

## The Home

By Hattie Haines Churchill.

Questions will be cheerfully answered by mail if postage is sent. Write to the manager of this department and tell what you would like best to appear in these columns. We want the housewives to look forward with pleasure to reading this part of The Ranch.

### With Mary Ann.

Back in the kitchen it's such fun  
With Mary Ann to stay;  
I'd rather see her wash the clothes  
Than go outdoors to play.

She makes the suds all frothy white,  
Then hands the soap to me;  
I play it is a little boat  
Upon a great, wide sea.

I make the waves roll high and fast,  
They go 'way up and down;  
It seems just like a great big storm,  
When all the folks must drown.

The sailors and the captain are  
Some tooth-picks stuck in tight;  
The passengers are smooth round  
beans—

They're scared, that's why they're  
white.

Then mother comes and spoils it all  
By saying, "Little son,  
There's father coming in the gate,  
Go meet him, honey—run!"

And so I have to go, but say,  
When I'm a big, tall man,  
Right in the kitchen I will stay  
All day with Mary Ann.

Clara J. Denton.

### Care of Shoes and Leather.

We often hear people complaining about their shoes not lasting and even saying their dealer gave them the worst of the deal when nine times out of ten, the fault lies at home.

People buy the shoes and wear them and do nothing but growl if they don't suit. Leather, like all other materials, needs its special care to last, and the same care that is given shoes will not do for suit cases or furniture, that is, leather that is exposed to the weather should be dressed to shed water and prevent cracking and be soft. To prolong the wearing quality of shoes the very best thing to use is common yellow vaseline. As soon as they are brought home, thoroughly cover the leather with it and set in a warm place over night.

It is amazing how much it will absorb. Many shoes have been in stock a long while and are very dry. If necessary rub on more and let stand until the leather will take no more, then rub with a soft cloth until perfectly clean. Vaseline will not soil the skirts if the surplus is carefully removed. Women who have not tried this way of doing often object, saying if they are oiled the shoe will stretch out of shape. This is a mistake. I have found by several years of experience, that, by so doing I can wear a smaller shoe because it at once conforms to the shape of the foot and is as easy the first time it is worn as later. There is no waiting or enduring agony while you are "breaking them in." Then, if one is so unfortunate as to have corns or bunions the soft leather does not aggravate the trouble. Many people buy shoes very large on account of these troubles and still get no relief, because the foot slips around against the stiff, hard leather just the same. If the shoes get wet apply grease or oil as soon as they are removed and leave in a warm place, but not near the stove. To hasten the drying fill with oats, they will absorb the moisture.

Other good leather softeners are crude glycerine, olive oil or mutton tallow. The crude glycerine is as good as the refined, costs less, and preserves the leather as well as making it supple. Mutton tallow preserves, softens and makes leather almost water-proof. It should be melted, the leather warmed before it is applied. I have been told that the same treatment may be given harness.

Vaseline blacking—Vaseline 100 parts; lamp black, five parts; Prussian blue, five parts. Melt a little vaseline, add the black and blue when thoroughly blended add the rest of the vaseline and put in a tin box or glass jar.

Water-proof blacking—Wax, one part; soap, one part; lamp black, three parts; oil of turpentine, five parts; fish oil, 20 parts. Dissolve wax in the turpentine by the aid of heat; be careful while you are doing it, scrape soap and add; then put in the fish oil; keep the mixture warm and add the lamp black; mix well; keep in tin or glass.

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Tallow, 40 parts; yellow wax, 110 parts; oil of turpentine, five parts. Melt together and stir into a mixture of five parts of fine black and 10 parts of olive oil. This can be molded and rubbed against the shoes. Polish with a woolen cloth.

Harness varnish—Brown shellac 370; Venice turpentine, 190; alcohol, 1600; lavender oil, 60; lamp black, 30.

Varnish for leather subject to exposure—Bleached shellac four ounces; gum sandarac, one ounce; gum elemi, one-fourth ounce; methylated spirits, 20 ounces. This should be applied warm.

Dressing for leather upholstery—One part vinegar; two parts boiled linseed oil. Polish with a soft cloth which is not linty.

Rubbed or worn places may be revived by the use of the beaten white of an egg. It also stiffens it and forms a gloss.

Tan shoes may be cleaned by rubbing with a banana peel or slices of lemon. Polish with a soft cloth.

### An Adjective Game.

This is very jolly game for the youngsters. Select one to go out of the room; the others choosing an adjective which he or she will represent when the person comes in and asks questions, trying to determine what adjective is being enacted. For instance the question might be, "Did you have a good time at the party?" The person having chosen the word "dull" tries to act very stupid and makes believe he or she does not understand. This will be very amusing if the players try to be good actors. After one person has made several good guesses have another go out. This can be done alphabetically. That is, if the one asking the questions has a name beginning with "B" let the next one to go whose name begins with "C", and so on, over and over as long as the interest keeps up.

### Hattie's Helpful Hints.

To make rubbers last—Try putting a round of felt cut from an old hat into the heel, and, instead of jerking them on, as most people do, use a

regular shoe horn or even a thin piece of wood long enough to slip into the heel and keep hold of at the same time.

To save the knees when oiling or waxing the floors make pads about the size of the ordinary ironing holders, sew to rubber webbing and use as garters. The pads to come under the knees when kneeling. One can hardly estimate the comfort derived until once used.

To make bias bands fold the goods on the bias, pin at intervals so it will not slip and with a rule or bit of pasteboard cut to make the desired width measure and then make dots along the strip with a pencil. Place rule on dot and mark with pencil.

Continued on page 22.



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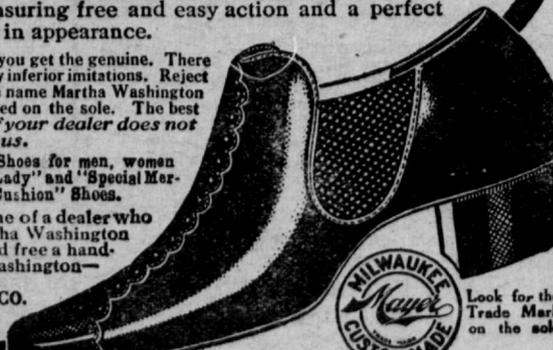
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