

AIDS FOR HOUSECLEANING

Housecleaning is getting to be a thoroughly tame proceeding. It steals upon the unsuspecting master of the house like a person with rubber heels, and before he knows that it has struck the household it is over and done with. No more is he requested to give a lift to the parlor rug that it may be strung along a line in the back yard and beaten to a pulp; no more does he stumble over the davenport on the front steps and hurdle the mattress on the back porch. It is the day of dustless dusting and deceased beatings.

A vacuum cleaner is now almost as necessary a household article as the carpet sweeper. One has recently been put on the market which is simply constructed and easily operated, and which costs only \$5. It is made on the principle of the bicycle pump except that the suction is made to draw the dirt out. Appliances are always furnished with these cleaners which are especially adapted for cleaning cushions, curtains and the crevices of mattresses and upholstered furniture.

Then there is the dustless dust cloth. This cloth is chemically treated so that it absorbs every particle of dust and will allow none of it to be whisked from one object to another. It can be washed in soap and water without affecting the peculiar properties of it. There is a new sort of silver polish, also, in the form of a liquid, in which the silver may be immersed. When removed and rubbed briskly a high polish is produced. This will be a comfort to housewives who have dreaded silver cleaning because of the gritty dust that is bound to get on the hands and in the hair.

Perhaps the story of the small boy who tried to scrub the kitchen floor by skating over it blithely with scrubbing brushes strapped to both feet may have suggested adding a long handle to the back-breaking scrubbing brush. The most practicable brush of this sort has an adjustable handle, which may be set at any angle desired, and which may also be placed so that the brush may be propelled in either a lengthwise or crosswise position.

If the general renovating of the house this fall includes new furniture, the discarded chairs and other articles may be quite easily refinished for use in the bedrooms, perhaps. There is now a varnish remover which will do away with the tedious sand papering heretofore necessary. It is a liquid that is applied with a sponge. When it is wiped off after a short time it will remove every trace of varnish.

A clever woman who herself enameled an entire bedroom set which was originally golden oak, devised some new hangings, also, for the room to take the place of the faded and whipped out curtains, that summer suns and rains had ruined. She got some unbleached sheeting, of the width sold for single beds and dyed it with a package of dyes. The white enamel with which she had painted her furniture she had tinted a pale green, so that she made her hangings a shade darker. A four inch hem at the bottom with one or two inches at the top and sides made a neat finish. From the portions of the old curtains which had not faded she then cut the large pink roses and applied them on the sheeting to form a border, outlining the whole with carpet warp.

SPANISH OMELET

Beat six eggs just enough to break the yolks into the whites. A dozen strokes should be enough. Have a scant teaspoonful butter heated in a small frying pan or an omelet pan. Pepper and salt the eggs lightly and put in a teaspoonful of cream for each egg. Add two tablespoonfuls of finely shaved onion and a scant teaspoonful of minced sweet peppers. As soon as the butter hisses pour in the eggs and shake gently, always in one direction, to keep the omelet from sticking to the pan. When it is set, but still soft, slip a broad knife or spatula under one-half and fold it upon the other. Invert the pan dexterously over a hot dish and drop the omelet into the middle of the platter. Garnish with parsley.

EVEN MORE ELEGANT

"Papa, I must marry the duke."
 "Nix on this duke business. An American citizen is good enough for you."
 "But the duke has such elegant manners; such polish, dad."
 "Now, now. Be a good girl and I'll get you a nice floor-walker."

Every man is above the average—to hear him tell it.

BREAKING THE ICE

If you have a badly assorted lot of guests for a luncheon or dinner, it helps to break up the stiffness by having them hunt their places at the table in novel ways.

It should not be hard for the ingenious hostess to invent substitutes for the ordinary place card, but, as brains refuse to work these hot days, here are a few suggestions:

Instead of a card with the name Miss Jones, put in Miss Jones' place a small trinket representing her special hobby; it may be a caddy bag, a tiny canoe, a cook stove, a pen and paper, according to her well-known bent.

For a girl who is an all-round sport, with no special fancy, there might be a grab bag filled with an assortment of the things she does well, marked, "No specializing for me!"

Instead of the hobby markers, there might be what is known as "riler" place cards. These can be in the form of jokes on well-known failings of each guest. They may be quotations, original or selected, pen and ink caricatures, or pictures cut from comic papers mounted on small cards with a large question mark underneath.

Thus for the girl who is disinclined to move, there could be a fat doll glued to a rocking chair, or the lines, "She sits and naught can make her rise!" For the girl who is disobliging about singing, though possessed of a good voice, have a picture of a prima donna, to which is added a large hand held conspicuously over her mouth, or the quotation, "He who can sing and won't sing should be made to sing!"

Where the artist is a good sketcher she can make a tiny water color portrait of each guest, or can elaborate by having the guest in her favorite attitude.

Whatever method is chosen, the places are unmarked, and the guest moves from plate to plate, guessing which is hers. It creates fun and makes up any stiffness.

When all are seated, each guest reads aloud or displays her special marker. Sometimes there is a voting contest as to which is the best caricature or quotation. Cards are passed by the maid, and each guest in turn votes for her favorite, the votes counted between courses by the hostess.

STUFFED EGGS

Put six eggs into cold water, boil for fifteen minutes, put them into cold water, which keeps the white of egg a good color; cut them in halves lengthways and take out the yolks, which pound with one tablespoonful of chopped cold meat, add one tablespoonful of chopped parsley, salt, pepper and red pepper to taste, and one tablespoonful of melted butter. Mix all well together, take a small piece, fill the hollow of the white of egg with this; join the other half to it. When all are filled rub over the outside with flour, brush over with beaten egg, roll in fine bread crumbs. Fry a golden color in plenty of smoking hot fat. Decorate with parsley and serve very hot.

BROILED HALIBUT STEAK

Lay the steaks in salt and water for ten minutes, then marinate them; that is, lay them in olive oil and lemon juice, using two tablespoons of olive oil and one of lemon juice. Let them remain in this for ten minutes, wipe them dry and lay them on the broiler and broil until they are a golden brown. Place them on a hot dish and serve with a sauce. If you want an attractive dish and also an additional relish serve a baked stuffed tomato with the fish. Remove the pulp of the tomato and fill it with a dressing made of bread crumbs, sage, etc., using the recipe for dressing for fowl. Bake the tomatoes and place one on each steak before serving.

BAKED SALMON

Pick the bones from one can of salmon, spread over the bottom of a granite platter, and cover with a layer of rolled crackers. Put a lump of butter the size of an egg on the stove into a pan; when melted stir into this one large tablespoonful of flour until it is a little brown; a pinch of salt and sufficient milk to make moderately thick; when boiled pour over the salmon; have boiled potatoes, hot, cooked in salt water, and rice them to the thickness of one inch over the whole; put the platter into the oven and let it brown on top and serve in the platter in which it was baked, setting it on another platter.

LITTLE ECONOMIES

It is well to remember your manifold needs when purchasing each addition to the new home and to so plan that each article will serve as many purposes as possible.

In certain materials, for instance, buy in quantity and of a pattern easily matched, so that by combining the leftovers of several rooms, after time and laundress have done their worst, a sufficient number of pieces may be found good enough to curtain another less important room for several seasons.

In carpets the same rule holds good, although the truest economy lies in buying rugs of a size to fit most rooms, so that they can take up their march of retrogression from reception room to attic with dignity and without mutilation.

Small rugs should be chosen with a thought of their combination with large rugs for covering floor spaces throughout the entire house, and should therefore be as retiring and indefinite in pattern as possible.

China will break and sets will grow depressingly smaller, but even here the difficulty may be obviated to a certain extent by the selection, in the first place, of a reliable china or porcelain in a standard or stock pattern. In this way only may the broken set be constantly filled in.

Plain white porcelain or white and gold may be matched, without doubt, and either one will add dignity and daintiness to any table. The same plan holds good in the buying of furniture.

Purchase as few pieces as possible at first, and always with an eye to future possibilities and additions. Better just chairs enough for the family and a chance guest, but of good and lasting quality, than a complete set of flimsy make or uncouth design.—The House Beautiful.

A MEDIAEVAL BEDROOM

The hall was often paved with tiles of white stone encrusted with black mastic, and on this flooring were spread thick rugs. If the company sat freely on the floor it was not because there were no chairs, though they were not as numerous as in the Homeric house. But a row of coffered often stood against the walls and sometimes also there were massive forms with backs, divided like choir stalls, and sometimes there were lighter benches, easily moved about. Kings and great lords had fald stools, but it was not every simple castellan who owned one. The asperities of all these somewhat unconciliating seats were tempered by rugs and cushions, but a study of them explains why the persons of the romances so frequently sat upon the bed. In the first place, the bed of the lord and the lady stood as often as not in the hall, opposite the fireplace. It was large and monumental; the frame was gilded, carved and inlaid with ivory. Cords stretched on the frame held a feather bed which was covered with sheets of linen or silk. During the day the bed was shrouded with a rich spread of fur or silk or cloth of gold. It was surrounded by curtains which made it a room within a room. Herrad shows us Solomon's sleeping room in all the glory of the twelfth century, with a night light and as easy a posture as can be assumed by a sleeper who wears a crown.—Atlantic.

JUST AS GOOD

"What will it cost me to get up a musical comedy?"
 "I'll furnish the music for \$5000," said the composer, "and the book may cost half that amount."
 "There won't be any book. I'll use an almanac."

It takes a lot of sand to enable a man to go up in a balloon.

A QUIET BERTH

"If I buy you a seat in the stock exchange will you agree to go to work?"
 "I ain't crazy for work, dad. Make it a seat in the senate."



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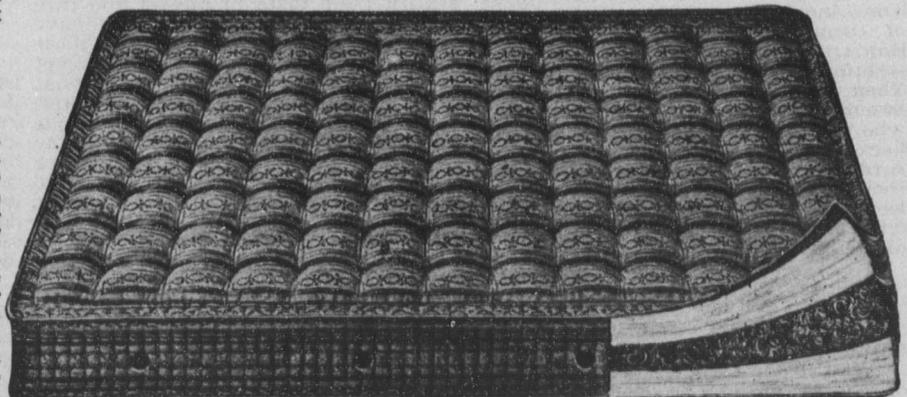
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