

Hands versus Brains

IT is hard to believe that the same line of thought persists in some quarters to-day, that obtained nearly one hundred years ago, when Charlotte Bronte described in "Shirley" the violent resistance of the mill-workers to the introduction of machinery. Yet there are still some, women especially, astonishingly slow to take advantage of the work of others' brains to assist them in the reduction of their own, often heavy, manual labour. Such people surely forget or overlook the fact that in resisting the tendency of the age, they are being left behind, growing old in mind and body before their time.

It is just those who accept and avail themselves of changing conditions who retain the spirit of youth, once lost, so seldom recaptured. The woman who practises endurance beyond her strength by adhering to old, slow laborious methods should not deceive herself with the idea that she is practising a virtue; rather is she squandering her life by persisting in the vice of obstinacy.

The same shortsightedness is to be seen as in the case of the old Yorkshire mill-workers, who could only see invention replacing labour, instead of both joining forces; the craftsman by the power of his hands on his side supplying the necessary material to enable the brain-worker's researches to be transformed into power—the inventor supplying the idea to lighten the labour of the manual worker.

IN no sphere is this more clearly emphasised than in the general development of electricity. Some urge that life is becoming too hurried, too complicated and complain of too much "speeding-up" and it has been noticeable during the sittings of the Arbitration Courts with regard to workers' awards, that more often is the opportunity for increased leisure demanded than increased wages.

Increased leisure can only come to us in the home to-day by the more speedy performance of work, and this use of electricity is rapidly extending. Many homes are easier to-day because of the introduction of sufficient electrical power to do the heavy work of the house. With its myriads of applications, electricity in the home resolves itself into three uses—electricity for light, for heat and for power.

If you doubt either its beneficial or economical application to your own case, do not jump to conclusions or depend upon hearsay as to expense. Rates were never easier than to-day, appliances never more easily obtainable, never so efficient. Figure out for yourself what you are spending on lighting, heating and service by old-fashioned methods, then inquire into the cost of doing the same electrically and we shall be surprised if you do not find the resulting economy will quickly repay the cost of installation.

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Electricity Keeps the House Clean

New and Economical Ideas

IN these enlightened days we do not consider it necessary, in order to be clean, to indulge in a general upheaval once or twice a year. Nor do we consider it desirable to be continuously clean. There are, however, times such as when taking over or giving up a furnished house, re-arranging the scheme of things, that a sort of stock-taking or overhaul is called for, and the more labour-saving appliances that are used, the easier will accomplishment be and results more satisfactory.

First, of course, among the labour-saving aids for the housewife must be

Oven Temperatures

THE following table may act as a guide to those who are working for the first time with an oven thermometer or heat indicator, from recipes which do not give the actual temperature required:—

	On Thermometer
A quick oven	500
A good hot oven....	450
A hot oven	400
A moderate oven ..	350
A slow oven	250 to 300

Scones: At 450, with top and bottom elements at low.

Sponges and Plain Cakes: 400, top element off and bottom at low.

Rich Cakes: 350, top element off and bottom at low.

Puff Tarts: 500, Stored heat, or top and bottom low for about five minutes, then finish on stored heat.

Biscuits and Small Cakes: 450 (about), and on stored heat.

placed the electric vacuum cleaner, for by means of it, dust in carpets and hangings, chairs and settees, and in hidden places all over the house, can be not only removed, but "captured" in the dustproof bag and emptied straight into the dustbin, instead of being simply disturbed and allowed to settle again.

For the cleaning down of walls, the vacuum cleaner is invaluable, its long arm doing away with the necessity of mounting high steps. If the walls are finished with washable distemper or paint, and are still soiled after all dust has been removed, a soft cloth should be wrung out in warm water, and, beginning at the top, each section should be gone over and carefully dried before passing on to the next. Soiled wallpaper can be cleaned with dough or dry bread, working downward with light, even strokes. Warm bran is most effective, but has the disadvantage of being loose and powdery, and difficult to handle. Grease spots are best treated by a paste of Fuller's earth mixed with water (as stiff as possible) and brushed off when dry. The bathroom walls, which are certain

to be finished with washable distemper, paint or "sanitary" wallpaper, should be washed with warm water and a neutral soap.

Hints About Walls.

IN connection with paint-work, a word of warning must be given, for good paint is often ruined by the over-zealous cleaner. Soda must not be used in the water, as it will remove the paint as well as the dirt; neither should an abrasive cleaning-powder be employed. The latter is especially fatal to paint with a high gloss, rendering it dull and rough and much more liable to get soiled again. Soft cloths should be used with a little fine powder, and a smooth paste made of whitening and water to which a few drops of kerosene have been added will facilitate the removal of any bad marks. Finally wash off with clean water and rub dry. Varnished paint requires only tepid water and a little borax applied with a chamois leather, for varnish quickly softens under the

influence of hot water. Splashes of lime-wash on woodwork (done when the ceiling has been re-whitened) should be removed before they have time to harden.

Around the Floors.

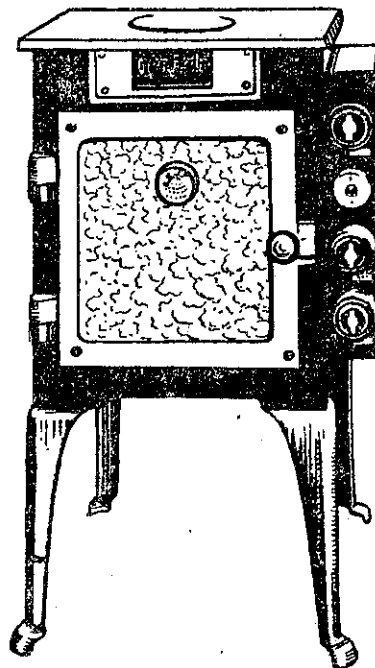
THE treatment adopted for floors must, of course, depend upon their surface. Linoleum should be well scrubbed and afterwards treated with a good floor polish. The wax must be applied hard to every inch of the material, and for this application and for polishing afterwards, nothing equals the apparatus supplied with all good makes of vacuum cleaners. When linoleum is used as a surround, in a bedroom especially, an effective treatment is to varnish it, using a hard floor varnish for the purpose.

An ordinary wood floor with a stained border will need to be scrubbed over and then touched up with stain in worn places, or the whole border may need to be given a fresh coat and then wax-polished. There are several excellent floor stains available, some being simple stains intended to be followed by varnish, others combining the varnish with the stain. Combinations of stain and wax can also be obtained and painted floors are often very effective.

Carpets and Curtains.

CARPETS should, in the every-day upkeep of the house, be maintained (Concluded on page 27.)

For the BACH and the FLAT



Supposing oil was discovered in New Zealand—and in quality equal to that used for daily motoring—and in quantity large enough to supply all the Dominion's needs, would everybody change from the imported spirit to benzine that might be New Zealand produced?

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