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Ready or Never Ready?

Margaret Davidson

Iowa State College

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The Iowa Homemaker

Ready or Never Ready?
Margaret Davidson

"Do come in neighbor. You don't mind if I go on with my cleaning do you? How can you get done so soon? Seems to me I'm never through, especially with my cleaning. I just get one thing done and it's ready to be done again."

Such was the greeting given to Mrs. Ready as she walked into Mrs. Never-ready's kitchen one afternoon. The conversation soon developed into a discussion of cleaning problems.

"How do I finish so soon? Well, one thing that saves time is my daily schedule," offered Mrs. Ready, "I decide how much time for one day I'll spend on cleaning. Then I group the jobs I expect to do together."

"But how do you keep your schedule?" asked Mrs. Never-ready. "What happens if you get behind?"

"I try to make it liberal enough to allow for telephone calls, or other interruptions. So many people make schedules they could never follow. Remember, you can't always work at top speed."

"Another thing that saves time," Mrs. Ready continued, "is to route your work so you don't have to go back. It is easier to start in the kitchen and go on through all the other rooms on the first floor. I don't have to carry all my brooms and brushes back, and I clean as I go along. I do my spring house cleaning that way, and John doesn't mind at all. He hardly knows about it. I begin at the top of the house and go down, doing one room at a time."

"Of course," Mrs. Ready added, "You realize that the equipment you use may help with your cleaning. I see you have a vacuum cleaner. Do you use the attachments?"

"Why, I haven't used those attachments but once since I got them," said Mrs. Never-ready.

"You must try them. Are they easy to use? I use mine on my furniture, clothes and walls almost every week. Now you can get a small vacuum cleaner about the size of an iron, to use instead of the attachments. The best thing about a vacuum is that it doesn't just stir up the dust, but takes it all away."

"Have you seen all the new brushes you can get to help with the cleaning? There's one for every job. If you get the right one, it can save time for you. Most of them have handles long enough so you don't break your back using them."

Get Those Germs
Ruth Stewart

Germs are little things but it is the little thing that counts in keeping the family healthy and happy. Many materials are commonly sold as disinfectants that do not have any germ-killing value. They merely give a pleasant odor or one suggesting cleanliness. Yet real disinfectants are cheap.

Sunlight is a great destroyer of germ life and in combination with dryness and cleanliness, it is a good disinfectant. We know that the mere act of cleaning removes some of the germs from the surface, and that ordinary scrubbing and mopping destroys many more. Therefore, rule one, is to have sunlight and cleanliness.

Fire is a purifier and rubbish and articles of little value, which we can not use any more, can be burned. Old clothing may be given away. According to the Department of Agriculture Bulletin 1051, moths can be controlled effectively and at a reasonable cost. Bulletin 926 deals with disinfectants; 658 with cockroaches; 627 with house centipedes; and 754 with bed bugs.

Ordinary soaps have a limited disinfecting power. The common commercial soaps, especially the colored soaps, are frequently of poor quality, contain resin instead of the fatty acids, and are not to be depended upon. We can also avoid the soft soaps on account of the presence of all the impurities of the fat and alkali from which they are made. There are other conditions which render the use of soaps uncertain, the chief of which is the hardness of the water. Experts say that the addition of medicinal agents to soaps is meaningless and wasteful. Treated soaps may be less efficient as an antiseptic than a pure soap unmedicated. Many times the consumer pays for the gifted package. Soap is a matter of chemistry. Any competent chemist can tell how it should be made, what it ought to cost, and perhaps even where to find it. Tri-sodium phosphate, a newly developed cleansing agent, has come into use for soap, powders and similar objects. It retails for 16 to 20 cents per pound and may be purchased at 4 cents per pound. It softens wash and boiler water. It cleans marble walls, staircases, dishes, glassware, windows, dairy utensils, bathtubs, and refrigerators. It is bottled and perfume is added and sold as bath salts.

Brushes are necessary to every house-cleaning campaign. It is better to have certain brushes for job. It is also important to have just the right number, not too many and still enough. There is a brush with a long handle to clean the refrigerator drain. There is another long handled brush which fits the radiator. Wall brushes, scrub brushes and mops are also necessary to help us.

He wrote of lords and ladies
(He lived in Arkansas)
He wrote of countless millions
(A "V" filed him with awe)
His tales indeed were many,
His sales alas were few;
He wrote of things he'd read about
And not of what he knew.

—Anonymous.