

relegated to the bathroom as a matter of course. Now, however, times have changed, the rites of the bath are of the utmost importance, and must be performed in congenial surroundings. The ideal is a tiled bathroom, but for those of limited incomes there are the new tiled papers, which can be had in panelled designs. For the floor there is cork carpet or tile-leum, both of which are excellent. Cork carpets must be washed carefully with pure soap, as soda ruins them. They should be dried with a linen cloth and not polished. Useful and decorative accessories for the bathroom are taps of the new stainless steel, a white porcelain stool with cork top, crystal towel rails, and, last but not least, cabinet for holding medicines and toilet necessities, fitted with plate glass shelves inside, and a damp-proof mirror on the door.

IF chiffon is of good quality it can be laundered at home, and still retain its colour and appearance. Use warm water, softened by a little borax, and a pure white soap in flake form to make a good lather. Put in the material, work it up and down, and squeeze gently between the hands, but on no account twist it. Rinse first in warm then in cold water, till all the soap has disappeared. Squeeze out the water by hand or lay the material between the folds of a towel, and pass through a wringer. Leave wrapped in a dry towel till ready for ironing. Iron on the right side, with a fairly hot iron.

IF you cook by electricity an electric kettle will save a great amount of current, as it boils water much more quickly than by turning on the hot plate. For the same reason an electric saucepan is useful for heating up small amounts of food, or for making sauces. When the oven has been in use, and the power then turned off, the reserve heat will still be sufficient to warm a bowl of water for washing the dishes.

THE British Broadcasting Corporation once acquired a parrot to entertain the youngsters during the children's hour, when the Uncles were exhausted. Polly had been specially chosen because of her flow of elegant language, but once at the Savoy Hill studios she became dumb. The only sounds she ever condescended to make were odd grunts—like a dissatisfied listener expressing his opinion. So one day Polly was seen no more.

THE perfect manners of the children in the Victorian Age are often upheld as an example to the present-day youngster. When a child of those days wanted to know something he would say: "If you are not too occupied, Papa, to waste your valuable time upon children, would you be so kind as to explain to me the principle of the interesting gas balloon?" The modern child would faint if this form of address was made compulsory, so probably would the parent.—Yours,

ALISON.

PRIZE POEM COMPETITION

THE prize of half a guinea this week is awarded to U.C. for "Summer Gold," which expresses with grace and felicity rapturous anticipation of beauty of the summer we hope is now not far behind. Selected for commendation is "Sea Glamour" by "Firefly," who succeeds in creating a faery, otherworld atmosphere in the first four stanzas, but is unable to sustain it in the concluding lines, which are somewhat halting.

K.W.H.E.: We like your human verses of the new day bringing to each and all "new chances, one more chance."

Pensee: A youthful contributor, and one possessed of imagination and consciousness of poetic form. The "Edelweiss" legend is sweetly phrased, and we encourage you to continue.

J.T.W.: Of the three poems submitted, we prefer "The End of the Game," which goes with a vim reminiscent of "Banjo" Patterson, but is too long for our purpose. Contributors are limited to 25 lines.

Jean: Sorry to discourage, but yours is a hopeless attempt.

John o' Groats: An ambitious subject tackled with disastrous results. We fear literature is not your metier.

Seascope: Your tale of a tub—a cutter in stormy, sunswept waters—is breezy and facile, but lacks the iridescent quality that is essential.

"Francesca" possesses an eye uncannily observant, and sends conscientious description of walking in the woods, in which the sense of beauty seems strangely absent.

S.M. sings, hey, for the small purple iris in a few lines of refreshing originality.

"Summer Dawn": Some small rhymes which exemplify the lingering influence of "The May Queen," perpetrated by a Victorian Poet Laureate.

Marianne: Shrill vapourings.

Summer Gold

SOON, soon all the slow gold sleepiness of summer
Will be drowsing every hollow in the sunburnt hills,
Tumbling balls of gold from boughs of dancing wattle
Through the dozing heart of noon till every blossom spills.

The faint gold thunder of a cloud of dark gold bees
Into a gold immensity of summer light,
While the slim gold fingers of the wind shake pollen
Over the great-winged butterflies in shining flight.

Ah, soon will the smell of gorse, like sun-warmed apricots,
From dunes as golden as its own bright bloom arise,
And the sun draw a heavy scent from ripening orchards
Hung in a golden haze of heat beneath still skies.

And we one day, soon, soon, will wake to hear the
Whole honeyed heart of summer stirring in the rush
Of song with which one bird, passioned with sunrise,
Pierces the sky's wide golden clarity and hush.

—U.C.

For the Booklover

A CHARMING yet inexpensive present for a book-lover is a pair of embroidered book-ends. Buy two cheap japanned tin book ends. Have two pieces of wood cut the same shape and size as the upright ends. Use small tacks or screws to fasten the wooden and tin ends together. Cut four pieces of silk, one for each side of each end. Embroider two of them and sew one plain and one embroidered piece together, so as to make a slip-on cover for the book-ends. Finish the edges off with gold galon to hide the joints. Some materials could be pasted right on to the wood to save sewing, but this method is not so satisfactory as the stuff is apt to crinkle.

Oiling Habit

DID you ever think of oiling the machinery of your house. Try going round with an oil can filled with motor oil. Hinges, locks, catches, snibs—all will work like a charm afterwards. The most difficult to oil and silence are the squealing wheels over which the sash-cords go. Keep squirting the oil in until they stop, and if a deal runs down the woodwork so much the better. It is a treat to be able to throw a window up with two fingers afterwards. For sticky drawers vaseline is used. Remove the drawer and rub carefully in the whole of the sides and runners, wiping the surplus off with a cloth.—G.G.S.

Travel De Luxe

IT is a far cry from the discomfort and privations of crossing the seas in a sailing ship to the super-luxury of such vessels as the new Cunarder. No longer is the cargo the first consideration of the owners and passengers looked on as superfluous nuisances. On the contrary, we find the organisers of the Imperial Institute Exhibition of Industrial Designs offering a prize for the best design for fitting and furnishing a saloon cabin. Bookshelves, wardrobes, with long mirrors and sliding trays, shaded lights, for reading, comfortable chairs and desks for writing, and a charming colour scheme pervading the whole. These are only a few of the items included in the competing designs. Every cabin is fitted with an electric radiator, and anyone who has experienced the comfort of such an appliance during cold weather at sea will agree that it is indispensable.

Trade Notes

Sunshine Vacuum Cleaner

THIS is a full-sized, hand-some-looking cleaner, with many new detail advantages. Although the Sunshine has a full equipment of accessories, the whole complement retails at a price much below the amount the average home-cleaner would be prepared to pay for so well-made an apparatus. We continue with details of the cleaner.

Nozzle: Measuring 13 inches, of cast aluminium, highly polished, and attaching by two strong lugs. There are no dead spots and threads are picked up at either side, where there is an aperture through which the air flows at greatest speed.

Brush: Stationary, but easily detachable, strong and useful. Adjustment is made at the rear of the cleaner, where a screw adjusts the rear wheels and determines the distance between the carpet and the nozzle.

Chassis: Two rubber tired wheels and a third adjustable wheel at the rear, are separately attached to the casing, and operate noiselessly. With rubber tires there is neither scratching nor blur to the surface of highly-polished floors.

Motor: Westinghouse, built for vacuum cleaners, operating 230 voltage, or at ordinary 120 voltage. The rear armature bearing is lower than the front bearing, to equalise the bearing wear and danger of overheating is guarded against by a cooling fan. Lubrication is obtained by two self-feeding grease cups which if filled may be left safely for one year. The motor is housed in a highly-polished aluminium casing, which adds to the appearance and protects the motor from external damage.

Fan: Die cast aluminium, large and mounted directly to the armature shaft of the motor, and revolves at motor's speed. The fan is balanced and drives the dirt-laden air into a large octagonal space through to the dust bag. It was found under test that shavings and large splinters of wood were sucked up and delivered into the bag, although it was thought this material would be too large for the suction to deal with.

Handle: Light-weight tubular steel, nickel-plated, carrying the trigger switch, dust-bag clip, 20ft. of electric cable, and ending with a black polished wood handle.

Dust-bag: Cotton twill fabric—quite up to the job expected of it. Attachments: Usual to first quality cleaners, and fastened by simple lug and cam lever operated locking arm. The controlling agents are Harold Lightband Ltd., of Christchurch.