

LAUNDERING

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A FEW years ago housework, or housekeeping, was considered a menial task, fitted only for those who could not qualify for what was then considered more dignified work, hence the old saying: "A man's work is from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done." Schools have changed this idea; the trades are placed on an equal basis with the professions; work that was once considered degrading now holds a dignified place in schools and colleges, is exalted even into a profession. A noble profession, too, is the housekeeper's, for around it center all the affections and loves of the home. Kate Field says: "The world would go on just the same if there were not a woman in the professions. It would come to a speedy ruin if there were not a woman in the homes."

Laundering is one of the most important duties of the household work and should be so considered. It should be done with great care on account of its importance. If close attention is given to the care of clothing in laundering it will last much longer. The equipment for laundry work in the home may be expensive or moderate in price, depending on one's income. The result will be the same, but the better the equipment the more contentment, and more quickly will the work be done. The utensils necessary are a tub, board, line, boiler, basket, clothes-pins, iron and ironing board.

If we have no stationary tubs the common galvanized tubs may be used. The line should be a single, strong wire. Electric irons are used in most well-equipped laundries; they are more satisfactory than any other and are more convenient to keep clean. In the ordinary home, however, electricity cannot be used. Here the ordinary iron must be used. The ironing board should be strong and the distance from the floor suitable to the ironer. Have the board well padded with felt or pieces of old blanket, well tacked down, then smoothly covered with a clean white cloth.

The materials needed for washing are water, soap, bluing, and starch.

An abundance of clear, soft water is of great help in laundry work, but if the water is hard it may be softened by adding a little salsoda. The usual brown laundry soap will do for plain washing, but white soap is better for woollens and colored clothes. A little bluing is necessary; care should be taken, however, in order not to get the clothes too blue or leave blue streaks in them. The best bleachers are pure air and sunshine; these, with careful washing, will usually be found all