

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

FRESH lard will remove tar from the skin.

A CLOTHES-LINE which has been boiled will not twist as a new rope is apt to do.

THE seat on the left side of an omnibus is always more resting than that on the right side, as it slopes towards the kerb-stone.

SEWING-SILKS are often prepared with a solution of lead, which is highly injurious to health. Care should therefore be taken never to bite the threads when working with sewing-silk.

ALUM-WATER will restore almost all faded colours. Brush the faded stuff thoroughly free from dust, rinse with a little soap, clear water, and then alum water, and the colours will be much brightened.

BLACK SILKS or satin may be wonderfully revived by sponging with potato water and ironing on the wrong side when slightly damp. The potato water is made by soaking the peel not the potato for some hours.

If the new leather on soles of boots is well soaked for three days before use, in linseed oil to which a few drops of castor oil is added and then allowed to stand for a few days to dry, it will last nearly twice as long as usual.

POISONOUS liniments and liquids should be kept in bottles with a rough surface outside, so that they can be known at once by the touch. Attention to this simple rule may be the means of preventing serious accidents. They should also not be kept near other bottles.

CAULIFLOWERS should always be boiled in two waters, first in one and then another. This removes the strong and rank flavour. All green vegetables should be boiled with the lid of the saucepan off. The water in which they have been boiled should at once be poured away in the garden on the earth and not down any sink or drain, but if there is no available garden, pour it into a pail and cover it over till cold and it can then be poured down a drain. If this is not done, the smell is most offensive, as we all know.

NEITHER the soap, tooth, nor nail-brushes should ever be covered over on the wash-stand. The brushes get soft, and smell disagreeable if covered over; they are better placed in one of the upright iron stands made for the purpose, or lying bristles downwards wherever they are put. Sponges also should never be covered and should occasionally be rinsed in strong soda water or ammonia and water to extract any grease that may be in them.

FOR washing cretonnes, chintzes and art muslins, ammonia is invaluable. A teaspoonful to every gallon of water in which they are washed and a handful of salt in the rinsing water will restore the colours and prevent any running. Blankets will be the better for a little ammonia in the tub, and it will lighten the labour of all washing.

WHEN uncorking a bottle, be sure to grasp the neck with a cloth in your hand, so that if the glass cracks or breaks it will not cut your hand.

EGG-STAINS can be taken out of silver by rubbing with a wet rag dipped in salt.

A HEAVY meal should never be taken when the body is greatly fatigued. The digestive organs are as weary as the body, and are not ready to undertake an excess of work.

A LARGE onion peeled and cut across the top, then placed in a pail of water in the centre of a room with the door shut, will remove all smell of fresh paint in a very short time.

FAT which is to be kept should be cut up small and boiled in a saucepan in a little water and never put into the oven to melt. If it has to be done in the oven, the door should be left open.

BREAD or potato should never be put in the mouth at the same time as fish, especially by children, or it will be difficult to detect bones in the fish and they may be swallowed by mistake.

THE largest quantity of fluid that is required by an adult person, unless under exceptional circumstances, is two pints in the twenty-four hours. The majority of persons take too much fluid and thus weaken the digestion.

FOR all workers the clothing should be loosely fitting on the body, and of a material that admits of free transpiration from the skin. Thick close material is very objectionable as checking evaporation and retaining moisture from the body, and the habitual use of waterproof material is very injurious.

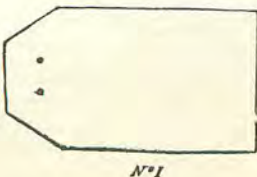
ENVELOPE ALBUMS.

I THINK when I have explained how easily bright, pretty little picture-books for sick children can be made out of the envelopes we throw into the waste-paper basket, it is just possible that many clever young fingers may set to work to make them.

There is something very pleasant in using-up waste material and turning it to good account and really, by the exercise of a little ingenuity, there is scarcely anything in our households but may be utilised in some way.

Making these albums will be found a pleasant occupation in long winter evenings, and children of all ages can aid in the work. One can sort the envelopes all of one size, another cut them the right shape, a third can pierce the holes and tie the sheets together with narrow ribbon. The materials required are few and simple, a sharp pair of scissors, some gum or paste, a stiletto or bradawl, a few yards of bright-coloured penny ribbon and plenty of small pictures and coloured scraps.

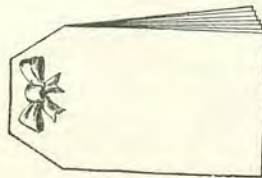
The envelopes must be cut exactly alike, the shape of No. 1, that is, one end and two side pieces are cut off and the remaining end should be neatly shaped. About fourteen envelopes will make a convenient sized album,



No. 1

but the size may be varied according to taste.

Two holes are bored with the stiletto and the ribbon run through and tied into a bow as seen in No. 2, and the little book will now be ready for the pictures. The addressed side of



No. 2

the envelope needs to be covered by a text card, and for this purpose none are more suitable than those to be obtained from Mrs. Grimke of Manchester; they are the exact size required, the landscapes and figures upon them are very bright and pretty and the texts are well chosen; they are made in great variety, and one of each kind may be used to cover the written side of each envelope, then the clean side will be ready to receive any small pictures and coloured scraps. Christmas cards when not too stiff may often be used, especially those with Scripture texts; the words of greeting may be covered with two or three coloured butterflies or small flower scraps neatly gummed on. When finished as No. 3, the little album will be a welcome gift to some sick child, its weary eyes will be cheered by the bright pages, and the sweet texts may convey a message of

love and hope to many who may seldom be cheered by any human voice. Miss Nightingale in her admirable book *Notes on Nursing*, says "The effect in sickness of beautiful objects and variety of form is hardly at all appreciated, brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients often proves an actual means of recovery. I shall never forget the rapture of fever patients over a bunch of bright flowers. I remember a nosegay of wild flowers being sent me, and from that moment recovery becoming more rapid." These little albums would be gladly received by Bible women and busy workers in the slums who have no time themselves to make such little gifts, but would thankfully distribute them in dreary homes where many a poor sufferer may be lying day after day gazing at a blank wall or an outlook of house-roofs and chimneys. It is good for us sometimes to picture such lives and do what we can in the leisure of our pleasant homes to scatter a few rays of brightness where they are so much needed.

E. B.



No. 3