



THE ELECTRIC HOME JOURNAL

A FRIEND writing from London some time ago told me that she had been to a play in which the scene was staged in a very modern villa at Le Touquet. The living-room gave the impression of being extraordinarily sunny, while the walls are the colour of crocuses. The peculiar luminous effect was so attractive that my friend inquired after the performance how it was done. "By spraying gold paint over a lighter foundation of yellow," she was told. I wonder if this can be done in Wellington and if it would be very costly?

ELECTRIC boot-cleaners have been installed for the miners at a Leicestershire colliery.

SPRIGS of dried baronia placed among woolens and in the linen-press will keep moths away.

IN America, Women's Home Service Committees are doing invaluable work as regards the advancement of electricity. Lita Bane, past president of the American Home Economics Association, gave a very interesting address before the Public Relations Session, on the viewpoint of the woman in the home, the consumer who buys and uses the products of appliance manufacturers. The wise home manager, said Miss Bane, whenever it is within the range of her purse will make large use of electricity. In concluding her address, Miss Bane gave the following suggestions epitomising the home-maker's vision of electric service: That the industry—

- (1) Produce and sell electrical service as cheaply as possible.
- (2) Study the needs of home managers carefully in order that money and effort are not wasted in producing useless units.
- (3) Produce electrically-driven machinery which shall be as simple as possible to use, and as cheap as it is possible to make it.
- (4) Offer women careful training in the use, care and simple repair of household equipment. It is suggested that women are particularly successful in this work of helping to overcome the prejudice regarding machinery.
- (5) Exercise care in putting into a home only suitable needed equipment which they can pay for without undue need, worry and strain.

A FRESH interest is given to every-day vegetables if they appear sometimes in a new form. Carrots, for example, can be served up as follows: Mix some grated carrot with a quarter of its own quantity of fine breadcrumbs and enough beaten egg, mixed with a little milk and melted butter, to moisten it. Stir the whole well, season with salt and pepper, pour into a well-buttered dish and bake in a moderate oven (300deg.) till set.

A FRIEND of mine was visiting a country town in New Zealand, where electricity was still a new toy. She wrote to me saying that at every tea-party to which she was invited the sole topics of conversations were the various labour-saving electrical devices recently installed in each home. In fact there was great rivalry between the housewives over the amount of dirt which the vacuum-cleaners lifted from their carpets!

IN these days of "pioneer women" (says an English writer) it is interesting to hear that Caroline Haslett, the bright light of the Women's Electrical Movement, was the only woman British delegate at the World Power Conference at Berlin. Forty-eight nations were represented, and what struck Miss Haslett most was the rapidity with which the speeches were translated into French and German by the official interpreters. Each member of the audience had earphones, by which the French people were able to listen to the speech in French, and the Germans to listen to their own tongue. During her stay in Berlin Miss Haslett helped to start a German Women's Electrical Association, which will be a child of

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

IF a man has common-sense and character, mistakes are the soundest investments he ever makes. They point the way, sorry sign-posts though they are, as nothing else can.

LOUISE JORDAN MILNE, in
"A Yeinnan Courtyard."

the very sturdy Housewife's Association in which German women are so much interested. She has also been appointed the only woman delegate to attend the Electricity Commission, about to start its work.

SPINACH and vegetable marrow should always be steamed. When boiled they hold so much water that it is difficult to get rid of it all.

A TUNBRIDGE engineer has discovered a new and effective method of killing garden pests—he electrocutes them. With a battery on his back, a ground wire and such things, he walks the garden path toying with fork lightning. A touch of his magic wand, a special copper rod charged with a regulated voltage, caterpillars, worms, aphids collapse, blights die the death. The curse falls from the cabbage, the codlin shrivels in the heart of the apple, and the rose sheds the attacking mass of blight. The electric current is sent through the leaves and stems, destroying everything except the plant itself. The electrocution of the garden pest may solve one of our fruitgrowers' problems.

BRRRRR-R-RH-RH-rh-rrrrrr! Such a noise! Disturbing one's slumbers! What was it? A worn-out motor-bicycle being started up? No, nothing but our electric clock which regulates the hot-water service flat rate, automatically winding itself up. This is a wondrous device, and saves the old-time custom (three years old) of a weekly visit from the "clock winder" from the city council. A silencer can be placed on the motor-cycle, so will someone come forth with one for this disturber of our beauty sleep, or regulate it to wind up automatically only in the daylight hours?

MISS ETTA CARLIN is the proprietress of an electric clock shop in New York, and she is building up a fine speciality business, where anything from a tiny boudoir clock for milady's dressing-table to a massive grandfather's hall clock—all run by electricity—may be bought.

IN planning a small room care must be taken to utilise every inch of space to the best advantage, while avoiding an overcrowded appearance. It is a good plan to make the doors open outward or, if the room is a dining-room adjoining the living-room, to dispense altogether with a door and have a plain arch. Another point to remember is that tall-backed chairs are a mistake in a small room, as they tend to give it a fenced-in appearance. A fitted-in corner sideboard with cupboards below and shelves above makes a considerable saving of wall-space. Whatever lighting the room is to have should be directly over the table, and there are on the market many shaded electric lamps giving the soft effect of candle-light.

WITH gaily-coloured American cloth one can make a number of useful beach gadgets for herself. It is a good idea to make an oil-cloth envelope bag in which to carry home your bathing-kit when it is still wet.

FIFTY leading business and professional American women arrived in London at the end of July to make a tour, organised by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. They were led by Mrs. G. Bowman, from Virginia, whose business career reads like a romance. During the war she offered to sell War Savings Stamps and was later invited to start a women's department in a big banking concern in Virginia. Her flair for advertising led her to join the Expert Letter Corporation—a huge mail-order advertising business in the United States. Later on she bought this business and through her able management the turnover was doubled during her first year as proprietress.

OLD rubber hot-water bags which are beyond repair can be transformed into kneeling-mats for the garden, and being waterproof, especially useful when the ground is damp. Cover them with canvas or sacking, and leave the handle outside so that the mat can be pulled along by it.

SOMETIMES radio enthusiasts will find that battery acid is spilt on the carpet or on their clothes. A good plan is to keep a bottle of strong solution of washing-soda near the wireless accumulator. When a spot of acid falls it should be immediately covered with this solution which will neutralise the acid and prevent it from burning a hole.

NEW carrots and potatoes are much less trouble if they are blanched instead of scraped. Scrub them, put on a pan with cold water, bring to the boil; boil for two or three minutes only, drain and turn into a bowl of cold water. In ten minutes the skin can be easily rubbed or pulled off.