

To Lighten
the Housewife's
Burdens

The Housekeeper's Council Table

Conducted
by
Dorothy Dolan



Why Housecleaning Is Burdensome

By DOROTHY DOLAN.

MOST women find housecleaning a terrible task because they do not approach it as they should. It means—or should mean—to clean the house from top to bottom, to have painting and paperhanging done, to remodel old things and to weed out the objects that cannot be repaired. In the second place, they do not plan the task of housecleaning right, and, finally, they make it a terrible task instead of a pleasure.

The attitude taken toward this large and important work is an essential feature. The dread of most things is largely in the thought. You cannot worry and at the same time approach your work in an intelligent, self-reliant manner.

Once a Year.

Be satisfied to undertake this work once a year, and when you do, make it as intelligent and thorough a piece of work as you can. A week or two before you begin take paper and pencil in hand and inspect every room, and everything in the room thoroughly.

Make notes of the objects you will clean and those things you are going to have cleaned outside. Examine the furnishings next for repair and changes. By repair I mean the mending of curtains, the making over of rugs and the mending of bric-a-brac. The repairs you intend making should be undertaken before or after housecleaning; those you have done for you can be done during cleaning time.

The other important point to remember is a question of changes. This should be considered carefully. Many an inexperienced housekeeper gets excited when it comes to questions of selecting and casting off their furnishings. They do not always realize that carpets and furniture that have outlived their usefulness for the living rooms can be cleaned and repaired for bedrooms. If you find that your carpets are showing wear in spots have a few at a time made into rugs.

Use the money you would have spent in new carpets in putting in one or two hardwood floors. If you find certain pieces of furniture old-fashioned put them in the garret for a time. By leaving them there for six months or a year they will either come back in fashion or you will enjoy them as much as though they had.

Do not try to rip up three or four

rooms at once. This is an important point not to be overlooked.

Divide the Work.

Especially is this true in a small apartment, where space is extremely limited. In selecting the rooms you can either take two adjoining rooms or take one room on each floor, but try to keep as much order and system about it as you can. It is often wise to commence in the attic and work your way down. It will give you room for furniture you have discarded and you may find other things that may be of service to you. Put the things that you have no immediate use for in boxes and label them. Also check off the things that you take out, so you will know what you have on hand.

Attack one bedroom at a time. Put it in order when cleaned. Whether the walls are to be cleaned or repaired it is well to take the furniture in the halls. It will give you an excellent chance to clean your furniture thoroughly without spoiling the room.

Before putting the furniture back the wood work can be washed and the floors polished. Then you can put back the furniture. Before cleaning another room you can wash and put fresh paper in the closets and in the bureau drawers.

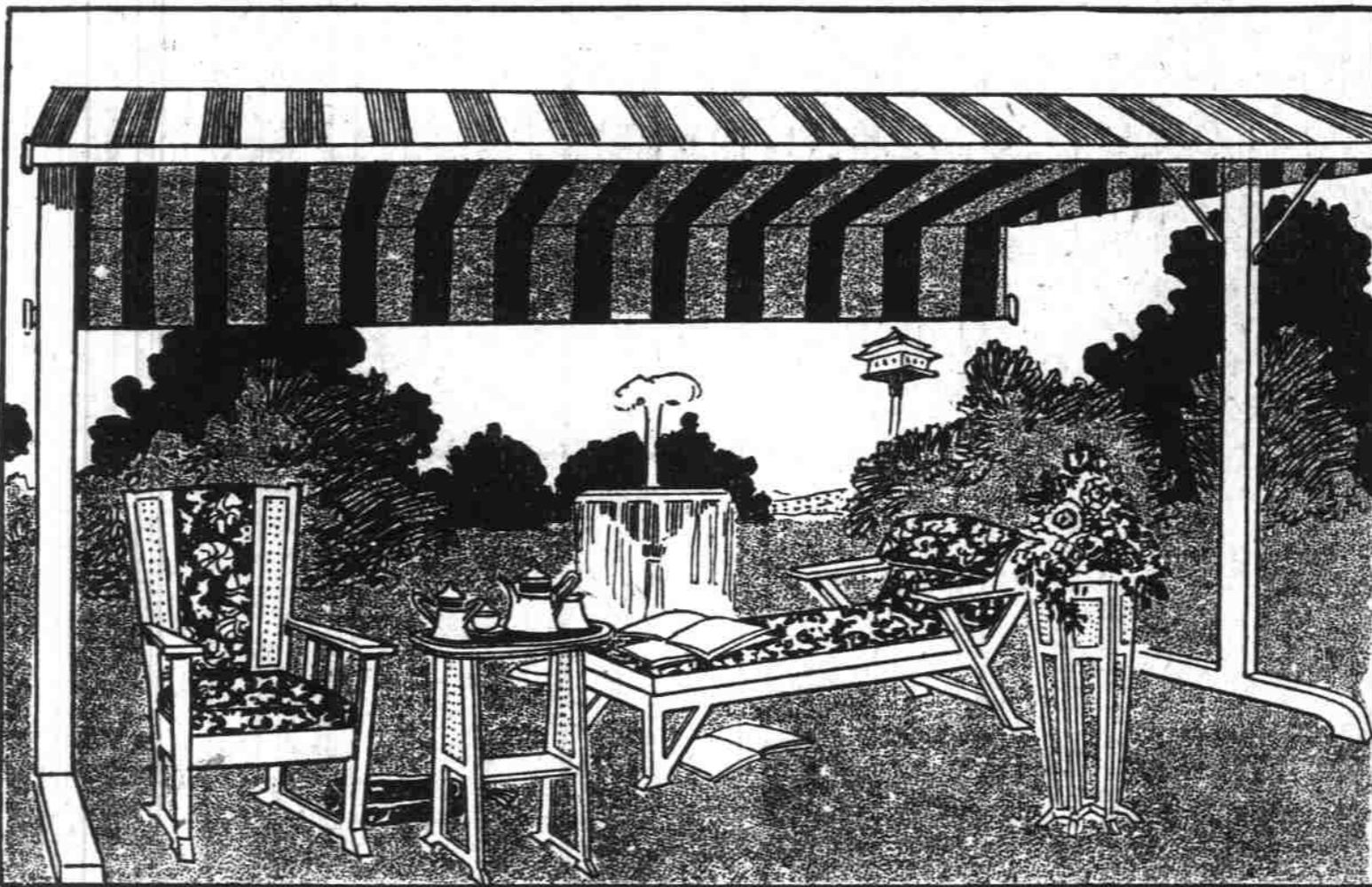
Use a System.

The only furnishings that you can take out in all the rooms at once are the rugs and curtains. You can dust the pictures and wash the large ornaments in the room. Cover them with cheesecloth to keep them from getting dirty. You will have to beat the upholstered furniture in the hall and the rugs in the back yard, unless you have a carpet sweeper. If you have a vacuum cleaner you can do this without upsetting the room.

The oil floor mops are useful in polishing the hard wood floors. As soon as the curtains are washed either put them back at once or fold them carefully and lay them in a chest for the summer. Once clean, there will be no difficulty in hanging them in the fall.

It is never economy for a woman to paper the walls, wash the wood work and do the work intended for men. Likewise, if there are many windows in the house and you have little assistance in doing your housework, let somebody wash the windows for you. You can either get a man to do this or give the work to a concern that charges a fixed price per window.

NOTHING could be more gay and alluring than a sun parlor or improvised tearoom on the lawn. Stunning effects may be obtained by use of the so-called "Austrian" styles, with upholstery in the ornate futurist styles now so popular. One may imagine what a delightful spot these may be made from which to speed one's men folks off to their daily grind in the city.



Home Decoration and Furnishing

By MME. MAISON.

A RATHER stunning thing in sun parlor or breakfast room furnishing is the so-called "Austrian" style, with upholstery in the striking futurist design, which has its place for just such use. The wood finish comes in oak, silver gray and copper green, with cretonnes to harmonize.

Very gay and alluring are these rooms. When there is a standard or pedestal to support a jardiniere or fernery with one of those fascinating bird cages hanging above it and the table set with china done in a riot of colors, one may imagine what a charming spot this is from which to speed one's men folks off to the daily grind. These bird cages are very popular, and it is not necessary to have a real live bird; a painted wooden one will carry out the artistic effect, and there will be no care or responsibility of the live one.

By the way, there are many new finishes in the fine reed furniture. Either fumed or frosted brown is excellent, and an old ivory finish is most graceful, with a dull old rose or gray-blue predominating the cushions. A chaise lounge may be obtained in

most any of these styles, and will add much to one's comfort and joy.

Interior Stain.

I wrote you once in regard to dining and living room furniture and was so glad for the advice. Upper part of house will be white enamel trim, with mahogany doors and glass knobs. The first floor will have oak in front part

Hints for Housekeepers

Cranberries should be picked over often if you wish them to keep long.

To keep the hands white wash them with oatmeal water.

Bedclothing should be thoroughly aired in the sun every day.

A little vinegar added to plums while stewing adds to the flavor.

To curl an ostrich feather, sprinkle it with salt and shake in front of a hot fire.

To keep a kitchen table white, wash it first with vinegar, then scrub it as usual.

Natural or "unpolished" rice is far more wholesome than the shiny-white kind.

A tablespoonful of vinegar added to a pot roast will make it more palatable and tender.

To keep white paint bright, rub it with a clean kerosene cloth after the ordinary cleaning.

Never rub soap on a stain without first wetting it and partly washing it out in cold water.

Horseradish is better scraped than grated, and should be prepared just before it is needed.

Appetizing Menus For Your Sunday Meal

BREAKFAST.
Assorted Fruits.
Marinated Herring. Boiled Potato.
Rolls.
Tea, Coffee or Cocoa.

DINNER.
Consomme With Vegetables.
Leg of Mutton in Blanket.
French Fried Potatoes.
Tomatoes Stuffed With Cucumbers.
Toasted Crackers.
Strawberry Ice Cream.
Angel Food.

SUPPER.
Broiled Shad Roe With Bacon.
Fruit Salad. New Potatoes.
Chocolate Pudding.
Small Coffee.

Leg of Mutton in Blanket—Make deep, narrow gashes in the thick end

of a clean leg of mutton. Crowd in a mixed seasoning of salt, red and black pepper. Add a little minced onion, a little dry mustard and powdered herbs. Brush all over with melted butter or soft bacon fat. Then sprinkle lightly with salt, set on a rack in a roasting pan. Put into a very hot oven.

Let brown, then rub over a tart jelly melted in a little hot water and envelop it in a crust of flour and water, made very stiff and rolled half an inch thick. Pinch the edges tight together, lay back in the pan, cover and bake in a hot oven. Take up, break the blanket carefully, lift out the meat and pour the gravy over from the envelop into a small saucepan. Add to it either hot claret or a spoonful of tart jelly, along with tabasco, boil up and serve in a boat.

Broiled Shad Roe With Bacon—Take six pieces of fresh shad roe. Wipe thoroughly with a towel, lay on a dish

and oak floors, pine in the kitchen. What color stain would you use in the front part of the house? I am so tired of golden oak.

Glad, indeed, if I could help you in your plans before. For the downstairs you will find that oak will take most any desired stain very well; avoid "golden oak"; it is not good to live with and does not lend itself to blending softly with decorations and furniture. A dark English or Jacobean tone is good, or a rather greenish gray. The best plan will be to see a sample card of wood with the various stains and choose what will go best with your furniture and the color scheme you have in mind.

Reply to Nellie.

You will find that white or ivory enameled furniture will wear (with care) several years without being done over and for a much longer time if placed in a guest room that is used only occasionally. I think it is in excellent style, and I do like the cane insets very much. A French gray enamel or a pale lavender is lovely. Look at all three and then make your decision.

Novelties In Home Entertainment

By DAME CURTESY.

A GROUP of patriotic young people are going to honor the local G. A. R. on Memorial day by inviting them to a camp fire to be held in a hall which will be decorated simply with American flags. Two tents will be erected with cleverly arranged "fires" in front done with red flannel and electric lights. The Boy Scouts will give an exhibition drill, then there will be a program of old-time war songs and ballads that were popular in '61. Some of them will be illustrated by living pictures shown on the small stage and at the close will be "The Blue and the Gray."

Afterward, before the serving of refreshments, there will be anecdotes and reminiscences by the "old soldiers." A bevy of pretty girls will serve doughnuts, coffee, sandwiches and all kinds of pie. They will be gowned as Red Cross "nurses." A feature will be a sutler who will peddle his wares from a handcart.

A Daisy Fortune Booth.

At a recent bazaar this daisy booth made a goodly sum for the treasury. The decorations were entirely of green crepe paper and paper daisies. Over the booth this huge sign was placed: "Let the Daisies Tell Your Fortunes." There was a "Vassar" daisy chain across the counter made from a procession of white dressed dolls carrying garlands of daisies. Then there were large daisies containing 150 petals; as the bazaar lasted two days and evenings, many fortunes were prepared. A fortune was written on each petal with invisible ink; the petal was sold in this case at 10 cents, as it was in a wealthy community where 10 cents was no object when "fortunes" were concerned, but I think 5 cents would be a fairer sum to charge. Then the petal was ironed with an electric iron (a common everyday flat iron will answer the purpose) and the fate of the purchaser was herewith revealed. The attendants were gowned in white, with daisy wreaths in their hair. The background of the booth was made from dark green cheesecloth studded with white daisies.

Questions and Answers.

A Bible Contest.

I am sending you a contest which I arranged for my Sunday school class.

They are mismatched/Bible husbands and wives, and the game is to mate the couples properly. I give the "key" and the references for looking up the unknown ones. Thank you for all the good things in your corner. M. D. J.

MISMATCHED COUPLES IN THE BIBLE:

- 1—Adam and Zipporah.
- 2—Uriah and Herodias.
- 3—Ahasuerus and Sarah.
- 4—Moses and Michal.
- 5—Aron and Eve.
- 6—Joseph and Elisheba.
- 7—Abraham and Hannah.
- 8—Herod and Rebecca.
- 9—Jacob and Sapphira.
- 10—Isaac and Vashti.
- 11—Boaz and Jochebed.
- 12—Ananias and Rachel.
- 13—David and Mary.
- 14—Eliakim and Ruth.
- 15—Amram and Bathsheba.

KEY.

- 1—Adam and Eve.
- 2—Uriah and Bathsheba.
- 3—Ahasuerus and Vashti.
- 4—Moses and Zipporah.
- 5—Aron and Elisheba.
- 6—Joseph and Mary.
- 7—Abraham and Sarah.
- 8—Herod and Herodias.
- 9—Jacob and Rachel.
- 10—Isaac and Rebecca.
- 11—Boaz and Ruth.
- 12—Ananias and Sapphira.
- 13—David and Michal (I Sam. XVIII, twenty-seventh verse).
- 14—Eliakim and Hannah (I Sam. I, second verse).
- 15—Abram and Jochebed (Ex. VI, twentieth verse).

What to Do.

My son is to be married out of town and when he returns with his bride I want to give them a reception. How soon would this be proper and what hours in the evening are best? Tell me what light refreshments are to be served for such an affair. There will be none of the bride's family present, so who should be in the receiving line? Your department has helped me greatly although I have never asked a favor before. I enjoy reading what others have asked and your helpful replies.

M. L.

Yourself and husband with the bride and bridegroom will be just right for the receiving party, and ask some intimate friends to assist by making themselves agreeable in the room, asking people to the dining-room to be served and have someone to preside at the punch bowl, conveniently placed for all. I think it would be best to let the young people get rested and comfortably unpacked and then have the reception from 8 to 11 p. m. about four weeks after their return. Serve chicken salad, sandwiches, olives, ice cream and cake, coffee and the punch.

TALKS With the WOMAN WHO WORKS

A YOUNG woman approached her employer the other day and asked for a small advance in wages. Before she made this demand she took stock of herself. She was expected to put in the same number of hours in work, turn out the same quality of work, as did the men in the office.

She was sure that she wasted less time than the majority of them. The few minutes of recreation she took were devoted to chatting with one or two other girls in the office and occasionally delving into a bag of bonbons, while most of the men wasted an endless amount of time rolling cigarettes and smoking cigars.

The employer looked at her doubtfully some minutes, and then explained: "If you were a man I should give you a raise without a moment's hesitation. As a woman I think your salary is large enough to meet your present needs. Since you are getting more than \$5 a week, you have more than what is commonly considered a living wage."

The young woman blushed, hesitated and then remarked: "Women are learning to adopt the same attitude toward work and the same standards as men. It is a question of efficiency and worth, not one of needs."

Though her employer admired the stand she took, he wished to weaken her argument and said: "Young woman, your salary is more than plenty for pin money."

"I suppose you mean daily ice cream sodas, flowers and matinee tickets. Indeed, not, and I am glad that the pin-money girl is a thing of the past. I believe that ninety-nine out of every hundred women are working for one of

three reasons—from sheer necessity, for clothes or for independence.

"You see, in former days where a father died and the main support was gone, the older brothers took on the responsibility. Nowadays just as soon as they can afford it they let the older girls shift for themselves and often care for the younger children and mother.

"A little above this class are the women who work for comfort. Many of these are single and others are married. Their families have the means of giving them good educations and then expect them to turn them to account. By working they are able to be independent of their parents or their husbands, have the comforts every woman likes and a few luxuries.

"Most women are by nature extravagant. Nature is responsible for this. She taught us how to enjoy pretty clothes, homes and many other things that are attractive. We are going to get them by one means or another—the easiest way is the fair way."

"This is sound philosophy all right. I am not quarreling with women who want to work, but with their needs. Before you ask for equal wages for your sex, remember that a man who is supporting a family needs more than a girl who is working for herself alone."

"I don't quarrel with you on this point, but if you are going to let sentiment enter into the equation, be sure you give the woman who is helping to support a family, alone or in part, better wages than you do the young unmarried man who is working for self. Go one step further, and say that men should command salaries ac-

ording to their needs and not their worth. Work is a commodity to be sold, regulated by its initial and market value."

"Such a statement is ridiculous. It is skill, not need, we consider when we employ men."

"If you consider it for one you must consider it for both. The question then remains, am I worth more money than I am getting?"

"Yes, you are, and you are going to get a \$5 raise next week for two reasons. You are worth it and you know how to go about getting a raise."

VIVIAN'S Heart to Heart Chat

HARDLY a day passes but I am asked what type of girls men admire most. The answer cannot be much more definite than the question. The reason for this is apparent. There are as many types of women in the world as there are tastes.

It is well that men and women and tastes should be very different. A lover of flowers will tell you, though, she has a preference for roses or violets. She loves asters, dahlias, jonquils, orchids and a great many more cultivated and wild flowers. It is just this splendid array of form, color and

perfume that makes so many lovers of flowers.

Shakespeare knew that there are as many types of women as there are different kinds of flowers. He loved and taught us to love the shrinking Jessica, the rollicking Rosalind, the romantic Celia, the fairylike Ophelia and the self-reliant Portia. He never once apologizes for Rosalind's pranks and vagaries, even when she appears in doublet and hose. He lets her go as far as she wants, as long as she does not overstep good taste and propriety.

He is equally true to the independent Portia. He encourages Portia to be her own true self at all times, even to pleading in court. Though her words have the character and eloquence of a man, they breathe with the feeling and tenderness of a woman. She is so gracious in her words and manners that she did not even shock the people of Shakespeare's day by pleading in court.

These women of Shakespeare's creation can teach the most up-to-date emancipated young woman many an important lesson. If you want to be admired and counted worth while, be sincere. Insincerity and falseness may win favor for a time, but, like most things that are plated, they tarnish readily. If sincerity is among the most lasting qualities, modesty is the one that is the most acceptable.

There is another great quality that Shakespeare recognized every woman should have to win the favor of the opposite sex and to stand well with other women. She must be willing to appreciate the virtues and overlook the weaknesses of other women. If you go through a half dozen or more of Shakespeare's plays you will find many of the women chums and all on friendly terms, even to the women in menial positions. They are kind, gracious and even go out of the way to do many little kindnesses for each other. This is only a mark of good breeding.

A knock is never a boost, especially where a man and woman are concerned. Therefore, if you want to be admired be a Shakespearean type of woman. This means to be sincere and individual. Be proud, but not too proud, about your charms. Do not be afraid to speak kindly and act well toward other women.

Dear Vivian: I have been going with a young woman six months and I want to marry her. The only thing that perturbs me is that I have not the courage to propose. Can I write to her and ask her to marry me, or can I propose over the telephone?

WORRIED.

Worried: If a man thinks enough of a girl to want to marry her he should propose to her in person. There are men who propose to girls by writing and over the telephone, but it is certainly not a complimentary way of doing. Love should know no timidity; so if you think enough of the girl to want her for a wife you should be willing to court her in an open and courteous way.

It is one thing to appreciate your good qualities and another to trust those virtues to others. Rosalind just as Portia knows that she is brilliant and interesting. Both women are grateful for their blessings, but they make no effort to make others appreciate their good qualities.