

the fifth department, may be considered as among the most important features of the institution. They are held from October to March inclusive, and during April, May, and June—the former constituting the winter, and the latter the summer session. The instruction imparted in these classes corresponds with that of the preceding departments, but is necessarily less thorough and systematic. The subjects taught are thirty-one in number, and of the most varied description, from Divinity to Shorthand. For the winter session the fee for any single course is £1 11s. 6d., those of Divinity and Practical Chemistry being excepted. The Divinity course is free to all students who choose to avail themselves of it; the charge for the Practical Chemistry class is £2 2s. for the course. Four classes may be attended by the student for £5 5s., five classes for £6 11s. 3d. After Christmas, the fees for the winter session are reduced to £1 1s. for one class, and £3 10s. for four classes. The fees for the summer session are the same as for the second half of the winter session.

In the School Department of King's College a sound preliminary education is provided for the young, with a view to fitting them for the business of life, whether they are designed for the learned or military professions, or for general or mercantile pursuits. It consists of three divisions—the Upper, the Middle, and

the Lower School—and the general age at which pupils are admitted ranges from eight to sixteen years. The fees for the whole regular course of instruction in any division amount to £8 per term for those entering under sixteen years of age, and £10 per term for those entering over sixteen. The entrance fees are in all £2 13s. 6d.

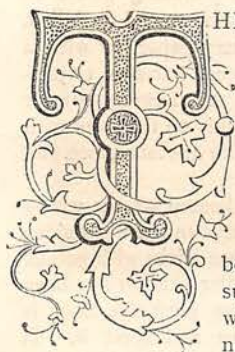
Considering that it is a comparatively new institution, not yet having been established half a century, King's College is well off—as might have been concluded from what we said on the subject of the legacies and benefactions with which it has been favoured—in the matter of scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes. To enumerate all of these would be tedious, to mention only a few would be unsatisfactory, so we shall pass them over for the present.

The numbers attending the various classes in the Lent Term of 1874 were as follow:—Of matriculated students there were 383; occasional students, 458; those attending the school, 558. This gave a total of 1,399. The greatest number of matriculated students was in the Medical Department—namely, 161. The occasional students in the Evening Class Department numbered 408.

With these figures we shall leave the College. It has already achieved an important work, and one may safely predict that there lies before it a long career of increasing usefulness.

HOUSE-CLEANING :

AND THE BEST WAY TO SET ABOUT IT.



THE spring is now far on its way, and truly it has been delightful to feel the warm breezes taking the place of cold easterly winds, to watch the evenings lengthen, and to welcome the approach of summer with its wealth of flowers.

Not quite so delightful has it been, however, to notice the bright sun piercing into each part of our winter-decked rooms, which until now looked so comfortable and cosy, disclosing the corners where the black dust from the fires has settled on walls, paint, and curtains, seeming to call with an almost audible voice upon every careful housewife to bestir herself, to summon her handmaidens, to collect her brooms and her pails, to lay in a good store of soft soap, soda, energy, and good temper, and to commence her attack upon what has been termed by one of our latter-day philosophers "matter in the wrong place"—namely, dirt.

I suppose there are not many houses into which this Magazine penetrates which do not undergo once a year, if not twice, what is termed a "thorough clean," and though there is no doubt that, whilst people are in the midst of the agony, it is by no means a delightful time, still when the operation is over the disagreeableness is forgotten in the pleasure of feeling that the

house is clean from top to bottom—is clean, *smells* clean, *feels* clean—that not a corner has been left untouched, and that each remote and unseen part is as sweet and fresh as the most prominent and visible. For my own part, I think there are few feelings of satisfaction so refreshing as that which arises from the knowledge that the battle against dirt has been once more waged, and the victory won; and as it is a pleasure which I have experienced again and again, I shall be very glad if I can put down a few hints which will help some of my sisters who have not the weight of so many winters on their shoulders as I have, to attain the same comfortable experience.

The first thing to aim at in beginning the "thorough clean," is that it should be attended with as little discomfort as possible to those members of the household who do not actually take part in it. I think the wife and mother ought to determine that no forethought or contrivance that she can possibly exert shall be spared by which her husband and her sons may be shielded from discomfort. Of course everybody knows that whitewashers, painters, and paperhangers are members of society who entirely refuse to be smuggled quietly into a house, and pushed gently out of it. Wherever they have sway they make their presence felt; and when they appear, the very best thing the gentleman of the house can do is to start on that business journey he has been talking about so long, and let the women and the whitewashers have it to themselves. It is not

very often, however, that all the rooms of the house are painted, and the ceiling whitewashed, in one season; and with a little arrangement the cleaning of a large portion of the house may be got over without the gentlemen suspecting that it is going on. I think it is a good plan to take two or three of the bedrooms that are of the least importance, and have them cleaned gradually quite early in the year, before the regular cleaning comes on; so that when the work is really begun, it will not feel to be quite so overpowering. It is very disheartening for servants to have to set to work, and clean a house of even moderate size right through, one room after another; and if part of the house can be done easily like this, it feels to be a great help.

In cleaning my house I always adopt the old-fashioned plan of beginning at the top and coming down to the bottom, by which means the dirt is not trodden backwards and forwards. I think it is a good plan where two servants are kept to let one do the cleaning, and the other attend to the ordinary work of the house, so as to keep things comfortable. These minor details, however, must be arranged by every mistress to suit her own convenience.

And now let us see what has to be done before a room can be said to be thoroughly cleaned. The carpet must be taken up; all the articles of furniture must be removed out of their places, and either taken entirely out of the room, or covered with dust-sheets; the pictures, curtains, and blinds must be taken down, and nothing ought to be put back again until it has been properly cleaned. Then the chimney must be swept, and when the soot has been removed, the room also. If it has been decided that the white-washers and paper-hangers are not to be called in, the ceiling and walls must be rubbed with a soft cloth, which has been securely fastened upon the end of a broom. The paper must be cleaned, and if the room is a bed-room, the bed must be taken to pieces, carefully examined, and the joints purified. The grate and fire-irons must be black-leaded and brightened, the paint washed—including the wood-work about the windows—the windows cleaned—the floor scrubbed—the carpet beaten, and the furniture and pictures polished. Then, when everything is quite clean, the carpets can be laid down, and the furniture restored to its original position.

Perhaps the best thing I can do is to take each of these items separately, and give my idea of the best way of doing them.

To Clean Wall Paper.—Take off the dust with a soft cloth. Make a lump of very stiff dough with a little flour and water, and rub the wall gently downwards, taking the length of the arm at each stroke, and in this way go round the room. As the dough becomes dirty, cut the soiled part off. In the second round, commence the stroke a little above where the last one ended, and be very careful not to cross the paper, or to go up again. Ordinary papers cleaned in this way will look fresh and bright, and almost as good as new. Some papers, however—and these the most expensive ones—will not clean nicely; and in order to ascertain

whether or not a paper can be cleaned, it is best to try it first in some obscure corner, which will not be noticed if the result is unsatisfactory. If there are any broken places in the wall, fill them up with a mixture of equal parts of plaster of Paris and silver sand, made into a paste with a little water. Then cover the place with a little piece of paper, like the rest, if it can be had. When a room is newly papered, a few yards of the paper should be preserved for repairs. If there are any spots of grease on the walls, mix some fuller's-earth with ox-gall and cold water, and spread this on the spot. Pin a little blotting-paper over the mixture, and leave it for three or four hours; then brush it off carefully, when in all probability the grease will be removed. If not, renew the operation—which, however, is not likely to be successful if the paper is one which will not clean nicely.

Grates, &c.—Black-lead black grates and fenders, and polish them in every part. If a grate has been neglected some time, it may be varnished with Brunswick black, which is made as follows:—Melt half a pound of asphaltum, and mix with it very gradually a quarter of a pint of linseed oil, and one pint of oil of turpentine. If too thick, add a little more turpentine. The asphaltum should cost sixpence, the linseed oil three-halfpence, and the oil of turpentine eightpence. The range may be brushed with this mixture, and left to dry. When fires are used it will need to be black-leaded in the ordinary way. Polished grates and irons should be rubbed every day thoroughly with a dry leather, and in damp weather two or three times a day. If this were done regularly, no polishing would be required. When once they have been rusted or dulled, they should be rubbed with emery-paper, or with a polish made as follows:—Mix equal parts of turpentine and sweet-oil, and stir in as much emery-powder as will make a thin paste. Rub this on the steel with a piece of old flannel, rub it off with another piece, and brighten with leather and emery.

Carpets must be taken up and beaten on the wrong side first, and afterwards very gently on the right side; and care should be taken not to use sticks with points, or the carpets may be injured. After a carpet has been beaten, it should not be laid down until the floor is quite dry, or the nails may rust and spoil it. If after being beaten the carpet still looks dirty, it may be washed and made to look fresh and bright in the following manner:—Procure a quart of bullock's gall from the butcher's, and mix with it three quarts of soft cold water. Rub this into the carpet, either with a clean flannel or a soft brush; rinse the lather off with cold water, and rub the carpet dry with a soft cloth. If there are any very dirty places, wash them with gall only. It will be best to speak for the gall a day or two before it is wanted, and it ought not to cost more than a few pence.

Paint.—Soda should never be used in washing paint. The best way to do it is to put a handful of finely-powdered whitening into a bowl, having ready a piece of soft flannel and some clean warm water. Wet the flannel, squeeze it dry, dip it into the whitening, and rub the paint up and down until it is clean.

Wash off with cold water; and when it is nearly dry, finish it with a soft leather. If the paint be very dirty, mix a little bullock's gall with the whitening. In washing the wainscot, care must be taken not to touch the edge of the paper with the wet flannel, as this would give the room a shabby appearance.

The Beds.—Pull down the beds, and carefully examine and purify every crevice and joint, together with the mattresses and bindings, so that if there are any unwelcome visitors, their presence may be discovered. If anything disagreeable is already in the bed, leave it without curtains or furniture for a few weeks, and brush every part of the bedstead with spirit of naphtha. When the bedsteads are made of wood, the joints may be smeared with a mixture of soft-soap and strong pepper. All bedsteads should be taken to pieces twice a year, in the spring and in the autumn, and the mattresses, palliasses, and feather beds beaten. Once a year the blankets and covers should be washed, and the furniture thoroughly cleansed.

Floors.—When floors are washed regularly, it is best to scour them with sand and cold water only, laid on with plenty of elbow-grease, as it is called, as soap and soda have a tendency to darken the boards. If they are only washed occasionally, some fuller's-earth should be dried, and made into a paste with a little boiling water, then mixed with rather less than half the quantity of silver sand. This mixture should be sprinkled on the boards, and they should be then well scrubbed in the direction of the grain of the wood, and afterwards washed with cold water. If the floor be spotted with grease, mix a quarter of a pound of pearl-ash with one pint of hot water, and scrub the floor with this and a little fine sand.

Marble Mantel-pieces.—The mantel-pieces must be washed with soap and warm water. If there are any stains, mix two ounces of powdered pumice-stone with two ounces of powdered chalk and a quarter of a pound of soda. Sift these, then make them into a paste with cold water. Rub the marble with the paste, and afterwards wash it with soap and water.

Pictures.—Brush the frames with a soft brush, and blow the dust out of any crevices which cannot otherwise be reached. Clean the glass with a wet leather and a soft cloth, and be careful not to touch the gilt frames with the damp cloth. If the frames require restoration, dissolve as much flour of sulphur as will give the required yellow tinge in about a quart of water, and boil half-a-dozen bruised onions in the liquid until they are tender. Strain the decoction, and when it is cold wash the frames with it, and let them dry in the air.

Lacquered Gas Chandeliers.—Clean them by rubbing them with a soft flannel dipped in a mixture made of equal parts of vinegar and stale beer. Wash the globes with whitening and water.

Chimney Glasses.—Rub these over lightly, either with wet whitening or with a rag dipped in spirits of wine, and polish them with a soft leather.

Venetian Blinds.—Unfasten the tape at the bottom of the blind, and draw out all the lathes. Wash them with lukewarm water and soap, dry them thoroughly, and put them up again, being careful that the cords which come down in the middle of the tapes are put in properly, as if this is not done the narrow tapes will fray.

After the furniture has been restored to its place, it should be cleaned and polished. Great care should be taken that all the dirt is rubbed off before the polish is put on, and in polishing it use a small quantity only of the paste. The principal thing required is good rubbing. The following will be found a good furniture polish:—Mix thoroughly a quarter of a pint of turpentine, ditto spirits of wine, ditto vinegar, and ditto linseed oil. Put the mixture into a bottle and shake it well, then rub it briskly on the furniture, and afterwards polish with a soft duster.

Winter curtains which are to be laid aside during the summer should be shaken, brushed, and folded neatly, and put away with dry bran spread between the folds. This will make them look bright and fresh when are taken out. All flannel and woollen goods should have lumps of camphor or, better still, strips of Russian leather put into the box with them, and they should be taken out and examined at least once in two months.

When every room in the house has been cleaned, the passages and stairs should be done, and the same directions followed with them. Then the fresh white curtains, the clean antimacassars, the pretty fire ornaments may be brought out, with whatever adornments taste or fancy may dictate; and if, when all is finished, both mistress and servant do not think their labour well repaid by the improved appearance and increased comfort of the house, all I can say is that they are very unlike the people with whom I am acquainted.

One word in conclusion. There is an old proverb which says, "If you want your work well done, do it yourself." I can scarcely recommend a lady to clean her house entirely by herself, but I am quite sure of one thing, she would find it to her advantage to personally superintend the cleaning of it. The way to obtain expedition, thoroughness, and cheerful work from the servants, is to join partially in it; and any lady who will spend part of her time in the room where the cleaning is going on, busying herself if she likes in a little of the lighter work, such as washing the ornaments or polishing the pictures, will find the truth of the saying, "The eye of a mistress is worth two pairs of hands."

PHILLIS BROWNE.

