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Household.

The Use of Ammonia.

No housekeeper should be without a bottle of the spirits of ammonia, for besides its medical value, it is also invaluable for many household purposes. It is nearly as useful an article, for all cleansing purposes as soap, and its cheapness brings it within the reach of all.

Turn a teaspoonful of ammonia into a quart of warm soap suds; dip in a bit of flannel and wipe off the grime and smoke, and dust from any painted wood-work, and see for yourself how much hard labor it will save you, for you do not need to scrub it with all your strength, only wipe it off.

It will also clean and brighten silver wonderfully. Mix a teaspoonful of ammonia with a pint of hot suds; dip in your silver forks and spoons, rub them with a soft brush and polish with a chamois skin and you will use it weekly, if not oftener.

For washing mirrors and windows it is very excellent. Put a few drops of the ammonia on a piece of newspaper, and you can rub off any marks on the glass at once.

It will also take out any grease spots from any kind of cloth. Mix a few drops with a few drops of water, and rub gently on the spot; laying a blotting paper over the place, and press a moderately heated flat iron upon it, and it will disappear. A few drops turned upon a wetted towel and gently pressed upon the edge of a soiled collar will whiten it.

Then it is a most refreshing agent for the toilet, for a few drops in a basin of water will remove all disagreeable odours of the skin. If a teaspoonful is added to a footbath, it will take away all unpleasantness from the feet. And there is nothing better for cleansing the hair of dust and dandruff than a half teaspoonful of ammonia in a cupful of warm water.

For cleansing hair and nail brushes it is equally good. Put a teasponful of it into a cup of warm water, and dip the brushes into the water and scrub them well; then shake out until nearly dry, and put into the sunshine. The most soiled brushes will come forth from such a bath pure and clean.

For medical purposes ammonia is much used. In cases of severe headache, it will prove a very agreeable remedy, and a frequent inhalation of its pungent vapors will often cure a catarrhal cold. There is no better remedy than aromatic spirits of ammonia for a severe cough. Twenty drops of it taken in a wine-glass of water, will frequently prove of great relief. It is also a good remedy for dyspepsia and heartburn. The common spirits of ammonia can be used in the same way, but it is not as palatable as the aromatic spirits.

In addition to all these uses, ammonia can be applied to vegetation with the most beneficial effects. If you desird to make your roses fuchsias, geraniums, carnations blossom, add half a teaspoonful of ammonia to every pint and a half of warm water, and sprinkle them with it. But do not use it oftner than twice a week.

Rain water is impregnated with ammonia and it is more refreshing and invigorating than spring water in vegetable life.

Ammonia should always be kept tightly closed with a glass stopper, as it is so strong that it eats away cork.

How to Keep a Piano.

The piano is a delicate instrument and is very sensitive to atmospheric changes. A French pianist gives the following advice as to the best way of preserving the instrument from injury.

It must be shaded from the sun, kept out of the draft, and, above all, guarded from sudden changes of temperature. This is a most frequent cause ef pianos getting out of tune; the instrument should be kept in a temperature not lower than 54° and not higher than 86° Fahrenheit.

When too cold, the wood, cloth and skin swell and the mechanism works badly; when too warm the materials shrink and produce clicking, squeaking and other disagreeable rounds.

Moisture is the greatest enemy of the piano, and it cannot be too carefully guarded against. In a very short time damp will destroy every good point about the instrument. Therefore do not put your piano in a damp ground-floor room, or between two windows, or between the door and the window where there is a through draft. Never leave the piano open when not in use, and above all, when the room is being cleaned.

Do not put it near the stove, chimney or hot air pipes.

Always wipe the keys after playing.

Never pile books, music or other heavy things on the top.

Be careful when using the soft pedal not to thump the notes.

Do not allow five note, or other exercises of a small compass, on a piano you have any regard for.

A leather cover should be kept on the instrument when not in use, and removed every day for the purpose of dusting.

A cushion of wadding or a strip of flannel, laid on the keys, will help to keep them white and preserve the polish.

Never leave the piano open after a musical evening or a dance.

If you are obliged to have it in a damp room, do not place it against the wall, and raise it from the floor by means of insulators, and always cover it after playing.

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