

## How to Renovate Old Furniture

THERE is scarcely a home that does not possess a piece of old furniture which it may be desirable to make more presentable and of practical utility. This can often be done at home by a person of average mechanical ability.

Without care furniture soon becomes shabby. A thorough cleaning once a month, at least, should be given to upholstered furniture that is in every-day use. Articles covered with goods having a pile should be brushed with a bristle broom; but for haircloth a light switch works best, wiping off the surface afterward with a damp cloth. Wipe the wood with a rag dampened with kerosene, rubbing well.

### OYSTERS AS FOOD

Chemists say that a quart of oysters contains about the same quantity of actual nutritive substance as a quart of milk or a pound of very lean beef, or a pound and a half of fresh codfish or two-thirds of a pound of bread. But the uses of the nutrients vary; for instance, the lean meat and codfish are mostly flesh formers, consisting largely of protein, while the bread, with its starch, has but little of these, and serves the body as fuel and supplies it with heat and muscular energy. Oysters come nearer to milk than almost any other common food material, both in amount and proportions of nutrients. Their value for supplying the body with material to build up its parts, repair its wastes, and furnish it with heat and energy are pretty nearly the same.

But the cost of the flesh-forming material in oysters is very high. When they are twenty five cents a quart, the protein that is contained in them costs one dollar and sixty-eight cents a pound, while the cost of protein in milk, at seven cents a quart, is fifty-three cents a pound; in salt codfish, forty-three cents; in mackerel, seventy-nine; in wheat flour, eleven; and in beef from thirty-three cents to one dollar and six cents. Therefore oysters are classed as delicacies rather than as staple food. But the demand for these delicacies is steadily increasing, and under the efforts of the shell fish commissioner of New York the supply of oysters will soon enormously increase within the waters controlled by that state.—*Good Housekeeping.*

### Restoring Old Solid Wood Furniture.

If possible, have an uncarpeted room, in which there is no other furniture, for your workshop. If the piece to be treated has any upholstery about it, first cleanse this well, then cover it as well as possible with some close textured material to keep out the dust. If the varnished work is in bad condition, being cracked or having several layers of varnish, remove the varnish down to the bare wood. This may be done by scraping off or by means of a solvent. I prefer the former method.

Use a chisel, plane-bit, old knife, bit of glass, or sandpaper. Or, if a solvent is preferred, here are several: Spirits of ammonia is very effective, but must be entirely removed afterward with water and vinegar. Ammonia is a powerful alkali, and vinegar or oxalic acid, neutralizes its action. Apply the ammonia freely, using a sponge fastened to a handle, and as soon as the varnish becomes soft, scrape it away with a knife. Repeat the ammonia and scraping until the wood is reached, then at once wash off with an acid. Or two parts of ammonia and one of spirits of turpentine,

### LIFE.

"What is life but what a man is thinking of all day?"—*Boswell.*  
If life were only what a man  
Thinks daily of—his little care;  
His petty ill; his trivial plan;  
His sordid scheme to hoard and spare;  
His meagre ministry; his small  
Unequal strength to breast the stream;  
His large regret—repentance small;  
His poor, unrealized dream—  
'Twere scarcely worth a passing nod:  
Meet it should end where it began.  
But 'tis not so. Life is what God  
Is daily thinking of for man.  
—*Julie M. Lippmann, in Harper's Magazine.*

### EXPERIENCE TALKS.

To cream butter, heat your bowl a little. Pour hot water in, and then turn it out. The bowl must not be hot enough to melt the butter. It may be creamed with the spoon or with the hand.

To take ink out of linen, dip the spotted parts immediately in pure melted tallow, then wash out the tallow and the ink will have disappeared.

If your oven is too hot you can cool it by putting in a dish of water. If it is too hot on the top, lift the lids which are over the oven.

A good supply of dish towels is a necessity; do not try to get along with a few. Health and comfort are promoted by an abundance of every furnishing in the kitchen department.

To wash calico without fading, put three gills of salt in four quarts of water. Put the calico in this while the solution is hot, and leave it in until it becomes cold; then wash and rinse.

Bread crusts should be dried in the oven and put away in paper bags until wanted for use.  
Always keep the inside of your coffee-pot bright to ensure good coffee. Boil it out occasionally with soap, water and wood-ashes, and scour thoroughly.

All groceries and household supplies should be put away in their own proper receptacles, and not left standing around in paper bags. Keep rice, oatmeal, cracked wheat, tapioca, etc., in close-covered glass jars; tea and coffee in tin canisters; meal and flour in covered wooden buckets.

A good plan for keeping butter cool and sweet in summer is to fill a box with sand to within an inch or two of the top; sink the butter jars in the sand, then

### JOHNNY IN THE HARVEST-FIELD.

Father and mother and sister Lil  
Are down by the dark blue sea,  
And I'm on the farm with Uncle Bill,  
Who is making it hot for me!

### TWO INKY WAYS.

There was a man who advertised  
But once—a single time.  
In spot obscure placed he his ad,  
And paid for it a dime.

And just because it didn't bring  
Him customers by score,  
"All advertising is a fake,"  
He said, or rather, swore.

He seemed to think one hammer-tap  
Would drive a nail clear in;  
That from a bit of tiny thread  
A weaver tens could spin.

If he this reasoning bright applied  
To eating, doubtless he  
Would claim one little bite would feed  
Ten men a century.

Some day, though, he will learn that to  
Make advertising pay  
He'll have to add ads. to his ad,  
And advertise each day.  
—E. G. Townsend, in New York Sun.

### SHAVING CARE.

See Illustration.

The foundation of the case is of cardboard cut out as shown in our illustration. Each side is lined with blue satin and bound with the same, and filled with scalloped pieces of fine colored tissue paper. A piece of dark maroon velvet is put on the outside of the cover, and embroidered in chain and knotted stitch, with pink, blue, and yellow silk; the rest of the embroidery is worked in chain and overcast stitch, with two shades of olive silk. The two halves are fastened together with blue and maroon satin ribbon tied in bows.

### Kitchen Conveniences.

The basis of convenience in the kitchen is a good and sufficient supply of utensils, yet many people economize in kettles and spiders while indulging in the extravagance of elaborate tidies and lambrequins. A large assortment of kitchen spoons and steel knives is essential.

One careful housekeeper has learned how to sharpen knives to perfection, and will not permit her servants to undertake this duty. She says that she has had so many knives ruined that she prefers to use the steel herself.

Among the knives sold for the kitchen are a carving knife, a scraping knife and bread knife. All dealers in cutlery say that steel knives must be kept away from the fire or their temper will be lost, and they will be of no more value than an iron knife.

Besides these kitchen small tools there are needed covered sauce-pans, pureesieves, vegetable-strainers, nutmeg-graters, of the kind which does not grate the fingers as well as the nutmegs.

Something particularly useful is the lemon-squeezer of glass, which is much better than a metal squeezer. It is said that copper stew-pans are much less used than formerly, because they require to be frequently re-tinned, and become a source of danger unless kept perfectly clean and bright inside.

### THE TREATMENT OF BIRDS.

CAPTIVITY induces many diseases unknown to the free bird. In Germany especial attention has been given to the study of birds, both wild and caged, and much that is of value has been written; and later American birds have been given considerable attention.

One fact is established beyond question; filth means disease, suffering and death.

In treating of the subject of cage-birds let me urge the necessity of large, square cages; round ones are a prolific source of such ailments as vertigo, and cramped quarters are to be deplored. After providing the cage, keep it clean. Birds have, naturally, a higher temperature, and throw off profusely from skin and lungs, making great care necessary to ensure cleanliness. Again, in their flutterings about, they toss food and water around, and this mixes with the droppings, which rapidly ferment, and soon produces a foul, unhealthful condition.

Every cage should receive daily care, and this care should extend to every part of it.

Birds are subject to sore feet when their apartments are neglected. In cleaning sore feet, soak them first in tepid water until the dust softens and loosens of itself; then put a few drops of arnica in water and apply with a feather often.

Both comfort and health depend largely on where the cage hangs. Birds should have sunlight, but never the direct rays in summer. Many a sweet song is hushed forever by the cage being left on the sunny side of the house. Of course this does not refer to tropical birds.

Canaries need frequent sun baths, but they cannot bear direct rays. The cage itself should be thoroughly exposed to sunlight when its occupant is out. Direct draughts and damp air are deadly foes to our feathered pets.

The ordinary fancier pays too little attention to what she terms "these trifles." Cool, clean water for both drinking and bathing should be supplied in abundance. One can imagine nothing more wantonly cruel than to deprive a little bird of its freedom and then fall to

GINGER COOKIES.—By Mrs. Jane Eliza F., October, 1878. One cup each of molasses, sugar and shortening, (part butter, part pork fat will do), one teaspoonful of salt, one dessert spoonful of ginger, two small teaspoonfuls of soda, one-half cup of warm water poured on the soda, then put in the molasses and beat well before putting in the other ingredients.

Mrs. M. C.—To make pineapple sherbet, put two pounds of sugar in a quart of water and let boil five minutes. Take one can of pineapple and press through a colander; add to the syrup with the juice of a lemon. Let cool, strain into a freezer and freeze. Take out the dasher, add the beaten whites of two eggs, cover the sherbet and set aside for one hour.

supply its natural wants. In winter it were well to warm the drinking water a trifle, and that for the bath should be milk warm.

In very cold weather, unless the temperature of the room is uniform night and day, omit the bath. In feeding cage-birds the aim should be to give them food as near like what they would choose, if they were free, as possible.

Every cage should be supplied with gravel, cuttle-bone and rock salt. Because some birds manage to live without them, is no sign that they do not need them.

A food highly recommended for canaries, parrots, mocking birds, etc., is Macena biscuit. It is said to keep both body and voice in good condition.

Do not give a canary hemp seed. Parrots eat it, and some others take it in mixture.

Feed the young canary rape and canary seed, until it is four months, with a daily allowance of three-fourths teaspoonful of Macena biscuit or egg-food. After that age, a little green food may be introduced on the bill of fare, but sweets should be avoided.

Mocking birds and the thrush family are known as "soft food eaters." Meal worms, ants' eggs, earthworms, hairless caterpillars with fruit, grated carrots and potatoes, meat and boiled beef heart are suitable for such.

The following formula makes an excellent diet for such birds.

Chop finely four pounds of beef and dry it in the oven; grate one and one-half pounds carrots, squeeze and dry them; grate thirteen ounces of white bread; grind about thirteen pounds of hemp seed; add the finely chopped yolks of a dozen hard boiled eggs. Mix all these ingredients thoroughly, adding sweet oil or lard until the mixture is soft, but don't get in too much grease.

A less quantity than this may be made. For such birds as the cardinal and red bird make a mixture of rice (in the husk) hemp seed, sunflower seed and wheat. Corn may also be fed. Meal worms and spiders tempt their appetites. The mocking bird's food suits them, too.

For nightingales, finches, robins and their kind, the following food is agreeable, and when once made, so handy.

Bake a loaf of white bread very hard and pound it fine; add the same quantity of grated carrots, the same of hard boiled beef heart, chopped fine, and a small quantity of hemp seed. Mix with water until it seems loose. Different seeds and fruits suit different species, and all food should be tested cautiously.

Parrots should have corn, oats, hemp seed, sunflower seed, boiled rice, potatoes, bread, milk nuts, fruits and small seeds of all kinds. They are hearty, but it does not take much to kill them. A friend lost hers by bathing him too much, though writers on the subject advocate a daily bath, or at least a daily sprinkling. These birds must have plenty of rock salt.

Birds are subject to disease, but if carefully watched oftentimes strict hygienic measures will ward off a settled malady.

Taking cold brings divers diseases in its train. For hoarseness, especially in song birds, deprive of the bath, give warm water to drink, and feed lettuce seed.

If the bird has talked or sung too

much, just put him in a dark, warm room to rest. Worms in the windpipe trouble many a little songster when nobody knows what the matter is.

At first the victim acts sick, begins to cough, gets worse, throws its head from side to side, and finally suffocates if not relieved. The only chance is to kill the parasite. This can best be done by surrounding the bird by dense tobacco smoke, and feeding him meal-worms dipped in sweet oil. Take care that the smoke does not choke him.

If you feed green food injudiciously in summer, your pet may be afflicted with inflammation of the bowels. First the droppings will be green and afterward mixed with blood. There will be great thirst. In treating this give oatmeal tea, but no water, and keep the bird warm. If it is a seed-eater feed only seed or grain; if a meat-eater give meal-worms and ants' eggs.

Mild cases of constipation may be cured by using green food or giving the juice of yellow carrots for drink. One or two drops of castor oil may be given in the food, and the bath removed.

Feeding poppy seed is recommended for dysentery. Half boil it for parrots and thrushes. If the case be a stubborn one, resort to a drop or two of tincture of opium. Macena biscuits help birds through the moulting season.

But of all the annoying, destroying things, parasites on cage-birds are the worst. Lice or mites may be suspected if the bird is restless at night, frequently putting its beak under its wing. Search for the intruders at once, and if you are satisfied of their presence, blow Persian insect powder thoroughly through the feathers and into every part of the cage.

### FOR WASHING WINDOWS.

THE professional workman washes and polishes the large plate-glass windows of stores and public buildings by using a muslin bag filled with whiting, and two large chamois skins.

First, the glass is wiped with a dry cloth to free it from dust. Then the whiting is dusted thickly over it; after that it is wiped off with one of the chamois skins, which is dampened, but is not wet, and lastly the dry chamois skin is used for polishing. Housekeepers will find this method much superior to the ordinary way of washing windows.

Another excellent method is to take a sponge and dip it in alcohol, rub the glass over quickly with this, wipe with a newspaper, and polish with a chamois skin. The wood alcohol is used instead of the pure alcohol, as it is much cheaper and answers the purpose as well. It is a poison and should be so labelled.

A little turpentine dissolved in warm water is also excellent for washing windows, mirrors or glass globes.

It is important that no soap should be used on the windows if they are to be kept bright and shining.

It is also necessary to have the frames and all the woodwork about the windows perfectly clean before beginning to wash the glass.

Choose a dull day if possible for window cleaning, or at least a time when the sun is not shining on the glass.