

To Bleach Straw Plait.—Expose it to the fumes of burning sulphur in a close chest or box, or immerse it in a weak solution of chloride of lime, and afterwards wash it well in water. Water strongly acidulated with oil of vitriol, or oxalic acid, is also used for the same purpose.

The use of peroxide of hydrogen is extending for bleaching purposes. It is now employed for the bleaching of feathers and also for tussah silks, for which it is admirably adapted.

Oil stains may be removed from paper by applying pipe-clay, powdered and mixed with water to the thickness of cream; leave on for four hours.

Bleaching Ivory.—Take a double handful of lime, and slake it by sprinkling it with water, and then add three pints of water; stir it up together, let it settle ten minutes, and pour the water into a pan; then take your ivory and steep it in the lime water for several hours, after which boil it in strong alum water, and dry it in the air.

The best way to bleach ivory knife handles is, to rub them with the common Bath brick, clean them off, dry, wrap the blades in paper, lay them on a bright tin plate, and leave in the sun; bring in at night, and repeat daily until fully bleached.

Cleaning Ivory.—Take a piece of common white chalk, scrape it to a powder, add as much water as will produce a paste, and apply this paste to the surface of the ivory. If the stains are very bad, two or three, or even more, applications may be requisite.

Tortoise-shell may very easily be kept bright. The best polish is the rouge-powder used in the finishing process of brightening silver goods. If thus treated regularly, no tortoise-shell, however old, need look dull, as is so often the case.

REMOVING TEA OR COFFEE STAINS

Clear boiling water will remove tea stains; pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

Tea stains if not washed out at once are very troublesome to get rid of. Pure gelatine well rubbed in is said to be an efficient cleanser for stains of long standing.

Linens that have been stained by tea or coffee may be cleansed by moistening the spots with water and holding them over the fumes of a small piece of burning sulphur or a few sulphur matches. Wash immediately with water in which a little ammonia or soda has been dissolved.

Powdered starch will take the stain out of linen if applied immediately.

Tea stains may be removed from a table cloth by immersing it in a strong solution of sugar for a few minutes and then rinsing it in soft water.

Tea or coffee stains of long standing may be removed by rubbing the cloth with glycerine, after washing once; a second washing leaves the linen as clean as before.

If you find boiling water poured through the stain does not remove it, try equal parts of chloride of lime and sal soda or baking soda; either one will answer the purpose. Say two, or two and a half tablespoonfuls of each dissolved in about three quarts of boiling water. Dip the stain into this solution and then wash in the usual way, using soft water. You will find that this will remove a stain of long standing or one that has been set by being washed in soapsuds.

If you have washed an article and had the trimming fade and run, the above solution will remove all traces of it.

REMOVING FRUIT STAINS

Old fruit stains must be treated with oxalic acid. Dissolve three ounces in a pint of water. Soak the stain in this solution five minutes, then steam by holding over a kettle of boiling water, or hang in the sunshine. When the stain disappears, rinse in ammonia water so as to counteract the action of the acid. Rinse well in clear water so that the fabric will not be injured, then spread on the grass or hang in the sun to bleach and whiten.

To remove fruit stains from linen, rub the part on each side with yellow soap, then tie up a piece of pearl-ash in the cloth, and soak in hot water. Afterwards expose the stained part to the sun and air. Or, dip in sour buttermilk and dry in the sun; wash in cold water and dry two or three times a day. Or, dip in hot milk several times; or, hold up and pour hot water through the stained fabric.

TO REMOVE STAINS FROM CLOTHS

Repeated applications of alcohol will remove grass stains from any white material.

Small heel caps of waste leather will keep the holes from the heels of stockings.

Traces of mud may be removed from black dresses by rubbing the stains with raw potato.

To remove blood stains, dip the stained fabric in kerosene, and then wash thoroughly.

White zephyr articles may be nicely cleaned by using chloride of magnesia; when clean, shake thoroughly and hang out-of-doors.

Lampblack is removed by wetting with kerosene and washing with some good soap and warm water.

Mildew can be removed by rubbing green tomatoes and salt on the spot, then exposing it to the rays of the sun.

Mildew can be removed by soaking in buttermilk, or putting lemon juice and salt upon it and exposing it to the hot sun. (See also under Borax and its Uses.)

When black stuff has become rusty, the color can be restored by sponging it with strong ammonia water, or a mixture of equal parts of ammonia and alcohol, which is still better.

If a piece of gum camphor is placed in the drawer where are kept dress waists that are trimmed with steel it will prevent the steel from tarnishing.

Clothing that has become spotted, and whose color has been destroyed by acids, may have the color restored by applying ammonia and afterward chloroform.

Clothes that have been used should be carefully brushed before being put away. It is the dust in cloths that gives them the much deplored rusty, brown appearance.

In washing any delicate material with gasoline, if salt is added there will be no stain left at the edges of the washed parts.