

HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT.

Address all communications to Household Department, Agriculturist, DeLand, Fla.

A HELPFUL CORNER.

Oiled and Painted Floors.

If you have never had your kitchen floor painted, you cannot realize how much work it saves. Paint of any color can be bought already mixed, and is so inexpensive that we often wonder why there should be a kitchen floor in the lard that is not painted. Any woman can do the painting and will need no tools but a good paint brush.

Scrub the floor clean and let it dry, then give it two coats of paint, allowing each coat plenty of time to dry. A little Japan dryer added to the paint will hasten the drying, which is important when one needs to use the room all the time. It is usually better to do the painting in the evening after the supper dishes are washed, and leave the doors and windows open. If not quite dry in the morning, and you cannot cook the breakfast in some other room lay boards across where you walk the most to keep it from being tracked. If you prefer an oiled floor to a painted one, get a gallon of linseed oil and heat a quart of it until almost boiling hot, and apply it with an old paint brush which should be clean, of course. Two coats are usually needed.

The care of a painted floor is important if you would keep them in the best condition. Mop the floor once a week, using suds made by adding a tablespoonful of Pearline to two gallons of warm, soft water, rinse it with clear water and wipe it dry. It is never necessary to use a scrub brush, and the water should not be hot. E. J. C.

Lena's School Dress.

Lena's hopes of having a new dress for school wear were rudely dispelled one morning by hearing her mother say to her sister Bessie, "We can not buy a thing for the children's school clothes this fall. We shall do very well if we manage to get a dress for each one to wear to church."

Lena stole quietly away to her own little room and going to the closet took down a faded green dress that she had worn to school the previous winter. Slipping off her work dress she put it on and tried to fasten it, but alas, it would not reach around the plump form. She tilted the mirror on the bureau so as to get a full length view of herself then stepped back and at the first glance laughed aloud at the comical picture of a girl of fourteen, with blue eyes, sunny hair curling in little rings around her damp forehead, a pink and white complexion, which was scarcely marred by the sprinkling of tiny freckles across her nose, a small mouth just now drawn down at the corners, while the lips protruded in a dissatisfied pout, wearing a faded and badly worn green dress, too small in the waist, too short at the wrists and the skirt reaching half way between the knees and shoe tops. Only for a moment did she see anything funny about the picture, then she hastily pulled off the dress, saying as she did so, "I never, never can wear that old dress to school. I wonder if the one I had for church will do any better?"

Again she went to the closet, and this time brought out a Scotch plaid

dress and tried it on with nearly the same result.

"Well, I won't say a word about it, but I guess when mamma and Bessie come to look at those old dresses they will find that I have grown some since last winter, and if I can't have a new dress I shall have to stay home from school." She hung the dresses back in the closet, and throwing herself on the bed indulged in a good cry.

A few days later when Lena had donned her neat gingham dress to go to the village for the mail her mother handed her fifteen cents, saying, "Lena I want you to get me a package of Pearline and one of brown Diamond dye for wool."

The two dresses were ripped and the threads carefully picked out, then well washed in a Pearline suds, rinsed and the plaid pieces dried in the shade and pressed on the wrong side. The green pieces were dyed in the brown dye which made them a pretty bronze color like one portion of the plaid.

Lena busied herself about her work, but, as the dyeing and pressing went on, became rather curious as to the results of "Mamma's experiment," as she secretly styled the renovating which Mrs. Oleson and Bessie had undertaken. She would not, however, en-

ter the sewing-room as she had declared when they suggested making a new dress out of the old ones that she knew it would not be fit to be seen.

As they were using one of her gingham dresses to measure by she was not called to try on the waist until the dress was nearly completed. As she entered the room she glanced quickly around, but saw nothing of the dress, and Bessie came forward, saying: "Lena, you know you have always prided yourself on not having as much curiosity as the other girls. Now, are you willing to try a test by not seeing your dress until it is done?"

"O, I am not at all anxious to see it. I saw enough of it before you began to fix it," was the reply, although Lena admitted to herself that she would have liked to see how the old things looked. Bessie took a dark silk handkerchief from the table and tied it over Lena's eyes, then the waist was put on and fitted, the sleeves slipped on and pinned to the arms-eyes, and the skirt put on and fitted over the hips.

When the handkerchief was removed Bessie handed Lena her work dress again and said "Now, we shall not need you again until this afternoon when you may wear your dress to the village, if you wish."

"I don't wish, thank you!" replied Lena with a little toss of her head as she left the room.

When Lena was preparing for her afternoon walk to the village, she was again called into the sewing-room, and the handkerchief laughingly adjusted over her eyes by Bessie. When the dress had been put on and fastened, something was placed on her head and Bessie led her across the room to the mirror, then, taking the handkerchief from her eyes said, "Now, little sister, you may see your old dress."

Lena looked, then rubbed her eyes and looked again, while Bessie laughed merrily and even Mrs. Oleson turned away to hide a smile which threatened to become audible.

"Mamma, tell me if this pretty suit is really made of my old dresses," cried Lena, gazing in admiration at the dress.

The plaid had been used for an overskirt, pointed back and front; a waist gathered to a round yoke of the bronze and slightly bloused in front; sleeves with shoulder caps and cuffs of the bronze, while the skirt was also of the bronze. Several rows of narrow ribbon decorated the yoke, high collar, cuffs and sleeve caps, while a rosette of the same was placed on the left shoulder and another at the edge of the yoke where it opened on the left side, the ribbon extending down the edge of the opening to the belt which was a green leather one colored over in the brown dye, making it bronze. The ribbons had done service before, but as they had taken on a bronze hue from the Diamond dye bath they were as good as new.

"Where did you get such a pretty new hat?" asked Lena when she had surveyed the dress to her full satisfaction and asked innumerable questions about it.

"That is your old sailor, cleaned with Pearline suds and an old tooth brush, then bleached over burning sulphur in a barrel and trimmed with the plaid silk that was in the vest of your dress last winter. Those soiled white feathers that I wore last winter were cleaned, then given a dip in the

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brown dye and tucked under the buckle that holds the loops of silk on your hat," replied Bessie. "Now, you would best take off the dress as it is most mail time and you will hardly have time to change unless you hurry."

"Who says I am not going to wear my pretty new dress to the village?" cried Lena. "It is a lot prettier than Mollie Johnson's new one, and every one will think that it is really and truly a new dress, see if they don't!" And she ran out of the house and down the steps singing a gay bit of song as she went.

Priscilla Pry.

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