

THE HOUSEHOLD

Soap-Making

So long as it is more economical to buy than make soap many a woman will make her own soap. A lady in the *Farm Journal* tells how she does it.

Drive down your posts in a row about four feet apart; place a trough in the centre with the end where the lye is to run out the lowest. Take slabs of waste boards of any kind, chop them at one end, and put the sharp end in the trough, leaving the wide end against the strips of wood. (They have been nailed to the tops of the posts all around) at the sides and ends, this will make the hopper. Then carry two big handfuls of straw, spreading it up the sides a ways to keep the ashes from sprinkling through between the boards.

Put in about a bushel of ashes, pour in a gallon of water, and pound it down with an old meal that has one side split off. Then put in more ashes, more water, and pound again, using the rest of the straw up the sides as it is needed till your hopper is full or run out the ashes (I always run out) fifteen to the top evenly, pour on about ten gallons of water (two gallons at a time), and leave it to soak for a week; then pour on water as fast as it soaks through till you have your kettle two thirds full of lye, bring it to a boil, dip a feather in it three times; if it eats it put in the grease; if the lye is too weak, boil it down and keep running off the lye from the hopper and pouring into it.

As to the amount of grease to be put in, that is something that no woman knoweth (nor man either). I generally put in about five gallons of meat tins, cracklings, and such, then I put in more clear grease (if I have it) till it "comes," boiling it all the time, and putting in more lye from the hopper. My kettle holds about fifteen gallons. Sometimes I make a kettleful in an hour, sometimes in a day, and once in a while I have to boil it three days. This is the way to make "liver" soap or "jelly" soap.

There is another kind of soap made with the same kind of lye and grease that is called "ball" soap. It is as thick as the cornmeal dough that we feed the chickens, and about as yellow as yellow cornmeal.

It will go three times as far in washing as the "liver" soap will; it takes strong lye and lots of grease to make it; then, I believe, there is always a quantity of lye in the bottom of the barrel, while "liver" soap is soap all the way down. Have I made it plain?

I read in an agricultural paper to-day that few farmers' wives now use soap made of wood ashes; that they prefer the concentrated lye soap. It is not so. We all hate that blue, slippery, ill-smelling stuff, and never use it if we can help it. I do not know a single instance where the real old-fashioned soap is not preferred to the imitation article.

Household Hints.

To clean brass, take one ounce oxalic acid, six ounces rotten stone, one-half ounce gum-arabic (all in powder), one ounce sweet oil, and sufficient water to make a paste. Apply a small portion and rub dry with flannel or leather.

Colored hose that stain the feet should be put into a pail of boiling-hot clear water, let them stand until cool, rub them out by hand, and put into hot salt water. When cool rinse from that thoroughly, wring dry, and hang out smoothly in the shade to dry. Black cotton goods of all kinds are benefited by the same treatment the first time they are washed, using the usual method of washing with soap after soaping.

Flannel underwear should reach from throat to wrists and ankles in winter. Why should the legs of children be left with less protection from the cold than the rest of the body? They should be loose and easy in every part with allowance for shrinkage and growth. The legs should slope by both outside and inside seams from the calf of the leg down. Leave them open a few inches at the bottom of the inner seam, that they may be folded smoothly under the stocking.

The old-fashioned slippers, worked in silk and wool on canvas, are coming in again; but they are improved upon in the designs. Tulips and other flowers are worked in embroidery stitch, the ground only in cross stitch. Griffins and heraldic devices, as well as crests, are also placed on the front, while some of the ground works are shot with silver. Quite the newest have large pieces of plush tied on the canvas, forming part of the pattern.

To cure chapped hands—Wash clean every evening with pure soap and tepid water, not hot or cold. Do not use a towel to dry them but a lotion of glycerine two ounces, pure carbolic acid eight grains or drops, and pure water six ounces; a teaspoonful will be enough for both hands. Rub the hands together briskly until they are dry. Persevere and the cure will be sure.

Housewife's Scrap Book

Stain on cups and saucers may be removed by rubbing with ashes.

If the oven is too hot when baking place a small dish of cold water in it.

When sponge cake becomes dry it is nice to cut in thin slices and toast.

To remove mildew, soak in butter-milk and spread on the grass in the sun.

To prevent mustard plaster from blistering, mix it with the white of egg.

Never put salt into soup when cooking till it has been thoroughly skimmed, as salt prevents the skum from rising.

When the burners of lamps become clogged with char, put them in a strong soap suds and boil awhile to clean them.

Bolled starch can be much improved by the addition of a little sperm or a little salt, or both, or a little dissolved gum arabic.

To brighten the inside of a coffee or tea pot, fill with water, add a small piece of soap, and let it boil about forty-five minutes.

If matting, counterpane, or bedspreads have oil spots on them, wet with alcohol, rub with hard soap, then rinse with clear, cold water.

It is said that canned berries retain their flavor, and keep better, when a battered cloth is laid over the top of the jar before screwing down the cover.

Nurses in a sick room should not sit or stand too near the patient, and above all

INTERESTING ITEMS

At least four incorporated towns in Colorado are at an altitude over 9,000 feet above the sea.

Football on skates is the latest attraction at roller rinks in New England, and it is described as very amusing.

The steady shrinkage of glaciers in the Swiss Alps has caused severe losses to many of the peasants by the drying up of pastures formerly so covered by glacial hills.

The Salvation Army has retreated in disorderly rout from Westfield, Mass., after a brief campaign, leaving all its drums, tamborines, arms, and accoutrements in the hands of the enemy—the Sheriff's officers—who retain them to satisfy unpaid bills.

Massachusetts registered over 6,000 insane persons in her asylums and hospitals during 1885—an increase of 200 over the previous year. The annual cost to the State of this form of relief exceeds \$450,000 of interest on the value of buildings, &c.

Recent explorers in Alaska came upon a native village containing eleven males, five of whom were deaf mutes, while one of the women was wholly deaf. This state of things is accounted for by steady intermarriage, as no other Indians lived within several days' journey.

Leprosy is declared by the Lansing (Iowa) Mirror to exist to a considerable extent among the colony of Scandinavians from northern Norway, now settled near the village of Spring Grove, in Houston Co., Minn. Doctors who have examined the subjects, who are in three or four different families (but are related), are said to have pronounced the malady undoubtedly leprosy.

In the Union Medicale a doctor tells of a duel at which he assisted, and in which one of the men died of a pleurisy—empyema following upon the wound. He thought that this could have been prevented by due antiseptic precautions. "The blades should have been clean, medially. The foils should be passed through a flame of carbolic acid. We should like to have the pistols all disinfected." This sounds a little odd, considering how easily they could be dispensed with.

The authorities of the Crichton Royal Institution for the Insane lately came to the astonishing conclusion that it would be a good plan to give a few of their choicest lunatics the diversion of shooting parties. A new comer, who joined one of them, strayed away from the party, and was afterward found shot through the head. The death is thought to have been caused by accident, but it led, people to ask which were the more insane the patients or the authorities of the asylum.

The Palace Laeken, near Brussels, is in telephonic communication with the Opera House in Brussels, and it appears that the queen of the Belgians was lately listening to a rehearsal of the new opera by Litloff when she suddenly dropped the "receiver" and retired. The leader of the orchestra, in his anxiety to bring the chorus up to the perfection he considered necessary, used rather strong language. The Queen made a formal complaint, and there has been much trouble at the Opera House.

Five Mile Beach Island, near Cape May, has an unique and beautiful feature in its holy groves, which stretch for four miles along the island. Many of them are very aged trees. Their trunks are more than a foot in diameter at half their height. The light gray bark, with tints of pale green and patches of brown, bring together the hoariness of age and the tenderness of youth. The moss hangs from the branches as if the forest were Southern, while the evergreen leaves and the bright red berries keep up the illusion of summer in the drearier days of frost.

By means of a simple chemical process a beautiful coloring of yellow is now given to marble, without any injurious effect upon the polish or hardness of the stone. Neutral chloride of iron is for this purpose dissolved in ninety per cent. of alcohol, and after gently heating the marble to be colored, the solution in question is applied by means of a brush, a sprinker, or by pouring, the strength of the solution being, of course, proportioned to the depth of the color desired, and care being requisite also in regard to the degree of temperature. On the marble becoming completely dry it is moistened with water or exposed to moist air, when the decomposition of the salt of iron takes place in the upper strata, and the process of coloration is complete, all that remains to be done being to polish the surface, if necessary, or it may be simply rubbed off with a wet cloth. For light tints, very diluted solutions are applied.

Richard Wagner generally received his visitors in medieval costumes, such as he always wore when composing. Alexandre Dumas, calling on him one day, was highly amused at the masquerade. "You are all dressed up to play Gessler," said Dumas, with his good-natured laugh, which rather hurt the feelings of the author of "Tannhauser," who nevertheless returned M. Dumas's visit when next he was at Paris. After some considerable delay M. Dumas appeared at last, dressed magnificently in a dressing gown with a large flower pattern, a helmet with flying plumes, a life belt round his waist, and enormous riding boots. "Pardon me," said he majestically "for appearing in my working costume. I can do nothing without being dressed in this manner. Half of my ideas live in this helmet and the other half are lodged in my boots, which are indispensable to me when I write my love scenes."

In an article on "The Use of Oil at Sea," by Lieut. John P. Holditch, R. N. R., the author says: "The results I have obtained are these: Fish or oiled oil only is of any good, it does not matter how it is as long as it is not thick. Paraffin is too thick; paint oil too thick. Running before a gale naturally expends much more oil than 'laying to,' you have so much more water to oil. Carefully expended, one quart in three hours for running, one pint in four hours for laying to, will be sufficient. The means I used was a canvas bag (No. 6), with large holes stabbed with a needle. I have heard of a bundle of oakum being saturated with oil, and then put in a coarse gunny bag, which I think would admit of a thicker oil being used for some time. The place for towing is undoubtedly forward not aft. Whether in headwinding oil could be used successfully I cannot say, but I doubt it. When running dead before the wind, tow from each cathead, and the ship is as safe as anything can be at sea."

Imagination. An English writer, giving an account of his adventures hunting tigers in India, relates the following: "to show the power of the imagination. Word was brought him upon the hunt that his servant had been attacked by a tiger, and severely wounded. He says: 'I galloped to the camp as fast as I could, to see what had really happened to the man. There he was, laid on a charpoy (bedstead) under the shadow of the elephant. Notwithstanding the intense heat of the weather, he was buried, head and all, under a pile of clothing, some belonging to the elephant, and some to himself. Around this funeral couch squatted a dozen or two sympathizers of both sexes. "Dear me!" I said. "What is the matter? Speak to me!"

Thus exhorted, he displayed a pale countenance, with eyes larger than their wont, and shining with a glassy stare. I said,—"What is the matter? Did the tiger get hold of you?"

"Certainly," he answered. "What else could have happened?"

"Show me," I said.

Hereupon the assistants raised one of his arms, swathed in cloths till it was the size of an ordinary person's body. The patient groaned so dimly that I said I would not look at it, for we had a doctor with us who must be in before long.

I turned to go, but before I had gone six steps, I said to myself,—"Suppose he should be slowly bleeding to death? He looks as though he were, and his voice is so faint!"

I returned and ordered the wounded limb to be exposed to view.

As the last fold was removed, I was really staring with a highly-wrought gaze.

What appeared?

Nothing, absolutely nothing!

New Tanning Process. The discovery of a safe and efficient tanning agent to take the place satisfactorily of the costly hemlock bark has long been a desideratum, notwithstanding the various substitutes which have been brought forward. Recently considerable has been said of the discovery made sometime since by an Arizona tanner of a plant which carries a large proportion of tannin, and which, when used in the manufacture of leather, is found to give extra weight to the article produced. This plant is of annual growth, indigenous to the deserts and dry uplands, and is known as gonagra. It has a root somewhat longer and more scraggy than the cultivated beet, though resembling it in appearance, and practical use has demonstrated its tannin properties to be about three times as great as the ordinary oak bark, and that in all essentials it is superior to such bark in the manufacture of leather. It has now been in use for this purpose a considerable time, proving beyond question its superior adaptability, while in respect to cost, as compared with bark, it has immense advantage over the latter.

THE LIME-KILN CLUB

After Brother Giddens had opened the meeting in due and solemn form he placed a letter on the desk and read his 'book-knife' to hold it down, and said:

"Heck am a letter from a cull'd gem 'an of high renown in St. Louis extra if de 'book-dan applicant has a white 'whiteamstead' and came to rejoin him. De Secretary will be requested to reply to de effect dat if am, an 'I want to call publick attention to by-law No. 4, 286, 420, which reads: 'No applicant who am 'lilin' in de marriage state wid a white female kin be received into dis club under any circumstances. 'We kin look up an' down dis hall an' see obery shade of color, from de ebony blackness of Samuel Shin to de gold complexion of Waydown Bobee, but dat am a different matter. No man kin lay his hand on a member, either active or honorary, who has so entirely ignored de eternal fitness of things as to marry into another race an' brought a life-long curse upon innocent children. While de laws in sartin States may sanction shik marriages, I kin but look upon 'em wid de greatest abhorrence. De degradation of de one kin not-eleve de poshahn of de other.

"I say to you, my frens, dat de poshahn now holdin' de moss' painful an' embarrassing' poshahn in dis kentry am de man who am neither black nor white—who belongs to no race—who am too good for one an' not good 'nuff for de other. I speak of de mulatto. He has got de pride of de white man, an' yet he am not white. He feels himself superior to de black man, but am driven to his level far society an' to de business. He am looked down upon by one kin' cordially hated by another far no fault of his.

"No one of you men, wid your pitch-black faces turned 'dis way, would trade dat complexion for two-thirds white if a bag of gold war' hung at you to bind de bargain. When you go home, an' de little black faces peep at you from de trunk-bed, dat werry blackness makes your ole hearts glad. Let folks call 'em niggers if dey will, but dey belongs to a race of 6,000,000 people in de United States.

"I say to you an' sich philanthropists as hev striven fur laws to legalize de union of whites an' blacks, dat a mo' grievous wrong was nebbor committed on posterity. De result am to add to de number of no-race folks. It am to make honest white folks disgusted, an' honest black folks indignant. It am to give pride, ambishun an' self-respect to young men an' young women, an' den seek to deliberately grind 'em to pulp in a social way. Let us now purposed to business."

LET THE KINK REMAIN.

A communication from Burlington, Ia., signed by the Hon. Jabez Coon, the great African warbler, stated that during a recent trip to the South he ran across a white man who was selling a preparation called: "Anti-Kink," and warranting it to straighten the hair of any colored man in three days. He claimed that the Lime-Kiln Club endorsed his preparation, and that every member used it. In conclusion the writer asked:

"Now, what we want to know is, if there really is any virtue in the preparation, and if it is proper that the colored race should use the same?"

"Do you not think if it were possible to take the kink out of the hair of the colored race, that we could pass for Abyssinians, and thus reduce, in a measure, the prejudice that exists against us?"

"De man who was sellin' dat preparashun was oberhauled in barginin' de odder day," replied the President, "an' he now occupies a bed of sickness. He am, of co'se, a base impostor. As to de question of our passin' ourselves off as Abyssinians, I prefer our present poshahn. I reckon de date hasn't yet arrove when our race am called upon to play second fiddle eben to de Turks. It ain't in kinky hair so much as it am in de naa who wears it. Gha me an honest ole black head, wid de kinks fastened to it by long roots, an' I'll trust my corn-crib in its care an' feel just as safe as if a white man was on guard."

TOO MUCH.

A communication from the Rev. Jasper, of Virginia, announced that he would come to Detroit and deliver his celebrated lecture on "De Sun do Move" for \$50 in cash, but could expect some member of the Lime-Kiln Club to board and lodge him, and a committee to meet him at the depot.

The Secretary was instructed to answer to the effect that the season was approaching when the club would cease to care whether the sun moved or not, providing the moon appeared on the regular dates, and to add that \$10 was the highest figure the club would pay for any sort of a lecture no followed by a grand display of fireworks.

BOUNDED.

The Secretary then announced a communication from Selma, Ala., perfering charges against the Hon. Fardown Johnson, as follows:

1. Playing on the fiddle while his wife lay dying in the house.

2. Placing hose pegs in his mule's feed-box to make his oats go further.

3. Crawling under the tent to get into a circus, and being hit with a neck yoke in the hands of an employe.

4. Speaking disrespectfully of the Bible and in favor of a dime novel.

Full proofs accompanied every charge, and the Secretary was instructed to cross the name from the rolls and to warn the deposed member by the first mail that any further attempt on his part to use the name of the club for his personal benefit would result in a sudden stroke of paralysis.

THROWN OVERBOARD.

Judge Walkinbeam Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Meteorological Disturbances, submitted a report in regard to the thermometer presented to the club by Prof. Hydrostatic Smith. The Professor claimed a great many things for this instrument, but it has failed in every instance. The committee charged it with the following crimes and misdemeanors:

1. Registering 150 degrees above zero in the forenoon and 250 degrees below in the afternoon of the same day.

2. Indicating the approach of next spring when this winter had scarcely set in.

3. Indicating the approach of a hurricane when there wasn't the slightest excuse for such conduct.

On motion of Prof. Average Williams, the "Smith Duplex, Back-action, Early Rose Thermometer" was declared a failure

Flowers that Blossom

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

In mid-winter there is often a want of blossoms among geraniums and other plants in the house. To provide against this there are plants more satisfactory than China Primroses and Stenla that keep up a constant blooming from November till March, and which these plants are ready to accept of. The Chinese Primrose can be propagated from seed; raised in a hot-bed, the plants will give a limited flowering during the winter indoors. Planted out in a shaded place, they are not noticed, in a shaded place, they will grow into two or three successive seasons, and then be divided into two or three and so growing. Some of the shades of pink are very beautiful. The double varieties are quite impatient of cold water, and when water should always be used, and poured directly upon the earth which should be kept moist and rotted leaf-mould. Too much water causes decay at the roots and rots the leaves. The double varieties are very beautiful and for continuance of bloom the primrose is unrivalled.

It is very useful as a table plant, a single pot in bloom being a much admired ornament, and the flowers being all around of plant renders it the more desirable. The Stenla is a green leafed plant not tall, mignonette in its style of growing, with sweetly perfumed flowers, like a white carnation of stars. It grows easily from cuttings in spring, and can be left all summer with very little attention. Before Christmas blooming commences, and continues all winter. In these articles on the flowers that bloom, I am only giving from actual experience the plants that have succeeded best for blossoming in our Canadian climate. For winter flowers we are so much dependent on sunshine, and have so little of it during the early winter months, that it is impossible for roses, and many other plants to bloom until the lengthened days give them the food they require, and so, as in many other things, it is well to learn to cultivate such flowers as blossom cheerfully in the dark days; to

"Take the good, when you lose the best, and school yourself till it seems as well."

CHATEAUQUAY, QUE.

"Ouida" the Novelist.

There is a mystery about Ouida which plagues curiosity. She was once asked how she came to know so much about camps, clubs, barracks, gambling houses, and other places only frequented by men, and she reported to have learned her head and knees, and looking straight at her questioner with a provoking smile, to have simply answered: "It is none of your business." Her real name is Louise de la Rampe. Her father was a Frenchman, her mother English. Her face is fair and oval, her eyes are deep blue in color and very large and expressive. Her golden-brown hair, which formerly was worn loose and flowed down her shoulders is no longer kept in "much admired order," but is discreetly braided as befits a middle-aged woman. She is about the medium height, slender and graceful. She passes much time in the open air, driving and walking, and from April to October is out of the time except when eating and sleeping. Her favorite time for driving is in the afternoon from 2 to 6. She drives herself, and always has a couple of pet dogs with her; in fact, whether walking or driving, at home or abroad, eating or reading, thinking or writing, she has her canine companion by her side. She has a burying-place for her dogs in her garden, and they are laid to rest with a tenderness not always bestowed upon human beings. Her favorite St. Bernard dog, Isla, has a marble tomb over his grave, with an inscription quite as pathetic, but less misanthropic, than Byron's famous lines on his favorite Newfoundland, Boat-swain.

PEOPLE.

Queen Victoria. In her 67th year and has ruled for nearly forty-nine years.

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Sir Henry Alfred Doughty Titchener will come of age and enter into possession of his estates next May, and, in spite of the \$600,000 spent in opposing the "Clarendon" he will be a rich man, his rent roll amounting to more than \$140,000 a year.

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Col. Jerome Bonaparte, grandson of King Jerome and Mrs. Patterson Bonaparte, lives in Washington, where himself and family are great social favorites. He is a tall, distinguished-looking man, with regular features and an iron-gray moustache and Imperial.

Senora Barrios, widow of the late President of Guatemala, is visiting New Orleans. The General's will has recently been made public, bequeathing to her all his fortune. It is reported at several millions. She was once a barefooted Indian boy, and could not read or write.

Lady Randolph Churchill's diamonds consist of the letters "V. R. and I." in diamonds, pearls and turquoises, encased by a monde, set with pearls, surrounded by the imperial crown, jeweled and encased in proper colors, attached to a light blue ribbon of one inch and a half in width, tied in a bow. About a hundred diamonds compose the order, including all the Queen's daughters, the consorts of several of the leading Indian rulers and three or four leading Indian princesses. Lady Churchill is the only English woman of American blood who has been decorated.

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