

as omelets ; where luncheons are no longer in question in the day's ordering, they afford a pleasant variety. I know there are people who do not consider variety at all a necessity of the housekeeper's art ; but I confess I don't agree with them. For instance, a gentleman of my acquaintance boasts that on only one morning during a whole year did he miss eating two eggs for breakfast, and then it was because they could not be obtained. With this I should have little sympathy. I should say, let us have eggs, by all means, but vary their preparation ; and with that idea strong in my mind I proceed to my menus, of which I will give one for every morning in the week, the price of none of which shall exceed the stipulated sum of 40 cents for five persons.

|                             |                           |                             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SUNDAY.                     |                           |                             |
|                             | Sliced Pine-apple.        | Butter.                     |
|                             | Fried Eggs. Graham Bread. |                             |
|                             | Coffee with Cream.        |                             |
| MONDAY.                     |                           | TUESDAY.                    |
| Cut-up Peaches with Cream.  |                           | Musk-melon. Wheatlet.       |
| Hominy.                     |                           | Scrambled Eggs.             |
| Sardines. Bread and Butter. |                           | Graham Bread. Butter.       |
| Iced Tea.                   |                           | Broma.                      |
| WEDNESDAY.                  |                           | THURSDAY.                   |
| Raspberries and Cream.      |                           | Strawberries and Cream.     |
| Dropped Eggs.               |                           | Plain Omelet.               |
| French Rolls. Butter.       |                           | Graham Bread. Butter.       |
| Iced Milk.                  |                           | Tea.                        |
| FRIDAY.                     |                           | SATURDAY.                   |
| Blueberries.                |                           | Water-melon.                |
| Soused Fish. Water-cresses. |                           | Wheatlet and Cream.         |
| Pretzels.                   |                           | Toasted Bread. Boiled Eggs. |
| Coffee with Cream.          |                           | Tea or Coffee.              |

Very few people realize that iced milk forms an excellent breakfast beverage in summer ; so does iced tea ; and in very hot weather it would be quite possible to do without a fire altogether, by limiting one's requirements to cool and seasonable food. An ideal breakfast, for instance, might be :

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Musk-melon or Peaches. | Bread and Butter. |
| Lettuce with Salt.     | Iced Milk.        |


But no doubt half of my readers would consider *that* starvation, and prefer steaming coffee, hot biscuit, rare steak, and fried potatoes ! But there's no accounting for taste.

JANET E RUTZ-REES.

## From Cellar to Garret.

V.

THE GARRET, ATTIC CHAMBER, PORCHES, ETC.

OUR little dwelling had by this time taken on quite a finished appearance, and we congratulated ourselves on its tastefulness and beauty ; or, rather, I may say that I congratulated Ada, for in truth, except to admire, I had very little part in the admirable arranging.

But there were a thousand and one odds and ends to be attended to about the place, and to these Ada next turned her attention. There was a narrow stairway leading from the upper hall to a garret which was the entire size of the main portion of the house. We had had the wall raised about four feet at the sides in order to make this garret, as the house had been originally built with the upper story a little less than the full height at the sides, the ceilings of the rooms following the low sloping roof for a space of about eighteen inches. We had found the roof so bad that the only way to mend it was by putting on a new one. The shingles were cracked and loose, and the water had trickled through the crevices until the rafters in some places were almost rotted away. We had some debate over the best way to fix the roof, and, as usual, Ada came to the rescue with a plan that proved to be perfection.

The new roof was put on with a very abrupt pitch at the edges and rather wide projecting eaves supported by large brackets. About four feet inside of the wall line, the pitch

of the roof met a level platform that covered the entire top of the house inside of the slant at the edges. This platform had strong posts at either corner, leading down into the roof and firmly bolted to the rafters with iron rods. The platform and sloping roof were covered with tin very carefully put on and coated with water-proof paint. The corner posts of the platform extended about three feet above the roof, and were finished by round balls or knobs. A railing and a row of latticed panels attached to these posts inclosed the space of the platform.

Access to the roof was had by a novel arrangement. A series of trap-doors were so constructed that when opened they could be fastened together in box shape by strong hooks. One door was in two laps, one of which turned over so as to form a roof ; another, similarly constructed, made a door which could also be fastened by hooks on the inside ; the one which formed the remaining side was single. These doors, or laps, were so arranged that all but the single one could fold flat upon the roof and be fastened down with thumb-screws. There was, in addition to the box-shaped inclosure, a very light, strong inner door, which closed over the opening in the platform and fastened down upon rubber packing, thus effectually excluding both storm and dust. Over this light door the single door closed, and served as a protection from severe cold in winter. In ordinary warm weather the box arrangement was allowed to remain fixed ; but in long or severe storms the folds were laid down and fastened with thumb-screws provided for that purpose.

Ada did not give me any hint of the extent of her intentions in regard to the roof, and I had some difficulty in recognizing our modest dwelling, when one evening, as the train brought me in sight of the place, I discovered a large awning, with side curtains, and fixtures complete, covering the platform on the roof of our cottage. The awning cloth was of olive green and white, with very narrow lines of red. It was made up in square tent-shape, and so arranged that any one or all of the side curtains could be removed, leaving only the top cover.

Ada is patriotic, as every good American woman must be, so she had a flagstaff so set that it made the center-pole for the tent-shaped cover. This cover had a number of strips of the awning material stitched on in lines radiating from the apex. These strips were for the purpose of strengthening the cover around the top so that a loop of the material could be attached to it whereby it might be held in place. A pulley was attached to the flagstaff about three feet above the point where the apex of the cover was to be, and through this pulley was passed an endless cord provided with loops. To one of these loops the strap or loop at the top of the tent was secured, and then the cord was drawn until the tent-cover was in its proper place. The edges of the cover were supported by cross-rods attached to iron standards fastened to the corner posts. A valance eight inches wide fell from the edges of the cover on all sides, and on the inside of this valance, which was scalloped and bound with braid, were large buttons arranged in a most ingenious way, and one which reflected a good deal of credit on Ada's inventive genius. Large cloak-buttons were tied up in the middle of pieces of awning cloth about four or five inches square, and a very strong, fine cord was wound around and firmly fastened to hold the button in place. The corners of the cloth were then spread and sewed firmly to a strip of the goods which was used for facing the valance around the cover. These supported the side curtains when they were used, and ordinary carriage-buttons were driven into the frame on the outside edges of the platform floor, and to these the lower edges of the side curtains could be buttoned. So perfect was the arrangement,

that when the curtains were adjusted a moderate shower would not reach the inclosed space at all.

The garret was as perfect and complete in its appointments as the rest of the house. A good floor was laid, and the sides and ceiling were finished off with plain siding or ship-lap. There was an abundance of shelf-room, and several cupboards that could be closed and locked. There was a place for trunks and packing-cases, and a special cupboard for old newspapers. We are both very fond of reading, and had accumulated an enormous quantity of books of various sorts; and here was a place in which to store the surplus. They were so arranged as to be readily accessible, and yet could be protected from the dust by curtains of chintz or cretonne. The ceiling of the garret, while quite low at the side walls, was a trifle over six feet high in the clear in the middle portion of the room. Ada had arranged a place for an ordinary heating stove; and there was one of the old stoves that she found there when we took the place, "all shined up," as the stout boy said, and ready for use.

"To take the chill from the place in fall and spring when I want to pack and unpack the trunks and boxes," was Ada's answer to my query about such an innovation. "Besides, when we have long or very severe winter storms, I may need some of this space to hang up clothes in"; which was really a good and practical idea.

An ingrain stair-carpet covered the steps to the garret, and from hooks in the ceiling drapery curtains were suspended, forming an inclosed way to the roof and concealing the miscellaneous collection with which the place was filled.

It was with no little satisfaction that I escorted Ada down the stairway and to the sitting-room. The dear girl looked thin and a little tired, but she was so well pleased with the place, and so proud of her work, that I could not find it in my heart to check her enthusiasm even though I was uneasy about her health.

She insisted on showing me over the remainder of the place, and we went to the new room over the kitchen. Here was another surprise. The middle of the floor was covered with a pretty tapestry rug, and the edges were stained oak color. The windows were draped with simple muslin curtains, and a neat folding-bed and several chairs were in the room.

A complication of pipes and brackets on one side of the room attracted my attention. In answer to my inquiries, Ada told me that she had run the sewing-machine by water-power for all the sewing she had to do in her fitting up. This was an unspeakable relief to me, as I feared that she had overtaxed herself at the machine. She protested that she had not, and in proof of the statement she turned a little crank, adjusted a belt, and showed me that the needle of the machine would pass with the greatest ease through the thickest cloth, and would sew about three times faster than one could do by foot-power.

"But what and where is the motive power?" I asked.

"A tiny wheel under the kitchen sink," she replied; and so it was,—a small motor that one could almost put in a dish-pan! A stream scarcely larger than a large knitting-needle furnished the power, and a leather belt was carried to the upper room through a casing. This belt was either attached to the large driving-wheel or run in a groove in the wheel shaft, according as more or less speed was required. A lever, moved either by the foot or hand, started or stopped the wheel. This was one of the most sensible of the many improvements; for Ada *would* sew, and with this arrangement she would be able to do so without overtaxing her strength.

The washstand in this room was home-made. It consisted of a packing-case covered with felt and mounted on large

casters so that it could be moved about without difficulty. The inside was lined with Canton flannel, and served admirably as a put-away place for work or patch baskets, or for boxes or articles which should be kept from the dust, as a curtain of the felt covered the entire front of the box. There was a moderately large chiffonier, and a good mirror hanging on the wall over a wide shelf. There were clothes-presses and a very large cupboard in the room, and these were just now almost filled with pieces of left-over material, and Ada's unfinished decorative work.

There was a very large, stout table in one corner of the apartment, supplied with all manner of tools and workshop appliances, and here Ada had done her carpenter work. I will give Ada credit for one thing: her tools are always of the best, and are kept in the best of condition.

"I should like to have you tell me," she said, when I remarked upon this fact, "how anyone can do good work with wretched tools? I really think that half of the miserable jobs, and many of the failures, especially in the hands of amateurs, are due to the fact that they haven't a decent thing to work with. The saws are crooked and dull, the plane is full of scallops, the bits will not work smoothly, and only tear out pieces of the wood, and so on through all of their stock of tools; there is nothing that will work properly. As a consequence, the edges of their boards and pieces are rough and uneven, and none of them fit or are cut with any sort of regularity."

"A patent miter-box!" I exclaimed. "What is this for? Have you gone into the picture-frame business?"

"To some extent, yes. Come and see," and Ada led the way down the stairs, which were carpeted with the same goods as the stairs leading to the garret. "That carpet was an odd length. There was too much for one ordinary flight of stairs, and not enough for two. As I had two rather short flights to carpet, this fitted exactly, with not an inch to spare, and was one of my very best bargains, for it cost me just \$4.65 for enough for this and the stairway leading to the garret.

I had passed through the house so hurriedly on my arrival home that day, and the blinds were so closely shut, that I did not notice the pictures that adorned the walls. Ada was the owner of several really good paintings by excellent artists, and some fine etchings and engravings. She had bought some very elegant gilt moldings, and with a degree of skill that I could scarcely credit, had sawed the pieces and made some perfectly fitting frames. The corners were fastened by an ingenious device of her own. In one of her tours among the city shops one day, she found some cast-iron plates, such as are generally used for making stretchers. They were so arranged that small screws could be put through slots in the plates and driven in until the heads of the screws were just above the surface of the plate. A sharp blow with the hammer would bring the mitered edges together, when the plate could be fastened by a small nail driven in to prevent its working back and allowing the joining to part. This appeared to me to be the simplest and most effectual style of framing pictures that I had ever heard of.

"These are what I call my store frames," she said. "Now come and see my home-made designs. It was really a great deal easier to make them out of molding, but I had some ideas that I thought were worth carrying out."

They were indeed "worth carrying out," and I wondered more and more at my dear girl's versatility as well as her patience. A number of pine frames were covered with plush, and patterns more or less elaborate were formed by driving into the wood tiny brass tacks with round heads. The bright points on the dark plush produced a very pretty effect. More pleasing, because less conspicuous, were frames covered with

flock and decorated with tacks with solid leather heads, driven in to form various eccentric and arabesque designs.

The frames were coated with ordinary varnish, and then sprinkled with the finest flock. When thoroughly dry, the tacks were driven in according to pattern. One frame had three moldings of different widths, each done in flock of a color different from the others. A set of frames for plain photographs was done in varnish and finely powdered flitter in brilliant colors. To give variety to the collection, Ada had made several frames with large cut-glass buttons or roundels on the corners, and diamond or curved figures on either side of the frame. The glass was in very dark shades, olive, dark ruby, bronze or brown being the colors used.

We had also a large number of fine photographs, home and foreign views, and portraits of celebrities of various sorts; and instead of placing these in the stereotyped photograph albums, Ada made a charming portfolio out of plush and tapestry, for the views, and for the portraits, some quaint-looking bags of pieces of rich brocade, odd remnants of ribbon, plush, and bright embroidery, which she suspended from the corners of the cabinet and in odd places where a touch of bright color was necessary; but always where one could get at them without any trouble.

The plush furniture of the parlor was finished with tidies of China or India silk with etching or painted decorations, and fringe either raveled and knotted, or sewed in and tied in tassels.

The porches had adjustable side-curtains like those on the roof. At the bottom they were buttoned to the lower edges of the flooring, and no rain could beat under them. Ada says she will make some extra strong curtains and have them on some portion of the porches all winter, for protection from the cold and storms.

After making a tour of the house and looking everything over to see if we had all of the necessaries of life, we found that we lacked very little of a complete equipment, nothing, at all events, that it would not be quite as well to get at our leisure. The next question was the cost of fitting up. For our last work we had depended entirely on our judgment, not having any list from Miss Hubbard. Ada brought out her account book, and gave me the items for the finishing-up lists. The tidies, and similar decorative articles were not included, as many of them were made of odd pieces, and could not be calculated with any degree of accuracy.

|                                |         |                                       |          |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Awnings and fixtures.....      | \$18 00 | Outfit of tools, etc.....             | \$10 00  |
| American flag.....             | 10 00   | Stair-carpet for garret and           |          |
| Curtains for garret book-      |         | kitchen stairs.....                   | 4 65     |
| shelves.....                   | 2 50    | Picture molding.....                  | 6 00     |
| Curtains for passage way.....  | 6 00    | Iron corner-pieces, flock, lif-       |          |
| Carpet rug for kitchen chamber | 8 00    | ter, colors, etc.....                 | 1 75     |
| Muslin curtains.....           | 2 50    | Brass and leather tacks.....          | 2 50     |
| Folding bed.....               | 17 00   | Materials for portfolio and bags      | 6 50     |
| Mattress and bedding.....      | 12 00   | Curtains and fittings for             |          |
| Three cane-seat chairs.....    | 4 00    | porches.....                          | 3 00     |
| Water-motor for machine.....   | 7 00    | 3 door-mats @ \$2.50, \$1.75, .75.... | 5 00     |
| Pipes, plumbing and work.....  | 8 00    | Carpet-sweeper.....                   | 3 00     |
| Box washstand with cover.....  | 2 50    | Home-made awnings for kitch-          |          |
| Chiffonier.....                | 14 00   | en door and windows.....              | 2 50     |
| Wall mirror.....               | 4 00    |                                       |          |
| Work bench.....                | 3 00    |                                       | \$163 40 |

Ada said she intended making awnings for all of the windows on the sunny side of the house. They were to be buttoned on at the top and sides with carriage-buttons driven into the window-casings, and the spread below made by putting a barrel-hoop through a casing at the edge of the awning. The stout boy was to dress the hoops and finish the ends with loops of leather that would attach to hooks at the sides of the casings. These awnings would cost, all told, not over \$1.75 per window, and if an ordinary quality of cloth were chosen, they need not cost over \$1.25.

And now our hard work was done, at least the work of furnishing; for the care of a house, no matter how perfect the appointments may be, is always hard work. We had a home, bright, cheery, and elegant, although not at all expensive, considering its character. Under ordinary circumstances the fitting-up would have cost almost double

the money; and without mentioning my intention, I resolved that as Ada's tact, ingenuity, and labor had saved a goodly sum, I would some day figure it out and invest the amount to her credit in some substantial way.

I insisted that Ada should take a week, at least, of absolute rest before she began to set the yard and grounds in order. This was a rather difficult task, the enforcing of rest on her part, for I really believe that she was quite as enthusiastic about the outside as the inside of the place, and I had heard her express opinions that made me greatly interested in the results of her landscape and other gardening. The grounds were about three acres in extent; and as there was to be a foreclosure sale of a lot of about five acres of valuable ground adjoining us on two sides, I made up my mind to buy it if possible. Ada wanted her poultry and a pony-carriage, and I thought there were possibilities in the place that made its acquisition worth a good deal of effort.

In the meantime, Ada agreed to rest, although she earnestly declared that she was not at all tired; and so for a few days she arranged to take life easily, in fact to play at house-keeping, and enjoy at her leisure the delightful home she had found such pleasure in arranging.

EDWARD WILLIS BLAKELEY.

### Savory Summer Dishes.

**Green Pea Soup.**—Wash clean three quarts of green pea-pods and put them into three quarts of boiling water, salted lightly. Boil from twenty to thirty minutes, and then turn into a colander and press them well with a wooden spoon. Put two quarts of the liquor into a deep saucepan, and when it boils add a quart of green peas, two or three large cucumbers, sliced, and two heads of lettuce cut fine, and one large onion sliced very thin and simmered for half an hour with a tea-spoonful of butter before adding to the soup. A few sprigs of parsley may be added. Stew all gently for an hour. Then press all the vegetables through a hair sieve, season with a tea-spoonful of salt and white pepper to taste, heat afresh, and serve with cubes of fried bread.

**Lobster Fricassée, or Au Béchamel.**—This is a dainty and easily prepared *entrée*. Cut the meat from the large claws and tails of two moderate-sized lobsters into small thick slices or dice; heat it slowly through in about three-quarters of a pint of Béchamel sauce. Pound the coral, mix it with a few spoonfuls of the sauce, and add. Clean the lobster shells nicely, and when the lobster is at the point of boiling remove it from the fire, flavor with a little lemon juice, and fill the shells. The sauce should not be too thin, nor more than sufficient to cover the fish. A receipt for Béchamel sauce was given in the March number. A good substitute is beef stock mixed with an equal proportion of cream and thickened with corn starch.

**Shoulder of Lamb à la Boulangère.**—Take all the bone out of a shoulder of lamb, pound the meat a little, and season it with salt and pepper. Then cover it with a light masking of finely chopped shallots and mushrooms. Roast it in a deep pudding-dish, and when about half-done lay potatoes cut in quarters in the dish around the lamb, and, if liked, some chopped onion. Roast slowly till done. Remove the strings which tied the shoulder together, allowing it to take its original shape, and send to the table in the dish it was cooked in. Sprinkle some chopped parsley over the potatoes.

**Cucumbers à la Poulette.**—Pare and slice cucumbers very thin, sprinkle with a little salt, and steep in vinegar for half an hour. Drain and dry them with a piece of clean cheese-cloth. Flour the slices well, put a table-spoonful of butter into a bright tin saucepan, and when it begins to boil throw in the cucumbers and shake them over a gentle fire for ten minutes, but do not let them brown; pour over them as much pale veal stock or cold gravy as will nearly cover them; when it boils strain off the fat entirely, add salt and white pepper, a tea-spoonful of finely minced parsley, and thicken with the yolks of two or three eggs.