

The Home

HOW TO SWEEP AND DUST.

There should be just as much method in housework as in anything else, especially if the wife must do without help, and if method is employed, it will greatly facilitate the labor.

The sweeping and dusting of the house form no small item of the work and should be so arranged as to produce the desired result with the least amount of work possible.

The tidy housewife always desires to present a neat appearance even though she is sweeping and dusting, and hence, she will provide herself with dust-cap, a pair of gloves, a loose jacket and a pair of apron; then should anyone chance to call, it is only the work of a few moments to make herself presentable to receive them.

It is a good plan to have covers made for all large pieces of furniture that are not easily removed. Thoroughly sweeping and dusting a house once a week is usually sufficient, and for the rest of the time a carpet-sweeper is just the thing to use as it takes up all the litter and does not create a dust.

The first thing to do on sweeping day is to carefully dust all articles of furniture that can be moved and roll them out into an adjoining room or hall. Raise the windows; shake the curtains well and pin them up out of the way; sweep the ceiling and brush down the walls then sprinkle the carpet with salt, corn meal or tea leaves and you are ready for the broom.

Begin to sweep in the corner farthest from the door and sweep from each side toward the door, then instead of sweeping the dirt out into the hall, sweep it into the dust pan and proceed to sweep the next room.

By the time you are through sweeping the last room, the dust will have settled in the first one, and you can begin dusting. A damp cloth is best to use for this, as it will take up the dust and not scatter it back over the furniture.

Shake the curtains again, wipe off the windows and window sills, dust the backs of pictures and the baseboards all round. Do not forget to shake your dust rag out the window every few seconds. Remove the covers from the furniture, very carefully and take them out doors at once. Wheel the furniture back in place, wipe off the books and fancy articles, replace the tiles and rugs and behold a room fresh clean and sweet.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

A fine orange cake is obtainable by mixing two cupsful of sugar, one-half cupful of butter stirred to a cream, one cupful sweet milk, three eggs well beaten, three cupsful of flour, and two teaspoonsful of baking powder. For the frosting employ the whites of two eggs, saving out just enough to frost the top, the rest of which should be added to the juice and grated rind of an orange and spread between the layers.

To purify a room set a pitcher of water in it, and in a few hours it will have absorbed all the respired gases it can "hold" thus rendering the air in the apartment a great deal purer, but itself utterly filthy. The colder the water, remember, the greater its capacity for absorbing these gases.

SELECTING KID GLOVES.

In selecting a kid glove for wear choose a fine, but not too thin, kid. Examine the inside of a glove. It is important that the glove be dyed on the outside only. Wherever the color of the dye has struck through the leather there the glove will be found tender, says a writer. This is because the strength of the dye necessary to color leather is always strong enough to make it tender if it strikes through it to the inside. Sometimes the leather will only show the color at the seam or at the inside. Such a glove will pull out at this seam. It is wise to select a glove of neutral dark tint. Black gloves as a rule do not wear as well as dark colors. Browns wear well; so do dark grays and the pretty putty and ecru tints now so fashionable.

HOW FAST THINGS GO.

A mathematician's calculation of the Speed of Various Objects.

A mathematician has compiled the following list of speeds a second: The snail, one-half inch; a man walking, 4 feet; a fast runner, 23 feet; a fly 24 feet; a fast skater, 38 feet; a carrier pigeon, 87 feet; locomotive—sixty miles an hour—88 feet; swallows, 220 feet; the worst cyclone known, 380 feet; feet; the worst cyclone known, 380 feet; the Krakatoa wave—at the volcanic catastrophe of Aug. 27, 1893, in the Sunda Islands—940 feet; the surface of the globe on sea level at the equator, the globe on sea level at the equator, 1,500 feet; the moon, 3,250 feet; the sun 5 1-2 miles; the earth, 18 miles; Holley's comet in the perihelion, 235 miles; electric current on telegraph wires, 7,000 miles; induction current, 11,040 miles; electric current in copper wire armatures, 21,000 miles; light, 180,000 miles; discharge of a Leyden jar through copper wire one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, 277,100 miles, which is said to have been the highest velocity measured.

CUBA'S CURIOUS ANIMALS.

There are Spiders, Snakes, Birds of Various Kinds—A Ratlike Animal, Peculiar Fire Fly—And Other Strange Things.

The Spaniard is not the only foe the soldier will encounter on his Cuban marches, says the N. Y. Sun. Cuban sandflies and mosquitoes are much like our own, but we have nothing to match the huge spider, whose bite causes fever, nor the belligerent ant known as vivajagua. A scorpion, though not so dangerous as the European variety, proves itself unpleasant enough to the careless traveller, and the chigoe or "jigger," deals swift retribution to an offender. The method of attack is inconvenient, for it burrows under the toe nails, and unless removed at once builds its nest there. In that case inflammation occurs, and the only relief is the painful operation of having the little animal cut out.

Snakes are not numerous, but they include some of the freaks of the animal kingdom. The huge maja, longer than two six feet men set end to end; with a body twenty inches in circumference, looks fierce enough and formidable enough to put a whole regiment to flight. It is all a bluff, for the big reptile is harmless.

Among the birds, the soldier may exercise his taste for pets. Those peculiar to the island have beautiful plumage, rich in coloring. There are nearly 200 kinds to be found there, and among them all the vulture and the turkey buzzard are almost the only birds of prey. They are so useful as scavengers to carry away waste material that they are protected from death by law. Geese, turkeys, peacocks and pigeons are the most familiar domestic fowls, and pigs, sheep, goats, mules and horses.

THE ANIMALS USED.

The Cuban horses are almost a race by themselves. They are very gentle, they never kick nor bite nor play any unseemly tricks on their riders. In some parts of the island horses receive as much consideration as a member of the family. They are not tied or confined, but they wander about the door yard, put their heads into the kitchen windows to exchange the time of day, and even on occasion have the privilege of entering the house. The sight of humans and equines on terms of such easy familiarity makes one wonder if the days of Gulliver and his horse country have come again.

Sometimes the roads are very bad and the mud so sticky that it holds any foreign substance like glue. For this reason farmers braid their horses' tails, turn them up over their backs and tie them to the saddle. No Northern pony would stand this indignity, but the Cuban pack animals seem quite willing to endure it. In mountainous regions mules are used to carry coffee and sugar down the mountain paths, and to save drivers mules in long procession are tied together, one's head to another's tail, and with only one man at the head of the column to guide the leader, they carry down their burdens safely. The hind legs of Cuban mules must be worked on a different principle from that in vogue among United States mules. Here no insurance agency would insure a man whose business was tying mules to one another's tails.

The only wild animal peculiar to Cuba is the jutia, or hutia. It is rat-shaped, black, and small. It lives in the hollows of trees, like our squirrel, and eats leaves and fruit. Its flesh is insipid, but it is often eaten. Curious modifications of felines and canines inhabit the woods. The animals have sprung from dogs and cats in the domestic state and differ from them only in their size and habits. Some of the intelligence of the civilization seems to remain with them, and they cause the farmer much anxiety by their carefully planned attacks.

UPON HIS POULTRY AND CATTLE.

The matter of lights is a small item of expense to the poor man in Cuba, for in the phosphorescent fly nature provides him a lamp free. This fly, the cucullo, about the size of our roach, is perfectly black, with a transparent breast. Two eyes in front, and one in rear. Two eyes in front, and one in rear. The point of its breast give out so much light when by its wings are spread that one can see by it to read a letter. Children make pets of cucullios and shut them up in red cages. If they feed them on sugar, the sticky particles adhering to their legs exasperate them so much that they fall upon each other like prize-fighters. The children avoid this by giving the flies sugar cane, they wash them carefully morning and night, and in this way keep their pets alive and shining for many days.

Fashionable ladies wear the brilliant flies in their hair, and sometimes the gaudy bellies use them covered with a lustrous material for living belts. One little girl remarked with much solemnity after examining a cucullo's legs that God made it with hooks to fasten on little girls' dresses. Left to themselves the cucullios fly in regular lines, giving the effect of the long processioning the watch at Havana. For this reason the Cubans call them "serenos de los bichos"—"watchmen of the insects. Fifteen or twenty of them in a calash pierced with holes made a kind of lantern often used during the night. A few years ago a number of cucullios were brought to our attention in Broadway, to the lasting astonishment of an Irishman, to whom the dancing lamps were such a mystery that he wavered between the

Another curious phenomenon of Cuban animal life is the procession of land crabs across the island. They travel from north to south every spring when the rains commence, and are as regular an institution as the wet weather itself. Shell fish are abundant, but they are of inferior quality. The climate is too warm for them, and oysters there at all times are as unsatisfactory as ours in the months when no magic R appears. The rivers and bays with palatable fish. The iguana, cayman and crocodile are common. A huge variety of crocodile called cayman has a colony of its own on the Isle of Pines. Turtles are found in large numbers in shallows and reefs and on sandy beaches, and they are put to all sorts of uses, from soup to walking sticks. For canes, the shell of the carey variety of turtle is used. First a strong stick is cut of the length desired. Then the turtle shell is boiled until it becomes a thin liquid, and into this the stick is dipped and allowed to cool. The process is repeated several times till the beautiful tortoise shell covering is of proper thickness. Afterward the cane is polished, headed, fitted with a ferrule, and sold for four or five dollars.

Another curiosity is a cane made from the dried skin of the manatee, or sea cow. The skin is perfectly transparent, and when rightly prepared is flexible but strong enough to be used as a rapier for defence. Mounted in gold and silver, these canes are very expensive. They are rarely seen in Havana, and one tourist, who wished to carry away a cane as a souvenir, paid \$50 for the privilege.

THE SPEED OF INSECTS.

Common Thing to See a Bee Keeping Up With a Train.

It is the popular belief that the flight of birds is much swifter than that of the insects, but a number of naturalists who have been making a study of the matter think that such is not the case. A common house fly for example, is not very rapid in its flight, but its wings make 800 beats a second, and send it through the air twenty-five feet, under ordinary circumstances, in that space of time. When the insect is alarmed, however, it has been found that it can increase its rate of speed to over 150 feet per second. If it could continue such rapid flight for a mile in a straight line it would cover that distance in exactly thirty-three seconds.

It is not an uncommon thing when travelling by rail in the summer time to see a bee or a wasp keeping up with the train and trying to get in one of the windows. A swallow is considered one of the swiftest of flying birds, and it was thought until a short time ago that no insect could escape it. A naturalist tells of an exciting chase he saw between a swallow and a dragon fly, which is among the swiftest of insects. The insect flew with incredible speed, and wheeled and dodged with such ease that the swallow, despite its utmost efforts, completely failed to overtake and capture it.

FROZEN OYSTERS.

A New Colonial Industry to be Developed

The London Daily Mail says: The oyster lover will no longer have to spell the months to see whether there is an "r" in them before he dare venture on his favorite indulgence. We are to have a supply of oysters all the year round. The development of the British Empire is a colonial oyster industry. New Zealand is sending 5000 dozen frozen oysters, of native production, as an experiment. Mr. George Tabor, of Lower Thames St., is hourly expecting their arrival.

It is three years since a New Zealand merchant, on a summer visit to London, sought unsuccessfully for an oyster. "What, no oysters?" he exclaimed, after the fashion of the lady who married the butcher. "We must send you some from New Zealand." The idea has at last become a fact. In a day or two London will be invited to try a new specimen of colonial produce.

They are for cooking purposes, soups, sauces, stews, patties, and the like. It is not expected that anybody will eat frozen oysters on the half-shell. At present the summer oysters come principally from Portugal and France, and are laid on English beds. The oysters from New Zealand will be kept in refrigerators. They are said to be fine, and white, and plump. As a trial, some were frozen and cooked in New Zealand. The report was favorable. The market price will be put on London at 8s. a hundred. It is intended to send consignments once a month, until the months arrive spelt with an "r." The oysters are frozen in blocks of eight and fifteen dozen.

AGRICULTURE AT OXFORD.

By the small majority of two votes the Senate of Oxford University has, for the present, rejected a proposal to institute a school of agricultural science, for which Sir Walter Gilbey offered to give \$10,000 down, and a thousand dollars a year for ten years beside. The future manager of the sleepy old institution will some day look back with perfect amazement on this action, taken so near the end of the nineteenth century, and wonder if it can be possible that their predecessors so late as 1898, really thought the dead language and the higher mathematics were the important features of a liberal education.

If you think it's goin' to rain, Don't hurry, If it spoils a little grain, Don't hurry, If you've got a lot of hay out, Don't hurry, Trust the Lord, He'll find a way out—Don't worry, If the weeds are busy growin', Don't hurry, Jist keep steady at the hoein', Don't worry, If the robins eat your berries, Don't hurry, Heaven next will send you cherries—Don't worry, If you're busy making love, Don't hurry, If her heart is hard to move, Don't worry, Stay away for quite awhile, Don't hurry, Soon or late she's bound to smile, Don't worry, If you'd like to be elected, Don't hurry, If at the polls you are rejected, Don't worry, List! if you'd win a splendid name, Don't hurry, Slow are the iron feet of Fame, Don't worry!

Now, if you think you're goin' to die, Don't hurry, And when the wife and children cry, Don't worry, You'll soon be up and out of bed, Don't hurry, For some day you'll wish you were dead, Don't worry.

CANE-BOTTOMED CHAIRS.

The owner of cane-bottomed chairs which require renovating should provide herself with a ball of strong twine and some varnish and she can manage to do the work very creditably herself in the following way:—Cut away the old cane, take a large darning-needle, thread it, make a knot at the end and loop the string through the holes backward and forward, crosswise from side to side, right and left, filling every hole; then working back again, weaving as you would for cloth. Then varnish the chairs and set them aside to dry. Make small cushions of cretonne or any other material you like, and tie them on the seats with ribbons to match.

SHOES FOR DOGS.

Tiny shoes intended for dogs are made and sold in London. They are of chamois, with light leather soles. They are only worn indoors, and are to protect polished floors from scratches.

DROMEDARY'S HUMP.

The hump on the back of the dromedary is an accumulation of a peculiar species of fat, which is a store of nourishment beneficially provided against the day of want, to which the animal is often exposed. The dromedary or camel can exist for a long period upon this hump without any other food.

AN EYE OPENER.

He, during the honeymoon—You don't know how lonely my bachelor life was—how unbearable the evenings were, when I would have to sit alone in my dreary den and sew on buttons. She—Your evenings won't be dreary now, love. I can sit by you and thread your needle.

A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING.

Mr. Guyer—I suppose you ride a wheel, Miss Antiquate? Miss Antiquate—Yes, indeed; I completed my first century yesterday. Mr. Guyer—Really? You don't look it, I'm sure. 'N. B.—Friends they were, but strangers now.

COMFORTS OF TRAVEL.

Professional Guide, to palace-car porter—I have an English lord in charge and I want him to get a good impression of the comforts of travel in this country. Here's five dollars. Porter—Yes, sah. Do you want me to gib him extra attention, sah? Guide—Great Scott, no! I want you to keep away from him.

AMBIGUOUS.

Do you remember, said Miss Ancient Oldgirl to Colonel Crabtree, how when you were a young man you proposed to me and I rejected you? It is one of the happiest recollections of my life, said the Colonel, with an air of gallantry. And Miss Oldgirl is still wondering.

HE HAD BEEN THERE.

Lizzie—I had my fortune told yesterday, and what do you think? George—You're going to be married within a year, and will be very rich and happy. Lizzie—Why, George, how on earth did you guess it? I haven't told a soul.

IN ANCIENT ROME.

First Citizen—Methought the Emperor Augustus wore a clouded brow today. Second Citizen—No wonder! It is but a few days since he ascended the throne, and already the populace is calling him "Gus."

I WANT AN EASY JOB.

I kick, but my kick is a failure; I want a job easy, you know; I'd like to get paid in the summer. For watching the first fall of snow; As I would be satisfied nicely. To have nothing else just to do— But to sit in the house in the winter. And wait for the violets blue.