

CARE OF FLATIRONS.

How to Keep Them in Good Condition and Always Ready for Use.

It is so easy to keep the flatirons in good condition that there is little excuse for any housewife neglecting them, no matter how busy she may be. Any woman can easily tell at a glance when these articles are well kept. Some housewives will have in their possession irons that have been their mother's before them, and though they have been in constant use for years, are still as firm and smooth as any one could wish. Other women, with the same kind of irons, would, by neglect and carelessness, in a year or two render them unfit to use.

Where there are many starched clothes to be done up weekly, it is a good plan to wash the irons once a week, but where plain clothes and only a few starched are to be done, once a month is enough to wash the irons. Take some clean ammonia soap suds, and with a cloth wash the irons well, afterward wiping with a dry cloth, then put on the back of the stove in a clean place to dry thoroughly. To clean the irons always have a piece of coarse sand-paper, or a handful of coarse table-salt on a piece of wrapping-paper, in which to rub them.

Always have the top of the range perfectly clean ere putting on the irons, and never, if it can be avoided, allow them to get too hot. If such a thing does occur, cool them by setting up on end on the hearth. Some women, when in a hurry, cool irons by plunging them into cold water, which is a very poor plan and those treated in this way will soon be ruined. Never do this or allow it to be done with your irons, unless you are prepared to purchase a new set. There is also the danger of scalding from the steam that suddenly arises when the iron is first placed in the water. Some housewives black and polish the handles and tops of their irons the same as the stove, but it is scarcely to be commended, as there is always a danger of smearing the clothes.

Don't keep the irons on the stove when not in use, for it is sure to harm the temper of the iron, and don't, if it can be avoided, have irons on the stove when cooking, more particularly when the article cooking is one that is apt to flow or boil over, or while frying. After taking an iron from the stove, when wanted for use, first rub it over a piece of heavy wrapping-paper kept for that purpose, then rub the smooth part with a cloth in which is encased a bit of wax. Rub the iron well over a clean cloth and then it is ready for the clothes. In ironing starched clothes, if any of the starch sticks to the iron always scrape it off with a knife ere putting again to heat on the stove.

It is not always the best plan to keep the irons on a mantel or open shelf, although it is the usual way, for they are sure to be dusty when wanted. It is much better to keep them in a dry, closed place, so they may always be ready for use. An old lady of our acquaintance always used the lower oven of the range, which is called the hot closet, but in her range, at least, was misnamed, as it was a very cool place, and was just the kind of receptacle for any thing that was to be kept dry, such as irons.—Boston Budget.

CURIOUS PUNCTUATION.

A Number of Specimens Collected by a Fan-Loving Editor.

The following specimens of curious punctuation are given by the Printers' Register: A man who was suddenly taken sick "hastened home while every means for his recovery were resorted to. In spite of all his efforts, he died in the triumphs of the Christian religion." "A man was killed by a railroad car running into Boston, supposed to be deaf." A man writes: "We have decided to erect a school-house large enough to accommodate five hundred scholars five stories high." On a certain railway the following luminous direction was printed: "Hereafter, when trains in an opposite direction are approaching each other on separate lines, conductors and engineers will be requested to bring their respective trains to a dead halt before the point of meeting, and be careful not to proceed till each train has passed the other." A steamboat captain, advertising an excursion, says: "Tickets, twenty-five cents; children half-price to be had at the office." A hotel was thus advertised: "This hotel will be kept by the widow of the former landlord, Mr. Brown, who died last summer on a new and improved plan." "Wanted, a saddle-horse for a lady weighing about 250 pounds." An Iowa editor says: "We have received a basket of fine grapes from our friend W., for which he will please accept our compliments, some of which are nearly two inches in diameter." "Board may be had at No. 4 Pearl street for two gentlemen with gas." Over a bridge at Atlanta, Ga., is the following: "Any person driving over this bridge in a pace faster than a walk shall, if a

white man, he must give dollars, and a negro, receive twenty-five lashes half the penalty to be bestowed on the informer." A newspaper contained this: "We have two school-rooms sufficiently large to accommodate three hundred pupils one above another." Another newspaper, in describing the doings of a convention at Cleveland, said: "The procession was very fine, and nearly two miles long, as was also the prayer of Dr. Perry, the chaplain."

—The Christian Leader, of Edinburgh, calls Dr. Amelia B. Edwards the most learned woman in the world.

GENERAL SPORTING GOSSIP.

Spalding has refused two offers of \$1,000 for the release of Tebeau.

"Mike Kelly and his eight assistants" is the latest for the Boston club.

There is no truth in the report that Capt. Sam Brown intends to retire from the turf. The Weir, the "Belfast Spider," will open a sparring school in Boston.

Paddy Ryan will next month step his castor out of the ring and begin work in the United States mint in San Francisco.

William Fazo Page, the champion rifle shot of Australia, is coming to America to contend against the best rifle shots in this country.

George Godfrey says that he is ready to box Sullivan six, eight or ten rounds or to a finish, within four or eight weeks from signing articles.

La Blanche says \$500 is too little for a finish fight with small gloves. And yet many good men are glad to get one-fifth of that amount for such a battle.

Pat Killeen and Patey Cardiff have signed articles to fight fifteen rounds, with two ounce gloves, Marquis of Queensberry rules, at Minneapolis on June 26.

George Smith, the sprinter, will shortly start for Sheffield, England, where he will run in the September handicap. Smith won the great Whitcombe handicap of 1881.

R. L. Boeckman, who holds the middle states lawn tennis championship pennant, will compete against several promising players in the championship tournament that is to be decided at Hoboken on June 6.

Charley McCarthy, the ex-amateur champion feather weight, is training for his fifteen round skin glove fight with Tom Burns, of England, to take place in Boston in three weeks. They will fight at 112 pounds and for \$300.

Arthur Chambers will go to San Francisco with Joe Acton. Chambers will try to open a sporting resort at the Golden Gate, while Acton will meet James Faulkner at the Olympic Athletic club rooms in a catch-as-catch-can wrestling match.

Who ever heard of the batter running the bases the wrong way? Dan O'Leary did it in Fort Huron in 1883. He was so excited that he made the circuit by way of third instead of first on a home run hit. Dan was hot when the umpire called him out.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Some one asked Comiskey about a certain pitcher, under contract to the St. Louis club. "Oh, he's a good man on the 1st and 15th of every month." The point of Comiskey's remark will be seen when it is understood that the pay days of every team in the association occur on the dates mentioned.

Cummings' time for the late three-quarters of a mile race with George was 3 minutes 12 3/4 seconds. George, when an amateur, went the distance in 3 minutes 8 3/4 seconds. In this country he ran it in 3 minutes 10 1/2 seconds. The best record by an American is the 3 minutes 13 seconds, made by Lon Myers as an amateur.

Gaffney, the umpire, and Bushong, the catcher, are probably the only men in the business who wear chest protectors under their shirts. They are small affairs, but an effective and great improvement over the cumbersome big wind bag that most catchers use, and weary the spectators by putting them on and off during the game.

CURIOUS THINGS OF LIFE.

Cadillac, Mich., has a barber who never talks. He is deaf and dumb.

A man in St. Louis was fined \$5 for trying to kiss a young lady the other day.

A Philadelphia murderer bears the appropriate name of Killer.

The bloom stalk of a century plant at a Florida exposition grows at the rate of six inches a day.

Darius Scott, of Arkansas, is 95 years old, and has his gravestone all lettered, except the date of death.

A man in Connecticut, who built a fancy urn, stole eight tombstones from a graveyard to build his mangers.

The female horse thief is the latest from Ohio, two "pretty and stylishly dressed" ones having been jailed at Akron the other day.

A bubbling well that throws up small rubies, diamond dust and fragments of loadstones among its sand, is the latest wonder reported from Indiana.

Every man on the Kansas City police force, it is said, is a church member. Two of the officers are elders in the church and a number of them are deacons.

John Jones, a near sighted young man living in Bath county, Ky., attempted to cut off the head of a chicken, missed his mark, and took off his left hand instead at the wrist.

A California widow had plans for a \$50,000 monument for her late departed, but when the lawyers got through fighting over the estate the widow was doing housework at \$2 per week for the man who draughted the monument.

The maddest woman south of the line is that Georgia she who sat up till 1 o'clock awaiting her husband's return from "the lodge," and upon going upstairs found the supposed culprit safe in bed, where he had been snoring away her hours of vigil.

A New York business man has a novel method of refreshing his memory. When he has something important to attend to the next day he writes himself a postal card reminding him of the matter, and sliding the card among the mail the next morning, attends to it the first thing.

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