strain. If too thick to drink smoothly, add more water. To this amount add an ounce or two of brown sugar, according as you like the taste. Some people prefer to leave it unstrained, and shake well before drinking. It

A Sensible

Thing To Do

When the drug, caffeine—the active principle in coffee—shows in headache, nervousness, insomnia, biliousness, jumpy heart, and so on, the sensible thing to do is to quit the coffee.

It's easy, having at hand the delicious pure food-drink

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