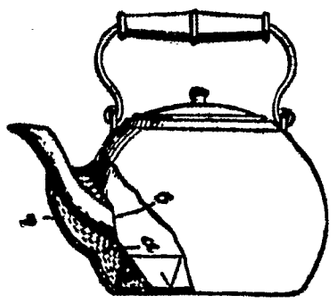
HELPFUL HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES

Teakettle That Always Retains Some Water.



To protect kettles from the injurious effects of being inadvertently left on the stove or fire without containing a sufficient quantity of water to prevent burning or opening of seams is the object of an invention herewith illustrated. The illustration shows a side elevation of the kettle broken away to show the confined water after the kettle has been emptied of all the contents possible.

In constructing the kettle the spout is extended inwardly, as shown at 6, to provide a water retaining space (7) beneath the extension and surrounding it. It will be noted that the confined water is between the dotted line "a" and the front wall of the kettle and is amply sufficient, when the kettle is placed on its bottom on the stove, to protect the bottom from burning.

It will be obvious that, no matter how far the kettle is tilted forward, the confined water cannot pass out through the spout, as the entrance of the spout extension is placed at a height above the kettle bottom sufficient to prevent it.

Kitchen Kinks.

To keep lettuce fresh place it in a granite pan, sprinkle with a little cold water, then cover with an inverted granite pan, and it will keep fresh for a week.

If a pinch of soda is added to gooseberries or currants while cooking they will require far less sugar for sweetening.

Surgeon's adhesive plaster can be used for fruit jar labels, inbeling the back with ink.

When chicken for boiling seems tough add a teaspounful of soda while boiling.

If the bottom of the oven is sprinkled with salt the bottoms of layer cakes will not brown too much, as often happens.

Laxative For Children.

Place a pound of washed figs and a cupful of pure olive oil in an agate saucepan; simmer gently on the back of the stove until the figs are plump and tender; then remove them to a glass jar. Add to the sirup the juice of a lemon and a tablespoonful of honey, and boil until quite thick. Pour this over the figs and keep tightly covered. When a laxative is needed a single fig will usually prove all that is necessary.

Pie Crust Cheese Fingers.

Small pieces of pie crust may be made into cheese fingers which are delicious served with hot cocoa or for the schoolgirl's lunch box. Roll paste very thin, sprinkle with grated cheese and a dash of cayenne pepper, fold over and again roll out thin and cut into fingers three-quarters of an inch wide and two inches long. Bake in hot oven, watch closely and remove when a delicate brown.

Cleaning Chicken.

The cleanest and most convenient way to prepare a chicken for cooking is to remove the feathers and singe it, then scrub thoroughly with a vegetable brush in a pan of hot soda water. Afterward draw and wash the inside with clean water if it is to be roasted. The ordinary washing a chicken receives does not remove the dirt and grease which accumulate on the skin under the feathers.

Roasting a Fowl.

So many times the white meat of a fowl is dry and tasteless. Here is a remedy: Always place the bird on its knees to roast it. The juices will then naturally fall, making the white meat juicy and delicious. Fifteen minutes before serving turn the fowl on its back to brown the breast.

To Season Utensils.

New enamel and tin cooking utensils require seasoning before they are used. To do this, simply set them, stand on the back of the range for two hours, filled with scalding water and bicarbonate of soda, one teaspoonful to a quart of water, then wash and dry in the regular manner.

Hawaiian Salad.

Place round slices of either fresh or canned pineapple in a bed of lettuce leaves. Around the pineapple arrange balls of cream cheese rolled in chopped English walnuts. Garnish with puffed rice and serve with mayonnaise or French dressing.

Cleaning White Woolens.

For cleaning white clothes, especially woolen, rub common block magnesia into the garment thoroughly, wrap up and lay away a few days, afterward brushing with a good clothes brush.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Softening and Hardening Iron.

Some cast iron is chilled in the process of making until it is almost impossible to drill or work it in any way. This may be very easily overcome by treating it in the following way: Take the cast iron and heat it to a little above a cherry red, take it from the fire and place a piece of sulphur on the place to be drilled. If the iron gets too cold place it on the fire again, just keeping it above a cherry red. Continue to throw sulphur on it until it becomes soft enough to drill.

Cast iron may be hardened in the following way. Heat it to a cherry red, then sprinkle it with cyanide of potassium. Then heat the iron again to a little above a red. The iron should then be dipped in water and cooled.

A rod treated in this way should be hard enough to resist the cut of a file and upon breaking it should show that the hardening has penetrated to the interior. The file should not cut the interior any easier than it did the outside.

Wrought iron may also be case hardened in the same way.

Care of Spark Plugs.

When a spark plug refuses to work none of the parts being broken, the trouble is generally due to a small piece of carbon lodged between the points of the porcelain inside the plug has become coated with carbon. Carbon, being a conductor of electricity the current travels through the carbon instead of jumping the gap and making a spark. The remedy is to remove the carbon. This may be done by brushing the carbon off the porcelain after soaking it in kerosene, or the porcelain may be removed from the plug and wiped clean with a cloth wet with kerosene. When the porcelain is replaced the nut should not be screwed down very tight. If screwed too tight the porcelain will crack when the engine becomes hot. After replacing the porcelain adjust the spark gap to the thickness of a smooth dime.

Safety Device For Platforms.

A large percentage of the accidents that happen to painters and other workmen working on platforms that are suspended by block and tackle occur when the fall rope slips from the hands of one of the workers, and to prevent just such accidents as this a

OPERATION OF SAFETY DEVICE.

simple and apparently effective device has been invented. It consists of a steel hoop with a solid end through which the bolt at the top of the hook passes forming a pivotal connection with the hoop, and free to swing up or down. The fall rope and the adjacent rope pass through the hoop. At the lower end the hoop is large enough to permit the ropes to work freely, but tapers to a tight fit at the outer end. In case a workman loses his hold on the fall rope the friction of the rope causes the hoop to fly upward when the fall rope is forced into the small end of the hoop and holds the platform securely.

Restoring Old Batteries.

Liquid cells are restored by replacing the zinc or other metal parts used up in making the electricity. It is sometimes necessary to replace the liquid.

Dry cells may be restored to a certain extent by removing the cardboard cover, punching several holes in the zinc can with a nail and setting the cell in a jar of strong ammonia solution, using it as a wet battery. There is no practical method of restoring dry cells to their original strength, as a considerable part of the zinc has been eaten up in the chemical action that makes, or rather sets free, the electricity.

Smoke Prevention.

According to a Canadian patent for treating fuel to prevent smoke the coal or like fuel is sprayed before or during combustion with a solution of sodium chlorate or perchlorate and sodium permanganate. Preferably the perchlorate and permanganate are used in equal parts by weight and dissolved in the same weight of water. A smaller proportion of chlorate is used and the mixture may be greatly diluted. The heat of the furnace liberates the oxygen, which consumes and prevents the emission of smoke.

Visibility of Red Light.

Red lights are chosen for danger signals on railways for the reason that they are visible at a greater distance than those of any other color. Red light has a visible range of nearly three and a half miles in the standard signal light. The next in strength is green light, which can be seen under similar conditions for three miles. Blue, purple and yellow can be seen only about a mile and are likely to be confused with the other colors.

Restoring Tan Color to Leather.

A leather company discovered that oil of citronella would restore various shades of tan and brown leathers to their original colors. It is only necessary to rub the leather over with the oil and later polish with a good leather dressing.

Removing Adhesive Plaster.

Every one who has had occasion to use adhesive plaster is familiar with the line of adherent, discolored material that is left on the skin around the edges of the plaster when the strip is removed. This adherent substance resists scrubbing with soap and all ordinary means of removal. Even scraping with a knife fails to remove the grime and stickiness completely. But a few drops of gasoline, benzine, ether or chloroform on a piece of cloth will remove the stain as if by magic. The basis of adhesive plaster is rubber and the four substances mentioned are rubber solvents. Los Angeles News.

Carpet Knights.

"Carpet knights," quoth a writer once in the long ago, "are such as have studied law, physics or other arts of sciences whereby they have become famous and seeing that they are not knighted as soldiers, they are not therefore to use the horseman's title or spurs. They are only termed simple miles and milites, 'knight,' or 'Knights of the Carpetry' or 'Knights of the Green Cloth,' to distinguish them from those knights that are dubbed as soldiers in the field." — Argonaut.

Dogs and Infection.

Dogs can carry infection along with them, as was clearly proved at Constantinople in 1911, when a single animal, entering the city from an infected district, started a cholera epidemic that killed more than [illegible]. The dog, a valuable show, was taken into his house by a druggeman, and a few hours later he and all his family were stricken down with the complaint, which spread thence to all parts of the city, even the sultan's palace being invaded. Exchange.

THE HELPING HAND

Only those who have extended a helping hand to those in distress know the quiet joy that is born of such good works. The secret of happiness, at least of the most assured and tranquil happiness that is possible in this life, is to be absorbed in the affairs of others and particularly in their troubles. The man who can be so absorbed is sure not to be miserable, because he will never be aware of his own misfortunes. For them he will substitute the misfortunes of others.

The Balance of Nature.

If everything born lived, the tenth generation of a single aphis would equal in actual weight some 1,000,000,000 men, each weighing some twenty stone, and all in ten days. The common house fly could produce 20,000,000,000 in a single season. Of 700 spider eggs laid by a common garden spider only two finally survive. In fifteen years each pair of birds would have increased to more than 2,000,000,000. Twice the average number of birds certainly perish yearly. Even a pair of elephants in five centuries would become the progenitors of 15,000,000 elephants. Nature keeps down the numbers by starvation and other methods. Pearson's.

THE LITTLE THINGS

The little things in life I love —
A song, a word, a smile,
An hour of happy blue above,
'Neath which I walk the while,
For at the best, tho' be our state
The peasant's or the king's,
This life is a mosaic great,
But made from little things.

Getting Ready.

"I understand that Jack has been thrown over by no fewer than three girls he's been engaged to."

"Yes; he's working now on an adjustable engagement ring." — Chicago News.

Ably Defined.

A certain archbishop, when asked whether it was a grievous lie for a woman to misstate her age, replied:

"A lie may be defined as a statement made by one rational being to another rational being with the intent to deceive. Now, as no rational being would think of asking a woman her age with the expectation of being answered truthfully, one of the elements of the lie is lacking, and the woman's statement cannot, strictly speaking, be defined as such." — Judge.

THE LOVE OF GOLD

Men pursue riches under the idea that their possession will set them at ease and above the world. But the law of association often makes those who begin by loving gold as a servant finish by becoming themselves its slaves, and independence without wealth is at least as common as wealth without independence. — Colton.

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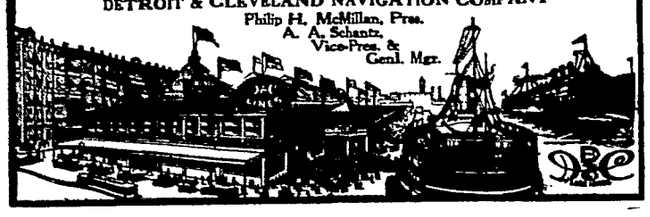

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