

Reading and Thinking

If the mind is to be truly cultured and developed, we must think as well as read. Some men pile so many books upon their heads that their own brains have no power to move. As too much oil puts out the lamp, so too much reading buries the thinker. The greatest readers have not been the greatest thinkers. Shakespeare had few books at command, and his own intellectual output was so great that he could have had little leisure for reading. Socrates, the master of the wise, made it his boast that of book learning he knew nothing. Descartes commenced his systematic thinking by trying to forget all books and think out things for himself. Hobbes said that if he had read as many books as his opponents, he would probably have talked as much nonsense as they did. Many learned persons have read themselves stupid. They have proved not the masters of learning, but its slaves.

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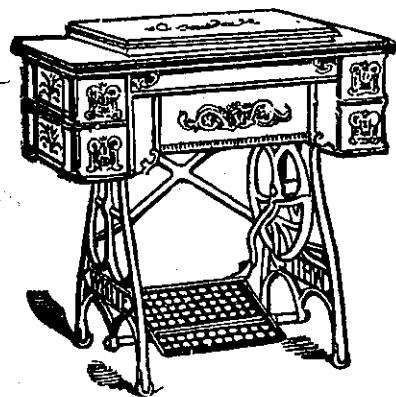
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Domestic

BY MAUREEN.

Toast Making.

The secret of having crisp toast is to cut the bread the night before, so that the surface is dry before it is toasted. Another trick is to have the slices, when toasted, stood up on edge in some place where they can be kept hot until they are served. If the slices are placed one on top of the other they become soggy.

To Neutralise the Smell of Paint.

Heat an iron shovel until almost red hot; place it in the room which smells of paint. See the windows are shut and the stove register closed. Sprinkle an ounce of strong coffee (ground) on the shovel. Shut the door on leaving the room, and let no one go into it for half an hour, or, if the time can be spared, it is better to do the operation of an evening and leave the room closed all night. When re-entering the room, the burnt coffee will be found to have cured the smell of paint. The smell of the coffee will not be objectionably strong.

To Break the Neck of a Bottle Evenly.

To break the neck of a glass bottle evenly at any desired length the following plan never fails: Take a small piece of knitting wool, soak it in paraffin oil, tie round neck of bottle at desired spot, not too tight but tight enough to catch the glass, cut off the ends, set fire to the wool with a lighted match, and let it burn out. As soon as the flame is out, submerge the bottle in cold water, when the desired length will fall off. Before starting, see that the neck of the bottle is perfectly dry; and when placing the wool round the neck, take care not to let any of the oil on to the glass except where you intend to break it off.

To Wash Colored Fabrics.

The best way to wash colored fabrics is to shred some soap finely, dissolve it in boiling water, and then pour it into a tub of tepid water; also add a little vinegar, which will help to fix the color. Place the things in this lather, and dip them up and down, and well move them about till they look clean. Then do the same in a second lather, and afterwards carefully rinse in lukewarm water, with a small quantity of salt added. When thoroughly clean, they must be wrung, well shaken, and hung up to dry.

To Ventilate a Sleeping-Room.

The fireplace must not be closed, and a current of air should be allowed to flow between the bedroom door and the chimney. A good and cheap ventilator can be fixed in a few minutes. It is made thus: A piece of board, the length of the window sash and about three inches broad, is placed at the bottom of the frame, so as to fit tightly. The sash is then shut down on the board. This leaves a space between the lower and upper window sashes. Fresh air enters the room through this space and flows upwards, and the air of the room is renewed without a draught being felt.

The Proper Temperature of a Living Room.

For persons in health, 60 degrees by the thermometer, but for aged and persons in delicate health, doctors will often order rooms to be kept at 65 degrees, particularly if there be weakness of the heart and consequently bad circulation, as this trouble often causes cold feet and hands, with a numbed, chilly feeling, if obliged to sit for an hour or two in an apartment that to a healthy individual would feel quite comfortably warm, yet to one who is in weak health or afflicted with any heart trouble, a room whose temperature is kept only at 60 degrees would feel very cold, and might cause faintness and sometimes sickness. Personally, I have known it to do so—still, though kept warm, it should not be close, as a close room is as pernicious to a delicate or aged person as a chilly apartment.

Maureen

DEAR ME

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest store and ask. They all keep it.