

# HELPS IN THE LAUNDRY

BY ANNA SAWYER



VERY woman who has answered the time-honored query, "How shall we wash our flannels?" thinks her own to be the best and only method; but I would beg those whose lot it has been to ask, rather than reply, to try once again. Let her, for the time, forget that one sister insists upon boiling water, another lukewarm, a third possibly a judicious mixture of the two, and boldly depend upon *cold*, and receive her reward in the soft and snowy flannels which she craves.

## ABOUT THE WASHING OF FLANNELS

**I**MMERSE in cold water in which is a little borax. Leave the article soaking awhile; repeat the process, rinsing each time in the cold water. If very much soiled, a slight lather of soap may be made in the first water; or soap may be rubbed upon spots. Do not wring more than is absolutely needful, but "souse" instead. All mothers who know how difficult it is to keep the flannel skirts of infants, which are so often wet, soft, will never try any other way if they try this. The same process, using a small portion of soap-tree bark, will restore almost any woolen gown, white or colored. There is reason in this. Manufacturers of woolens have the raw materials washed in cold, not hot or warm water, and know full well that only in this way can they get the full softness of the fleece.

Much, however, of the success of the method in home use, depends upon the ease with which they thus keep the same temperature. Doubtless, if the same degree could be maintained through washing and rinsing, there would be the same result. This is practically impossible, however, while the changes are fatal to the wool fabric.

## TO MAKE WASHING BLANKETS EASY

**I**F one has a suitable place for the purpose, the washing of blankets may become an easy matter. In an open space, have a line tightly stretched out of doors. To this fasten the upper edge of the blanket. Have strips of cotton sewed to the bottom at intervals; tie these to pegs, which drive well into the ground. Now *turn on the hose*. Cold water, of course, and plenty of it. Drench the blankets well, on both sides. If much soiled, rub spots with soap and drench again. The force of the stream will do more than wringing. After the article is quite clean, leave it to dry; never mind if it does rain; if the work has been thorough it will not streak, but be all the better for it. When the sun has completed the task, you will possess blankets as white, soft and unshrunk as new, and the nap will not be destroyed.

## WOOLENS WASHED IN COLD WATER

**W**OOLEN waists may be washed in cold water without ripping, and chudabs may become rivals to those done by the French dry cleanser. Old woolens which have suffered much from different baths of varied temperature, may be always partially, often wholly, restored in this way, though such need a little more patience, and sometimes more than one washing.

## THE CLEANSING OF LACES

**F**ROM woolens to laces is a wide step; but while on the laundry subject, a word upon the cleansing of the latter. Never *rub* laces. If badly mussed, roll upon a bottle or round stick; dampen slightly; when quite dry, unroll, and tack the lace with large stitches in folds of about six inches. Be sure that the edges be even. You will now have a sort of compress of lace. Drop this into cold water, in which put a little borax or ammonia, or both. Soak until the dirt is out, changing water if needful. Never rub the lace, but it may be gently squeezed, now and then, lengthwise. When it is quite clean, place it just as it is in the sun to dry, after which lay it upon the palm of the left hand and slap it vigorously with the right several times. Now remove the stitches by cutting, do not pull them; refold the lace, but in different creases, and repeat the process, but pat, rather than slap, the folds this time.

The result will be excellent; the lace soft and betraying no sign of its bath. It should never be ironed, unless upon clothing where it cannot be removed. It is well, therefore, to use other than lace trimmings for cotton garments, unless one chooses torchon, a notable exception.

If other lace is chosen, however, it should not be much starched, if at all, and the iron should be used not along the length, but up and down. In this way the full effect of the width is kept, while by the other a wide edge appears narrower, and the pattern distorted. After ironing, the laundress should soften the lace by the gentle use of her thumb and forefinger; then gather it into little plaits, pinching them slightly, and, after shaking it out lightly, the lace edge will wear its best aspect.

## WHEN TO TRY ON NEW SHOES

**T**HERE is a time for everything in this world, and so it is that the best time to get fitted to shoes is in the latter part of the day. The feet are then at their maximum of size. Activity naturally enlarges them. Much standing tends, also, to enlarge the feet. New shoes should always be tried on over moderately thick stockings. Then you have a margin of room by putting on thinner stockings if the shoes feel ill at ease.