

About the House.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

To clean carpets, dissolve one ounce and a half of alum in one quart of warm water, and one ounce and a half of Fuller's earth in another quart of warm water. Put a little of each in a bucketful of salt-water, adding a little oxgall, and rubbing in some common brown soap. Then wash the carpets little by little with this mixture till rather wet, rubbing it well with a coarse cloth. The carpet will appear as fresh and bright as new.

To clean decanters put the tea leaves from the teapot into the decanters overnight with a little cold water. In the morning shake them well until quite clean. Then rinse and polish. Some use small pieces of paper cut up and put in the bottle with some water. Salt will remove stains left by lime.

For blackheads bathe the face at night with very hot water, drying it with a soft towel, and then rub in very gently some cold cream, perfumed or not. In the morning wash your face well with hot water and soap, and then give it a bath in tepid water, so that all the soap may be removed, finishing off with cold water.

If the water is very hard a tiny bit of soda, not larger than a pea, added will make the vegetables cooked in it tenderer and of better color. Ordinary water does not require such addition.

The best way to wash bedsteads is to thoroughly sponge all parts of the bedstead with hot water in which a little alum has been dissolved.

If clothes are soaked over night, one teaspoonful of pure ammonia in each tub of water will materially lessen the labor of washing.

A simple and good disinfectant to pour down a sink is a small quantity of charcoal mixed with water.

A small piece of charcoal placed with boiling cabbage will absorb the disagreeable odor.

VALUE OF PUMICE STONE.

It may not be apparent to all housewives, but pumice stone is really an indispensable requisite for the kitchen table. There is nothing better to remove burn from granite pans and kettles. Obstinate rust upon steel knives will also vanish if it is vigorously applied.

A NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC FAD.

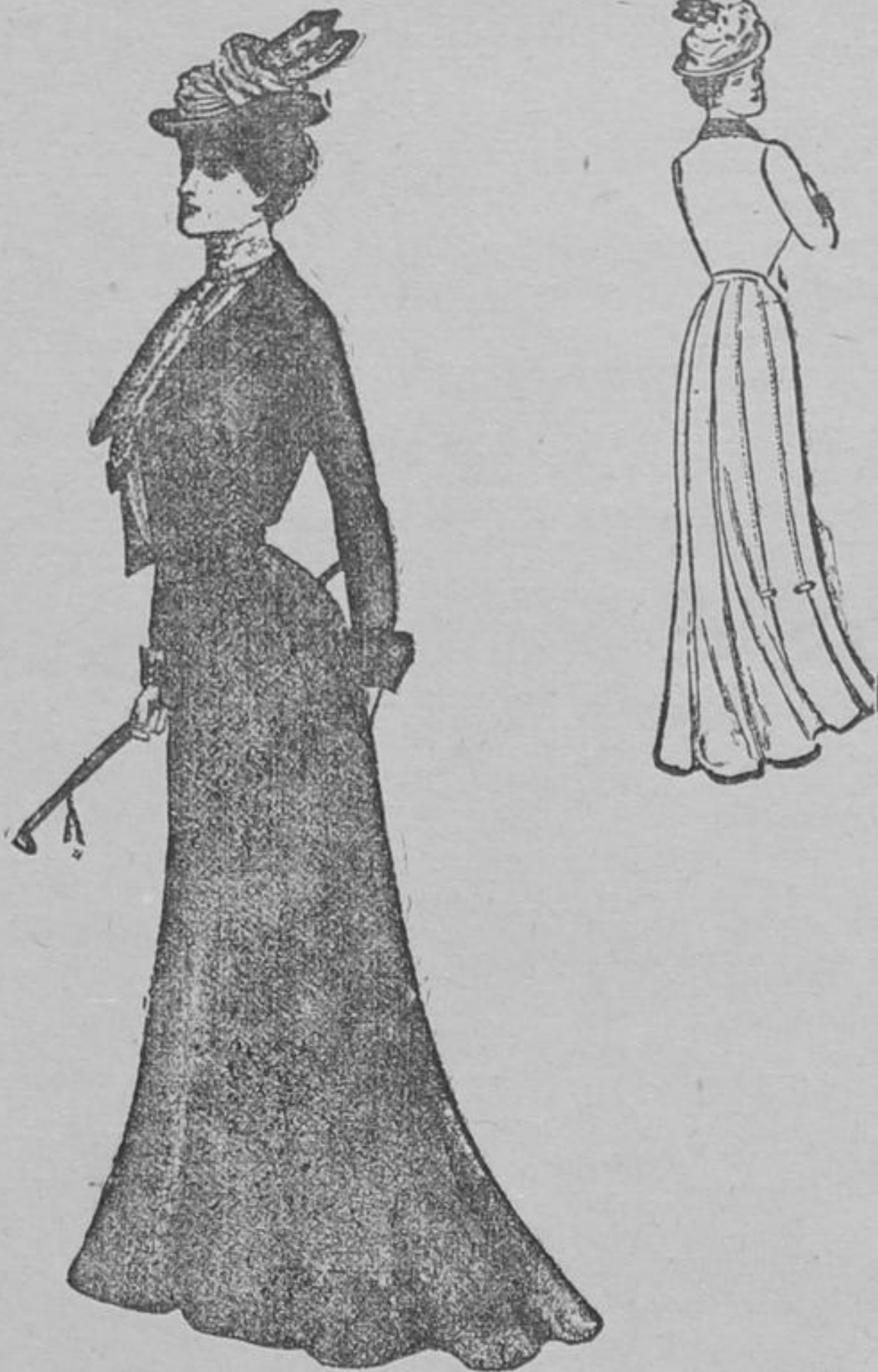
There are fads in photography, just as in everything else. When the Trilby craze was on a lot of irresponsible girls insisted upon having their feet photographed. A shapely hand, holding a flower, also had a certain vogue for awhile. Now women are coming to have pictures of their eyes taken. Perhaps this is not so absurd as it seems at first thought, for the eye is usually the most expressive feature of the human face. The camera is placed very close to the sitter, and is focused so that the features are much more prominent than in the ordinary photograph. When the pictures are mounted all but the strip across the eyes is cut away, showing the eyes and the bridge of the nose, "I can't say that the effect is very artistic," said a photographer, yesterday, "but the women who have their eyes photographed, all seem pleased with the result. They claim that their friends when shown the picture, are able to tell at once whose eyes they are. But I frankly confess that, personally, I don't like it."

OUTDOOR LIFE FOR THE CHILDREN.

When the little one is sent out for an airing, do not dress him up clean and then put him in charge of an older person, with the injunction to see that he does not soil his clothes. Don't do it if the little one is a girl, either. Boy or girl, let them romp and tumble on the grass; yes, and play in the dirt, too. See that they have some sport where, without molesting anything, or being molested themselves, they can exercise a child's natural instinct to dig in the ground.

And, of course, this plea is not alone for the very young ones, but for the older ones as well. Give all the children the privilege of happy, unrestricted play on the earth and in it.

And there is the sand pile, with its possibilities in the way of amusement and education as well. "We learn by doing," and the pile of sand where the little workers build and burrow, construct forts and mountains, and



The above costume comprises an Eton jacket, with rolling collar and nine-gored skirt, having inlet pleats at the foot of each gore. The back is finished with a broad flat box-pleat. Where desired the full back may be disposed of in gathers. It is admirably adapted for silk or other narrow-width materials, or for remodeling silk garments of several seasons ago.

dig wells and caves while engaging the faculties in healthful play, is an educational factor not to be lightly esteemed. In the winter time let the older ones play in the dry snow whenever possible.

PLENTY OF AIR.

The cellar, like the living rooms, ought, if possible, to have a good supply of air, light and sunshine, the morning sun being preferable, and all its compartments should be easy of access, both from the outside and from the kitchen stairway. But the one thing to be remembered, first, last, and all time, is that every part of it must be kept clean; no mold, no soured fruits or other spoiled victuals, no stagnant water, nothing that can possibly create a bad odor or in any way contaminate the air. Even the dust and cobwebs ought to be pretty carefully looked after. Of course there must be no roaches, no mice, and if possible no flies; all these pests give least trouble when there is nothing lying around to feed them; but if they do put in an appearance, the best way is to exterminate as rapidly as possible.

VARNISHED WALL PAPER.

Varnished wall paper, has many advantages, and especially in a dirty, smoky town, for it can be washed with soap and water and be perfectly clean without any expense. For halls, bathrooms and children's rooms varnished paper or painted walls are recommended; the former is especially durable, and if the varnish gets shabby another coat may be applied. After a case of infectious illness in a house where expenses have to be considered, one fully appreciates a varnished room. The walls once washed with proper disinfectants, the great expense of repapering is saved. The first outlay in this treatment of the walls is decidedly heavy, but it yields excellent interest.

A PRETTY CHAIR CUSHION.

To make a dainty chair cushion, take any pretty piece of flannel or broadcloth, and back of it put a layer of wadding and a foundation of denim or heavy muslin. Quilt these together in diamonds with any pretty shade of embroidery silk, or several colors may be used. Line the cushion with light-colored sateen, and put ruffles of the sateen, one over lapping the other, and the lower twice as wide as the upper, between the flannel and lining. Stitch three times around with embroidery silk and fill with any desired material.

TO WARM BABY'S MILK.

Before retiring, set a quart cup full of water on your stove, where it will keep hot. Fill a bottle with cold milk, leaving a space for the amount of water that is to be used. When needed, fill up the bottle with some of the hot water, and stand the bottle in the rest of it. In a minute or two the milk will be warm, and you will not have had time to shiver. When a stove

fire is not handy, a one-burner oil stove kept very clean, will answer the double purpose of lamp and stove.

TEACHING THE LITTLE ONES.

It is wonderful how much knowledge can be imparted to small children by a quick nursemaid, who has an inkling of the kindergarten system. Children are never tired of asking questions, and if these are intelligently answered they pick up all sorts of useful knowledge without any actual teaching. The object of the kindergarten system is to teach the little ones to think for themselves, and it is worth every mother's and nurse's while to learn something of it. The custom of talking nonsense to them and distorting words cannot be too much condemned.

SWEETEN BOXES AND BUREAUS.

A sachet of long lasting fragrance can be made to imitate the scent of verbenas by saving the peels of lemons that come into the household and mixing them with caraway seeds.

Take half an ounce of the powdered seed and half a pound of the powdered lemon peel. The peelings can be ground in an ordinary kitchen coffee mill. Mix the two powders well together, and over it all pour a mixture of one and a half drachms of oil of lemon peel and three ounces of oil of bergamot. This makes a dainty powder for sachets to use in the bureau drawers, linen closets, hat boxes, handkerchief cases, etc. It is called verbenas sachet.

A rather expensive sachet, but one that well pays for the making is composed thus:—Oil of patchouli, 1-2 drachm; oil of rose geranium, 1-2 drachm; oil of roses, 1-2 drachm; oil of sandalwood, 1 drachm; oil of lavender, 1 drachm; oil of cloves, 1-2 drachm; oil of bergamot, 31-2 drachms; extract of musk, 1-2 drachm; mix well and add to 2 drachms of this compound 1 ounce of powdered orris root, 1 drachm Tonquin beans and 2 ounces sifted pine sawdust.

This is a favorite sachet for veil rolls and shirt waist boxes. The perfume can be renewed by dropping occasionally a few drops of the scented oils on the sachets.

VERBATIM ET LITERATIM.

Clerk—Those new gloves are to sell for a dollar, aren't they?

Dealer—Who wants to know? Mrs. Markley? O! She's easy. Tell her \$1.75, though of course they're only worth a dollar.

Clerk to Mrs. Markley, a moment later—They're \$1.75, ma'am, though of course they're only worth a dollar.

STILL IN THE BUSINESS.

Wunn—By the way, what became of Spriggins? You remember his great commencement essay on the downfall of the Roman Republic, eh?

Tuthar—Oh, yes. He is now writing bright essays on the downfall of prices for the great universal emporium of Barr, Gaines & Cutts.

Floriculture.

RETOLD.

One day the flowers were given names
And to the earth came down
To bring a breath of Paradise,
To country and to town.

But one, a little blue-eyed tot,
Fared sad by mead and dell,
And felt her mission lost because
Her name she could not tell.

So through the starlit milky-way
All nameless and alone,
She found a path to Heaven again,
And stood before the throne.

With drooping head and tear-wet eyes,
She there her fault confessed,
And felt that with her Saviour's love
She could no more be blest.

"Dear child," he said, so tenderly,
"Far worse might be thy lot;
You may forget the name I gave,
But oh, Forget Me not."

TRAINING HYACINTHS.

Get some stout paper and cut it into squares of a suitable size, and then roll them up into funnels, similar in form to the pointed bags in which grocers put up moist sugar. They should be from six to nine inches long, and as soon as rolled into shape paste up the edge to keep them firm; if for plants in pots the funnel should be large enough to go over the bulb and a portion of the soil; if for glasses, it should fill the outside of the upper rim.

The pointed end should be cut, so that when placed over the plants the light will come in at the top only; the flower stem will rise up rapidly to reach it and as soon as it is as long as you desire, take off the funnel and allow it to bloom. After a little practice with this method you will be able to grow them of a height which very much enhances their beauty where a number of them are arranged in a window.

Grown in sponges, hyacinths will do well either in glasses or potted, but the best way to fix them is to place a large sponge in a glass or earthen vessel with the bulb in the center; keep the sponge slightly saturated with water and let it grow there. The vessel should be of the shape of a punch bowl to give the best appearance, and after the bulb is well started grass seed sprinkled over the upper surface of the sponge will soon form a beautiful green carpet around the plant.

GROWING BULBS.

The following article on growing bulbs so useful in brightening up the house in winter is sent by a Quebec subscriber. We are always glad to have these hints in our columns from readers who speak from their own experience.—Ed. L. J.

Bulbs are the most satisfactory of all plants for winter growing; being easily cultivated and sure bloomers. The hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, and Liliun Harrisie, or the Bermuda lily, and others too numerous to mention, being among the favorite varieties. Some people grow their bulbs in water, but this is not to be recommended, as they do not bloom with such luxuriance, and the period of flowering will be much shorter than those grown in soil. The bulbs may be potted any time during the autumn, the earlier the better. Choose a rich, sandy soil, with a small quantity of leaf-mold, and set the bulbs just below the surface of the soil, so that they will be entirely covered, do not press down the soil after potting, but just cover over loosely.

Now water well, and set away in a cool, dark place to root. After remaining four or six weeks, they can be brought out for blooming, but the longer time they have for rooting, the better they will bloom. When brought out, place in a light, sunny window, keep them cool and well watered, and they will bloom for a long time. After the flowering season is over let them remain in their pots for a few weeks, to mature their bulbs, then set them away in a dry place until potting time again, or plant them in the open ground. Many, however, prefer to throw away the old bulbs, and buy a fresh supply each season, but if one has plenty of room, it is advisable to keep them and plant them in the garden, and they will be all right for winter blooming again. A.M.

FOES OF WINTER PLANTS.

The great foe to potted plants is the little white worm that feeds upon the roots and even bores up into the stems of the plants. To get rid of the pest, the simplest plan is to stick matches, heads down, into the soil, and in a short time the worms will disappear. The phosphorous which does the work is beneficial to the plant

besides being disagreeable to worms. Carbolic acid may be used instead. Add about five drops of carbolic acid to a cupful of water and sprinkle on the earth in the flower pot.

The small whitish insects which suck the life out of rose leaves are rose-hoppers, which are frequently found on the lower side of the leaves. It is said that if attended to before they are fully developed they can be easily destroyed by dusting the infested plants with insect powder. When fully grown they are very persistent, and several applications have to be made in order to kill them, and even then absolute riddance is doubtful. Aphides propagate so quickly, and in numbers so marvelously great, it requires close attention to keep plants moderately free from them. The secret is to commence at first sight of them, or perhaps before they arrive, —for there are very few plants that are not attacked before the season advances very far.

PLANT NOTES.

Now that foliage plants are so popular, why not try raising little orange and lemon trees from seed? It is interesting to watch them growing, and with age they become very ornamental, their leaves being rich and glossy looking.

Cuttings root much more swiftly and surely if not allowed to wilt before being set. So, if you have to carry them any distance, and there is danger of their wilting, put them in to a fruit can with a little water and screw on the top. The most delicate wild flowers and ferns may be carried any distance without fading if thus protected from the air.

Asparagus Sprengeri makes a very attractive house plant. It grows steadily, requires no rest, and makes a good appearance. It makes roots very rapidly, and requires re-potting often. To keep it in good heart water thoroughly and spray the foliage every day.

AUTUMN LEAVES.

Autumnal leaves with their varied and most beautiful tints can be preserved a long while if this method be followed. Smooth the leaves out, and then press each on the wrong side with a hot iron, holding it down for a few moments. Any leaves that are not flat should be soaked in water first. The leaves should be set on blotting paper, and in some cases it is best to have more over the leaves, before ironing. After pressing, the leaves should be slightly oiled on the right side. If you like to use these leaves for table decorations, etc., fix to each leaf a wire, which should extend the whole length and then be wound round the stem.

THE LOVELY FLOWERS.

Lovely flowers are the smiles of God's goodness.—Wilberforce.

Flowers are the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into.—H. W. Beecher.

What a desolate place would be a world without flowers! It would be a face without a smile, or a feast without a welcome. Are not flowers the stars of the earth?—and, are not our stars the flowers of heaven?—Mrs. Balfour.

CEMENT FOR STONE

The combination of red and white lead with boiled linseed oil and litharge makes a good cement for joining stones of any size. It should be used by dressing a strip of thin cloth on each side and placing this between the parts to be joined. The stone should be warmed, if possible. This cement will resist boiling water. As to proportions, there is no regular formula. To dry quickly, red lead should be used in greater proportions. If there is no hurry, white lead should be used in excess. I prefer the white lead when ample time can be given for drying. Equal parts of oil and litharge may be used. Another Formula—Seven or eight parts of resin and one of beeswax, melted together, and mixed with a small quantity of plaster of paris, is a good cement to unite pieces of stone. The stone should be made hot enough to melt the cement, and the pieces should be pressed together as closely as possible, so as to leave as little as may be of the cement between them. This is a general rule in cementing, as the thinner the strata of cement interposed, the firmer it will hold.

THE CARE OF SILVER.

Do not allow any substance containing rubber to come in contact with silver articles. Sulphur is used in the manufacture of rubber and when silver comes in contact with any amount of sulphur, so matter how little, it tarnishes immediately.