

GENERAL QUESTIONS.

Will some of our readers please give us, in our next issue, answers to the following questions:

1. How to get rid of ants.
2. How to prevent or get rid of house flies.
3. How to raise asparagus and celery.
4. How to make a cheap hanging basket.
5. How to exterminate bed bugs.
6. How to make a pretty and cheap window curtain.
7. How to make an ordinary tough steak tender.
8. How to make biscuits.
9. How to wash blankets, also laces.
10. How to clean kid gloves.
11. How to cure a boil.
12. How to polish brass, copper or the kitchen utensils.
13. How to take care of a broom.
14. How to prevent the smell of cabbage in cooking.
15. How to make good tea and coffee.
16. How to make nice pancakes.
17. How long to let milk stand before skinning.
18. How to prepare chocolate.
19. How to raise canaries.
20. How to make candy at home.
21. How to remove grease from clothing or carpet.
22. How to cook parsnips and carrots.
23. What to feed poultry.
24. How to relieve chilblains.
25. What artificial food to give a baby.
26. What to do when a chimney catches fire.
27. How to clean a chimney.
28. What to do with children having summer complaint.
29. How to take ink out of clothing.
30. How to make kitchen conveniences.
31. How to cook eggs.
32. What to cook for a sick person.
33. How to make doughnuts.
34. How to cook turkey, chickens, ducks, geese, and dressing for the same.
35. How to make eggnog.
36. How to preserve eggs.
37. How to cure a fellow.
38. How to have a fernery.
39. How to start a kitchen fire.
40. How to have flowers bloom in the winter.
41. How to make a cheap picture frame.
42. How to can fruit, make preserves, jams and jellies.
43. How to remove freckles, pimples and warts.
44. How to keep furs in summer.
45. Selection of a variety of seeds for a small flower garden.
46. How to make gems.
47. How to keep grapes in winter.
48. How to make gravy; ham, beef, chicken, etc.
49. How to soften and whiten the hands.
50. Care of finger nails.
51. How to make hash.
52. How to paint a kitchen floor natural colors, etc; how to remove grease.
53. How to make lemonade.
54. How to make macaroons.
55. How to cook salmon, trout, suckers, etc.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR "HELP."

Some Practical Suggestions That Will Be Helpful to Housewives.

Make your kitchen one of the best rooms in your house. On the floor lay an oilcloth of a small, neat pattern, which can be washed with warm water and milk, wiping after with a woolen cloth. Select good rush bottom chairs, an ironing table which when lifted serves as a bench, six flat irons with steel bottoms, a smooth cotton skirt and bosom board, large and small milk pans, and the usual number of pots and pans that the cook finds necessary.

Keep your dresser furnished with many sizes of china and stone ware dishes that will not only make it attractive, but can be used for daily kitchen use. A large table of ample dimensions should fill the center of the room, the drawers filled with utensils necessary for the culinary art. Let your windows be dressed with screen curtains, thin and open, that will not exclude the light and the cheery atmosphere without. Have your kitchen clean, inviting and homelike as your other rooms, for in so doing your help will find for themselves a resting place that they will be loath to leave.

How to Take Care of Brooms.

Choose a broom whose brush is green rather than yellow, and be careful that the handle is firmly fastened. In using a broom sweep on each side alternately, not leaning hard on it. If dipped in boiling suds every week the broom will become tough and not liable to cut the carpet. If it gets out of shape it can be restored by soaking and pressing between weights. Setting it on either end will tend to destroy the shape; therefore hang it up by a cord attached to the handle.

How to Render Wood Incombustible.

Saturate it with a very delicate solution of silicate of potash, as nearly neutral as possible. When dry apply one or two coats of a stronger solution.

How to Make Cement for Mahogany.

A cement suitable for stopping up holes and cracks in furniture of this wood is made by melting four parts of beeswax or shellac with one of Indian red, and adding yellow ochre until it is the right color.

How to Keep Bread Moist.

If possible keep in an earthen jar or pot with a tight fitting cover. If kept in tin have a perforated board to fit in two inches from the bottom on which to lay the bread. Keep an inch of water in the bottom and the lid tightly shut. To prevent rust pour out water and wipe dry for a while every day.

How to Prevent Calico from Fading.

Before the first washing soak it in four quarts of hot water, with three gills of salt dissolved, until cold.

How to Erase Writing.

Apply with a camel's hair brush a mixture consisting of twelve drams of a solution of muriate of tin and four drams of water. Afterward pass the paper through water; then dry.

How to Repair Books.

If the book has fallen partly or wholly out of its cover replace the loose leaves with gum first, then remove from the back of the book and cover all bits of paper. Glue the edges of the quires and press them firmly in place in the back of the cover. If one cover is torn off raise the leather or cloth from the mill-

How to Clean Paintings.

Rub the picture thoroughly with good whisky. The varnish will come off in the froth. Then wash the surface well with cold water, and when it is dry varnish the picture anew, keeping it away from dust until dry. This process is said to restore all except very old pictures to their original colors.

How to Make a Candle Burn All Night.

A piece of candle will burn all night if salt is sprinkled on it until it reaches the black part of the wick.

How to Restore the Color to Pressed Autumn Leaves.

Dip them in a weak solution of sulphuric acid, shake dry and put in press again. When dry they can be waxed as if fresh.

How to Prevent the Decay of Teeth.

Prepare a wash consisting of fifteen grains of carbolic acid, eight of thymol, seven drams of boric acid, twenty drops of essence of peppermint, 2½ drams of tincture of anise and a quart of water. This makes a good antiseptic lotion and should be applied with a toothbrush every night and morning, taking the place of other dental preparations.

How to Make a Lamp Chimney Cleaner.

Tie a piece of sponge on a thin pine stick. A metal holder is apt to scratch the chimney.

How to Clean Oily or Greasy Bottles.

Pour in some strong sulphuric acid and keep it there about five minutes, moving the bottle so that the acid will reach every part. Rinse repeatedly with cold water.

How to Make Iced Tea or Coffee.

When nearly ready to serve, fill a pitcher or other receptacle with broken ice. Over this pour a strong infusion of either tea or coffee, letting it stand a little for the ice to melt. Pour out and sweeten to taste.

How to Blanch Almonds.

Soak the almonds in warm water until the skin can be removed easily by pressing each nut between the thumb and forefinger. Then dry them by wiping them on a soft cloth or laying them in the sun or air.

How to Cure Bee or Insect Stings.

Wet some cut tobacco and apply at once to the wound for a few minutes.

How to Exterminate Beetles.

Sprinkle equal parts of red lead, sugar and flour in the places infested.

How to Clean Tin.

After washing, well rub with whiting.

How to Remove the Stain of Tea or Coffee.

These stains will usually come out if the article is immediately put in clean, cold water, but if the stains are of long standing rub pure glycerine on them, and then after washing this out wash the article in the usual way.

How to Wash Blankets.

Select a warm, clear day for washing. Dip the blankets in hot suds, rub and rinse them in good hot water. Hang in the sun until dry.

How to Drain Water in a Sink.

Much of the disagreeable labor of removing scraps and grounds from a sink is prevented by the simple expedient of pouring all but clear water into a tin can, whose bottom has been perforated,

HOW TO KEEP TROUSERS.

A Rare and Simple Prescription Against "Bumping at the Knees."

Never, in any circumstances, hang them up. Always fold them. Creases are largely worn and are perfectly admissible, but if there is an objection to them the trousers can easily be folded so that the crease will not be pronounced. They should be folded over but once—at the knees—and to do it properly take the two first suspender buttons in front and place them together. Do this with your left hand—with your right hand hold the trousers up in the back. They will then hang as they do when they are worn. Then, transferring your hold to the middle, with the left hand, which is now free, catch them at the bottom and bring the two ends together. With a little practice you will be surprised how easy this is. The best place to keep them is on a small walnut table, which can be bought for a dollar or so, and which also has a shelf below.

How to Clean Pearls.

Put them to soak in water in which bran has been boiled, with a little cream of tartar and some alum. As soon as the water is cooled enough rub the pearls gently with the hands until it is cold. Then go through the process with a fresh preparation, keeping on until all discolorations are removed. Finally rinse in lukewarm water, lay on white paper and put in a dark place to dry.

How to Prevent Decay in Wood.

Decay in wood can be prevented by covering it with a varnish composed of twenty parts rosin, forty-six parts finely powdered chalk, a little linseed oil and sulphuric acid, and some hard sand. These are to be mixed and boiled a short time, then applied while hot.

How to Make Paste for Scrapbooks.

Mix a little laundry starch with cold water until it will stir smoothly. Then pour on boiling water until it becomes a clear, jellylike substance. It can be used at once when cool.

How to Mend Broken China.

Make a light paste of the white of an egg and flour. Clean the broken edges from dust, spread them with the paste and hold the parts together while wet, wiping off all that oozes out. It must be held or fastened in position until dry. A perfectly colorless cement is made by dissolving a half ounce of gum arabic in a wine glass of boiling water and adding plaster of paris to form a thick paste. Use at once, applying with a thick brush.

How to Prepare Homemade Lamp Wicks.

Put cotton flannel three times as wide as required, fold it the proper width and overcast the edges. This is a good substitute for woven wicks.

How to Tell the Best Dog in a Litter.

Take them all a distance away from their bed and see which the mother carries back first. Sportsmen say this is always the best dog.

How to Make Sun Cholera Mixture.

Take equal parts of tincture of cayenne pepper, tincture of opium, tincture of rhubarb, essence of peppermint and spirits of camphor. Mix well. Dose, fifteen to thirty drops in a little cold water, according to age and violence of symptoms, repeated every fifteen or twenty minutes until relief is obtained.

How to Prevent Cockroaches from Eat-