

# The Home

## SPRING HOUSE CLEANING.

In cleaning house, people tell us, we should begin with the attic, then clean the chambers, then the parlor, if we have one, the living room, halls, the dining room and china closet, the kitchen and pantry and last of all the cellar. Other people tell us to begin with the cellar.

When noted housekeepers disagree what shall we do?

It seems to me every homemaker must study the question from her own environment; but study and plan she must if she would save time and worry and get through this dreaded season of the year with as little confusion as possible, writes a correspondent.

If there is no vegetables in the cellar, or if they were packed in dry earth when put in in the fall, and there is no decay, and especially if there is a window with hinges and an outside door so that the cellar has been thoroughly ventilated it will not endanger the health of the family and will save work to leave the cellar till the seed potatoes are planted and the carrots, beets and other winter vegetables will be safe from frost in the woodshed.

It is a good plan to begin with the attic provided it is so warm that one will not take cold while doing the work.

When cleaning closets it is well to hang all woolen garments on the clothes line exposed to the sun and wind after a good brushing. This has been my practice for years and I have never had any moths in my closets. Dresses or coats that will fade in the sun should be turned wrong side out.

I like to have the shelves and floors of closets painted to avoid dampness after washing. I also like a hard finish plastered walls in closets so that I can wipe them off with a cloth wrung out in hot water.

Garments which are outgrown or for other reasons cannot be used in your family may be given away. Many people hesitate to do this for fear of giving offense; but a "heart that is kind" will find a way to be a blessing. The school teacher can often give advice and help in placing garments where most needed.

Those to be made over for your own family should be ripped and brushed and dipped in gasoline, not gasoline rubbed on the spots, but two or three gallons put in the wash boiler out doors and the light colored or cleanest clothing dipped first. It should be rubbed a little with the hands in the gasoline, squeezed out, and rinsed in clean gasoline.

Men's coats and gowns that do not need remaking can be washed in this way without ripping. Hung on a line the gasoline will soon evaporate. If the gasoline becomes dirty allow the dirt to settle to the bottom and pour off the top. Clothing that needs such treatment can be put by when the closets are cleaned, and attended to after the housecleaning is finished.

Some housekeepers wash their bureau drawers and dry them in the sun at least one a year, others fit newspapers into the bottom of their bureau drawers, putting in fresh ones occasionally. If there are any traces of moths the drawers should be thoroughly washed, the inside of the bureau cleaned and insect powder blown into every crack and corner before putting anything back into the drawers.

Furs and flannels which are to be laid away during the summer should be brushed and beaten, wrapped in newspapers and then sewed up in unbleached cotton sheeting. Some people sprinkle them with crumbs of gum camphor or place moth balls about them before wrapping; but I have known people who have kept furs free from moths for more than thirty years by simply brushing and beating them before wrapping and sewing them up.

The mattress may be taken to the piazza and placed in the sun and allowed to air well, pillows hung in the wind but not the sun, blankets, if not soiled enough to wash, hung on a line for several hours.

Window shades should be taken down, unrolled, dusted rolled up again and put aside till the room has been cleaned.

Unless repairs make it necessary to do otherwise it is usually best to clean one room and put it in order before beginning another.

Carpets should be taken up, even at some inconvenience, when the "men folks" can beat them. I believe many women injure themselves unconsciously and shorten their lives by beating heavy carpets. Allow the carpets to air several hours if possible.

After the pictures are taken down, cleaned and placed in the closet or hall, the ceilings, unless very high, may, by the aid of a stepladder, be wiped with a dry cloth and all dust removed. The side walls may be wiped in like manner.

A few drops of ammonia may be added to the clear warm water used to wash the windows. To avoid streaked, cloudy panes wash the windows where the sun does not shine on the glass.

Put a bar of ivory soap into the warm water, but do not rub any soap on the wash cloth when washing nice paint. Wipe with a dry, soft cloth. Old paint that is marred may require sapolite to make it clean. If the room

is finished with hardwood put two table-spoonfuls of kerosene into two gallons of tepid water, wring a cloth very dry and wipe the doors and casings with the grain of the wood. Polish with a chamois skin or soft cloth. Do not use any soap. Varnished hardwood floors can be cleaned in the same way.

Laying carpets is hard work for a woman hampered as she is by her skirts, and would better be done by a man. The floor should be perfectly dry before putting down the carpet.

When the furniture has been replaced, the window shades put up, the pictures hung and everything in the room where it belongs, try to get at least a half hour's rest before supper time, in which you do absolutely nothing.

By cleaning little by little, one room at a time, the whole family are not made uncomfortable throughout the housecleaning season, and the house wife does not become so exhausted that it takes all summer to get rested.

## SOME SPRING DISHES.

**Pie Plant Pie.**—This is one of the most delicious pies ever eaten. Try it. In the spring when the appetite needs encouraging it will be found a very welcome dish. Pour boiling water over a cup of pieplant chopped rather fine, let stand a few minutes and pour off. Add to the pieplant one cup of sugar, one tablespoonful of flour, and the yolks of two eggs. Flavor with lemon. Bake with an undercrust. When done pour over the whites of two eggs beaten stiff, and brown.

**Rhubarb Fool.**—Steam the rhubarb soft, with half its weight in sugar; press through sieve. Mix a coffee-cupful of cold pulp with the same amount of whipped cream. Serve cold.

**Cream Pie.**—Bake a good light crust on the inverted pie pan. When done slice a banana into the crust and fill with a cream as follows: Two cups sweet milk, yolks of two eggs half-cup white sugar, one tablespoon corn-starch. Cook in double boiler until thick, then flavor with vanilla. Whip up the whites of eggs until stiff with two table-spoonfuls of granulated sugar. Spread lightly on pie and set in moderate oven until light brown. Cool before serving. This is a delicious pie and easily digested.

**Dried Apple Cake.**—Soak over night two teacupfuls of dried apples. In the morning chop fine and simmer for two hours in two cupfuls of New Orleans molasses. When nearly cold add one cupful of sugar, one-half cup butter, four cups of flour, two eggs, one dessert spoon of soda, one cup of sour milk, one cup of raisins and a little cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. This cake is so delicious it is well worth trying.

**Jellied Chicken.**—Boil a chicken in as little water as possible till the meat falls from the bones. Chop or pick it to pieces—not too fine, season with salt and pepper. Let the liquor get cold, after which take off all the fat. Then warm the liquor, adding a little water if you think there is not enough to wet the meat, and when the liquor is warm stir in one-fourth ounce Cox gelatine. Throw this gelatine liquor over the meat in a mould. Set away to get cold. Over night is best.

**A Breakfast Dish.**—One and one-half cups of cold boiled ham minced fine and a cup and a half of potatoes sliced thin. Arrange the ham and potatoes in alternate layers, seasoning the ham with a little pepper. When the dish is full pour over it a pint of cream sauce, made as follows: Melt table-spoonful of butter, stir in a heaping teaspoon of flour, add very slowly one pint of milk and a pinch of pepper. Let the sauce boil up; pour a little of it over two beaten eggs and then add the eggs to the rest of the sauce. Sprinkle a table-spoon of bread crumbs over the dish after adding the sauce and set it in a hot oven for about fifteen minutes.

**Mary's Ginger Bread.**—One cup of molasses, one-half cup of butter or lard, two eggs, one cup of sour milk, one cup of brown sugar, one table-spoonful of ginger, one table-spoonful, even, of soda; three cups of flour; beat well together and bake in a slow oven. An excellent receipt and one that never fails.

## SOMETHING ABOUT OLD FLOORS.

Newspapers torn into small pieces and soaked in water are excellent for filling up cracks in old floors. The wet paper forms a soft pulp that can easily be pressed into a small space; and if putty is spread over this filling it will last a long time. The paper should be pressed firmly into the cracks with a knife blade. The coating of putty gives it a smooth appearance and the floor may then be stained or painted and with a rug in the center the crack will scarcely be seen.

## A CHEAP EXTRICATION.

How did you finally get rid of that man who wanted you to become a millionaire by letting him put you in on the ground floor of a mining scheme? Oh, I gave him 25 cents to buy his lunch.

## TOO MUCH.

Papa, reaching for the rod—Now, young man, I'll attend to you. What have you to say for yourself? Tommy—Let it come, pop; but say, as a special favor, while you're doing it, please don't spring that old chestnut about it hurting you more'n me.

## JOTTINGS ABOUT THE WAR

### ITEMS THAT WILL INTEREST YOU AT THIS TIME.

**The Boys on the Battlefield and Those on Their Way to the Cape—All Britain Looks to Deeds of Bravery.**

There are twenty-three field calls. A battalion's war strength is 1,097. Streams and rivers can be effectively bridged with barrels.

Infantry march at the rate of eighty-eight yards a minute. Instantaneous fuse burns at the rate of about a hundred feet a second.

Fords should be marked by long pickets driven into the river's bed.

The seamen in the Transvaal are served out with infantry great coats.

High angle fire is that from guns at all elevations beyond fifteen degrees.

Rear guards should be formed of the best and most-highly equipped troops.

All British soldiers are volunteers, just as, of course, all volunteers are soldiers.

Troops on outpost duty do not salute their superiors or notice them unless addressed.

An infantry soldier on rough ground should be more than a match for a mounted man.

The Royal Marines number at present 18,300, of which, 3,750 are in the artillery branch.

The second line of attack carry a position, the firing line joining with it in the charge.

Walls less than four feet high require a small trench sunk on the inside to secure cover.

The advance guard of a brigade usually consists of four companies with two machine guns.

The general decides when the enemy's fire has been sufficiently subdued to deliver the final assault.

Masked positions so greatly adopted by the Boers were utilized by the Chinese against our forces, notably the Taku Forts.

General Hector Macdonald sent his box of chocolates to one of the pupils at Trinity College, Glenside, to whom he writes frequently.

There are 796 officers holding rank in the army permitted to wear foreign orders, the Medjidie and the Osmanieh from greater parts of the decorations.

The Ordnance Survey Sappers did not leave to make sketch maps of the country under active operations until after Natal had been invaded by the Boers.

In making entrenchments the pick must be used front and rear, and never across the trench, nor can men safely work closer together at such operation than four feet.

The vehicle used by General Joubert when he headed for Mooi River has been found. It is an ambulance wagon, padded up to the roof for the convenience of the invalid.

The Queen sent from Buckingham Palace a graceful letter of thanks in reply to the congratulations of the residents of Kenilworth upon the recent successes of her soldiers in South Africa.

The America arrived at Southampton Tuesday from Glasgow. During her voyage four of the horses perished. She has Lord Lovat's scouts on board and embarks further detachments of Yeomanry at Southampton for South Africa.

The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University has been invited by the Secretary of State for War to nominate 73 candidates for commissions in the army—25 in the cavalry, 20 in the Royal Artillery, 25 in the infantry and 3 in the Army Service Corps.

One of the Vatican organs, the *Unita Cattolica*, runs a tilt against the Duke of Norfolk for telling the Pope and Cardinal Rampolla that English Roman Catholics were in favour of the war, whereas the bulk of them, according to this paper are pro-Boers.

Six companies of Yeomanry embarked on the transports *Montrose* and *Hilarius* at Liverpool, for the front. There were 43 officers, 800 men and 500 horses. The companies hailed from Montgomeryshire, Dublin, Buckinghamshire, Pembrokeshire and Yorkshire. The vessels sailed on Tuesday night.

Lord Lansdowne in the House of Lords on Monday thanked those persons who had offered the War Office houses of all descriptions from cottages to palaces for invalid soldiers. There was no prospect of filling all these homes, for the private soldier as a rule very much preferred when he left hospital to go home than to a convalescent home however comfortable.

"The *Popolo Romano*," the semi-official organ of the Italian Government, says it is absurd to think that England, after the sacrifices she has made, will be content with the same conditions which, if they had been accepted by the Transvaal before, would have avoided war. Now, although England may give the Transvaal and the Orange Free State home rule, they must become part of the British Empire.

Unlike some of the Imperial Yeomanry, the Guards have not been supplied with khaki overcoats. They retain their own dark ones. "It doesn't matter at all," one of the Grenadiers explained to our representative recently. "We shan't wear them in ac-

tion; we shall carry them rolled up on our backs. The black spot there," he added with a winning smile, "won't be a target, because the enemy won't see our backs."

The militia detachments of the Royal Irish Rifles, which went out with the line draft from Sheffield, to join the second battalion at the front, consist of 120 rank and file of the third, fourth and fifth battalions—40 men being drawn from each to complete the draft. The militia left Belfast on Saturday night. Although not officially intimated, it is almost certain that the fifth battalion will be embodied for active service.

## SPRING SMILES.

Tom—Why is Jones so unpopular in political circles? Dick—He's launched a boom for himself as the popular candidate.

Have you considered what matrimony means? asked old Darla Mark. Oh, yes, replied young Spandy. That's why I want to marry your daughter.

He—You don't give me credit for doing anything well. She—Oh, yes, I do. There's at least one thing you can do better than any one else. He—And what's that? She—Make a fool of yourself.

At the Dinner Table—Georgie, don't stare at Mr. Crumley that way. It isn't polite. I was just waitin' to see him pick up his glass of water, ma, I heard pa tell you that he drinks like a fish.

Pa, what is the inevitable? Well, I don't like to see you investigate such deep themes, Jimmy; but as a general proposition, the inevitable is any big scheme that a man tries to run without cash.

Do you know what makes money so scarce? asked the man who was making an inflammatory speech on social subjects. Yes, sir, answered a man in the front row. It's sitting here, listening to you, instead of going to work.

That boy is going to make his mark in the world, said Mrs. Cornstossel, proudly. What makes you think so, Mandy? asked her husband. I've been readin' some biographies of famous men. An' a whole lot of 'em didn't show any particular smartness at school.

He, as the curtain falls—My dear, I believe I will go into the lobby to stretch my legs. She—You've been to the lobby three times to stretch your legs, and the last time when you came back they seemed real weak. I am afraid you are stretching them too much.

Mr. Peck—Here's a plucky girl. On her way to her wedding she was thrown out of her carriage and hurt, but she insisted on going to the church and having the ceremony performed. Mrs. Peck—Well, the poor, misguided thing deserves her fate then.

A Far-Sighted Citizen—Dickey—is a diplomat a politician who knows what to do, Uncle Christopher? Uncle Christopher—No—no—Dickey; a diplomat is a politician who knows what he intends to do after other politicians have done what his first move was intended to make them do.

At the Country Postoffice—Summer Visitor—is it true that the postmaster is supposed to read all the postal cards that come through the office? The Postmaster—I s'pose so; but it's mighty hard to read some of 'em. City folks are glib enough at talkin', but when it comes to writin' they can't come up to the boys in the lowest class in our country schools.

## ENGLISH TAILORS' BLACK LIST.

Far-Reaching Record by Which British Tradesmen Protect Themselves.

There is to be no chance now for the gentleman who likes to go on without paying his tailor for twelve months, or even for an indefinite period, and then change his tailor. In Liverpool, Manchester, and other large places the tailors are leading the way with well kept black lists, worked on lines that are being copied by their trade brethren in other parts of the country.

The aim of some of the most energetic spirits is to build up a national black list, which will make it impossible for men without means to go about dressed like gentlemen at the expense of the tailor. The lists are being better kept every year, and it is just possible that one day the man who has a superabundance of tailors' bills and is without the wherewithal to meet them will be prevented from giving orders for new clothes by the great risk which he will run of being detected and confronted with evidence of debts incurred elsewhere.

A well dressed man, with more tailors' bills than clothes at home, can approach a new tailor with comfort and sang-froid to-day; he thinks he is just as safe as the man who pays cash down, and never dreams that his long list of credit transactions in some far away town can possibly be got at by his London tailor.

But this kind of thing will be more difficult in the future. There are many traps into which the man who never pays may fall. The brace buttons on his trousers show where he has done business most recently, and the chances are that a wire will bring information that will put the tailor on his guard.

## REQUESTS TO CRIMINALS.

before Their Death Many of Them Receive Peculiar Offers.

When the notorious Charles Peace was lying under sentence of death at Armies gaol he received several requests from morbid-minded persons for his autograph, one gentleman stating that he had collected the signatures of celebrated criminals for many years, and that he desired to add Peace's penmanship to his list, says an English paper. The convict's reply was characteristic, and was to the effect that the only autograph he would furnish would take the form of an indorsement, on a cheque in favour of himself, though, in view of his approaching end, the value of the cheque would seem to have been problematical.

An American criminal who some time since expiated a life of fraud and bloodshed on the scaffold was approached by a firm of enterprising publishers, who offered him a large sum of money, which they explained could be settled on his wife or other relatives, provided he would finish an autobiography of himself, including all the most exciting features of his career. The gentlemen concerned, however, received the request with derision, and sent a message to the publishers declining the offer in terms which, to say the least of them, were more profane than literary.

It will, perhaps, be hardly credited, but when

## THE ASSASSIN VACHER,

who murdered several helpless women in a French village, was on his trial, he received various requests from ladies, some of them moving in good circles, for locks of his hair. As, however, this wretch's locks were sparse in the extreme, he was unable to comply with the extraordinary and morbid demand, though he expressed himself much flattered by the letters he received.

Sarcastic or ironical requests are sometimes made to offenders against the law. Thus when Henry Fauntleroy, the notorious bank swindler, was being tried, he received a note from a gentleman residing at Reading, who begged him to furnish a few hints on the subject of "Successful Roguery;" and the equally famous "Jim the Penman," was asked by another sardonic individual for a few hints on the subject of penmanship. To address such requests to men in such positions seemed a little unkind, and the action of both parties was certainly a form of bad taste, if of nothing else.

Mrs. Maybrick, who is still languishing in prison for poisoning her husband some thirteen years ago, received from time to time various requests on the subject of matrimony. One eccentric individual wanted to know if she would marry him, provided he obtained her release; whilst another equally anxious to be informed whether the unfortunate woman contemplated matrimony at all, providing in time to come she obtained her liberty. Naturally to all these strange and absurd requests the prison regulations

## FORBADE ANY REPLY,

but they are interesting up to a certain point, as demonstrating how keen is the interest which some people take in crime and criminals.

Not so very long ago an enterprising Illinois showman wrote to a convict who had been sentenced to death for a series of cold-blooded murders in that territory, and requested him to give the said showman an interview for the purpose of having his voice recorded in the phonograph, so that future generations might listen to his tones. In England the prison officials would, of course, have barred such a morbid proceeding; but Yankee gaolers are different in their methods, and, sure enough, the request was granted.

Two days before the execution, accordingly, the showman drove up with his apparatus, and, having been introduced to the prisoner, the record of his voice was duly taken, the condemned man exhibiting a keen interest in the business. The delighted proprietor of the speaking-machine then shook hands with his "subject," and, having thanked him for satisfying his request, and wished him a "pleasant journey," withdrew from the prison, evidently much gratified with the success of his mission.

## THE FIRST THING

Mrs. Mulroon—What would yez do if yez war rich?

Mrs. Casey—Oh think O'p' hov me por-thrait painted by wan av thim ould masters we do be hearin' so much about.

## THE DIFFICULTY.

Shure, said Mulcahey, removing the pipe from his mouth for a minute, if I only knew how to say some av thim Dutch names O'rd be afther denouncin' England's course in the Transvaal.

## EXACTLY.

Dasherly—You says she talks like a man up a tree?

Flasherly—Yes. She calls a leg a "limb."

## UNTERIFIED.

Go away from here, exclaimed the woman on the front step. If you don't P'll set the dog on you.

Madam, said Meandering Mike, yer threats do not terrify me. If yer dog's muzzled he can't bite. An' if he ain't P'll report 'im to the police,