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PROPER EQUIPMENT CUTS THE WASH-DAY DRUDGERY

Consider Height of Woman Who Is Going to Use Them When You Plan Height of Tubs.

Washing and ironing are among the hardest of the regular household tasks, and ways of lessening the work are much needed in many homes. The ideal of every housekeeper would be a separate room for her laundry, with running water and modern labor-saving devices. These cannot be provided in every home, but even where the arrangement and equipment are necessarily very simple it is often possible to make minor changes or to plan the work in such a way that it will take less time and strength.

In olden days, tubs and wash benches were brought into the kitchen because water could be heated there most conveniently, and from this seems to have developed the idea that the kitchen is the place for the laundry. The odors and steam from laundry work, however, are disagreeable in a kitchen, and the handling of soiled clothing in any room in which food is prepared is highly objectionable. If clothes must be washed in the kitchen, the preliminary sorting should be done elsewhere.

In some sections, it is considered preferable to have the washing done out of doors or in a room outside of the house. Otherwise the best place for a laundry is usually in a room next to the kitchen or in a basement room directly below it, because this makes it possible to use the same chimney, and, if the house is equipped with running water, the same water pipes for both rooms. A basement laundry generally means too many stairs for the housewife, while a room adjoining the kitchen may enable her much more easily to carry on or oversee the work in both rooms at the same time.

Good equipment is as important as right methods in laundry work. Both decrease the labor, shorten the time, and assist in producing better results. Equipment need not be expensive, but it should be chosen and placed from the point of view of service and for the comfort of the worker.

The working surface of nearly all laundry equipment is usually set too low, and the woman operating it is so out of balance that she is soon fatigued. Little of the washing process is done in the bottom of the tub, and the working height is about half-way up the side. For the average worker the top rim of the tub should be 36 inches from the floor; in all cases the tubs should be placed so that the worker does not stoop from the shoulders but bends at the hips.

laundry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture say. A portable washtub may be easily raised or lowered to the right height. If the top of the washboard is too high, it may be lowered by cutting off part of the legs. The ironing table or board should be so low that force from the shoulder can be applied easily; 31 inches is a good average height.

Where no special room is provided for the laundry and there are no set tubs, a portable bench of the correct height and size is convenient.

A wooden tub is difficult to keep in good condition. If kept dry it is likely to shrink and fall apart; if kept moist enough to prevent shrinking, it is likely to become water-soaked and slimy, and may have a disagreeable odor. A portable, galvanized-iron tub is fairly light, durable, and easy to keep clean, but may corrode. A fiber tub is still lighter, is easily kept clean, and is durable if left dry, but is more expensive than an iron tub. Any portable tub may have a hole bored in it and a plug inserted so that water may be drained from it without lifting the tub. Hot and cold water can be piped to a portable tub as well as to a more expensive stationary one.

Wood, which is now little used, has the same qualities for set tubs, as for portable ones. Soapstone and similar materials are cheaper than porcelain, but their dark color makes it more difficult to be sure that they are clean. Porcelain or enameled-iron tubs are heavily glazed and do not rust or absorb grease. Both white and yellow porcelain tubs are on the market, the latter are cheaper but the color may make it hard to tell when the clothes are white. A home laundry is often equipped with two tubs, but when there is no washing machine a third tub saves much handling of the clothes.

THOUGHTLESS USE OF FIRE IN WOODS COSTS MILLIONS

Department of Agriculture Cautions Campers and Tobacco Smokers Against Starting Forest Fires

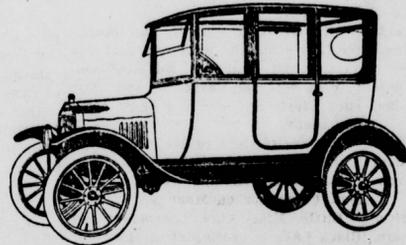
More than \$25,000,000 worth of standing timber in the United States is destroyed by forest fires each year, according to estimates made by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This represents a serious loss to the country, particularly at present when the nation is using up its resources of timber four times as fast as it is grown, and as a consequence is facing a depletion of its forests.

Not every one in the country will be able to visit the display of the forest service, which as a part of the department's exhibit, is to be on show at various fairs throughout the country during the next few months. Lessons of the exhibit, however, should appeal strongly to everyone, as they point out graphically the more common ways by which destructive forest fires are started through carelessness.

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LOOK FOR THE YELLOW PUMP

KIND OF POULTRY BEST ON THE GENERAL FARM

The hen, first and last, is the main dependence for increasing the supply of white meat and eggs on a farm, but she requires the aid of turkeys, guineas, geese, and ducks just as, on a dairy farm, the cow requires the aid of pigs, sheep, and goats. The setting of the standard at 100 hens per farm is safe, but no such arbitrary standard can be set for the other kinds of poultry, say the poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The small farm, with grain fields of neighboring farms in proximity to the barn and dooryard, would, perhaps, be better without turkeys. The farm through which no streams run and which has no large pond would perhaps be better without ducks. But the circumscribed farm

on which turkeys would be a disadvantage may be well supplied with streams and ponds so that ducks would be unusually profitable, and the farm that has no streams and ponds may have large range for turkeys. Each farm family will have to determine for itself what poultry can be profitably kept in addition to 100 hens, bearing in mind always that an adequate number should be kept of all the kinds for which free range can be found.

Date Bread.

Two cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 cup milk or water, 1 egg, 1/2 pound dates (stoned and cut in small pieces).

Mix and sift the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the milk, egg (slightly beaten) and dates. Turn the mixture into a buttered pan and bake it slowly for one hour in a moderate oven.

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