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Be Your Own Repair Man...

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Be Your Own Repair Man...

By Thelma Carlson

Today the question is not "Have you a family skeleton in your closet?" It is, "Have you a broken electrical appliance there?"

Many people have tucked away parlor lamps, curling irons and much needed toasters because they required a few minor or electrical repairs. It is no longer necessary to call in the electrician to revive these injured articles. Make a diagnosis of the case yourself and administer first aid.

One thing that all appliances have in common is cords. These bothersome things are the source of much needed nonsense of the case yourself and administer first aid. They are the cords. These bothersome things are the source of much needed nonsense of the case yourself and administer first aid.

One thing that all appliances have in common is cords. These bothersome connections are responsible for 90 percent of the household electrical repair jobs, so it is fortunate that their repair is simple and can be quickly done.

Very few tools will be needed and even less material. Scissors and a roll of friction tape will do the job.

PLUGS. At the start put the cord and plug of the cord is worn out or broken, a new one may be bought for about one-half inch from the ends of the wires. Wind each wire around one of the two screws in the plug and tie a knot on the end. This will make less strain on the terminals. Use about four inches of narrow friction tape to wrap the knot.

INSULATION and tarnish should now be scraped from the ends of the wires and the wires pulled down until the knot is snugly fitted in the hole. Each of the wires should now be wound once around one of the two screws in the plug, the excess wire cut off, the clippings removed and the screws turned down tightly upon the encircling wire. It is equally easy to fix an iron plug. At the start put the cord thru the spring wire guard. Cut the outer covering away just far enough to permit the wires to lie in the grooves. Strip the insulation about one-half inch from the ends of the wires. Wind each wire around one screw on the terminals and tighten the screws. Cut off the excess wire and fit the cord and the terminals in one half of the plug. Place the other half over this and replace the screws that hold the halves together.

In pulling out an appliance or an iron plug, never pull by the cord, since this is apt to tear the cord from the plug or break the wires. Plugs are now being made larger and easier to grasp. Also plugs now have switches so that it is not necessary to pull them out each time. It is best, however, to disconnect the current when thru ironing, that there may be no doubt that the current is turned off.

To repair a light socket, it is necessary to first remove the outside jacket by bearing down on the spot labeled 'press,' and pulling the jacket clear. When the outer case has been slipped off, the wires may be fastened to the terminals as before by wrapping them around the screws which will be found on either side of the socket.

Cords are made of two wires in order to make a path from the power plant to the appliance and back. If these wires touch before they reach the appliance, a short circuit is caused. This should be prevented by the insulated material which is wrapped around the wires. The cords that are used for appliances carry heavy loads of current, so the cords are wrapped with asbestos over a thin coating of rubber.

It is very important that appliance wires be flexible, so, instead of being made of solid copper, they are made of many fine copper wires. Should the wire break, there is an open current and no electricity will flow to the appliance.

Because of the fact that the cords cause so much of the trouble of the household electrician, it is important to give them the best of care. They should be kept straight and not allowed to kink. Unnecessary bending should be avoided.

On appliances such as the vacuum cleaner, the cord is wound around the clips on the handle. Care should be taken not to wind it too tightly. Cords, moreover, should never be trampled upon or water soaked. If water penetrates the insulation it may cause a short circuit.

Electricity is extremely dangerous if mishandled. It is a powerful ally to the homemaker if it is kept in its proper place—under complete human control. Thru there understanding of the simple mechanics of the common electrical appliances we may save ourselves much inconvenience, time and expense.

The Homemaker's Books

"Just Normal Children," by Florence Mateer, Director of Merryheart Schools, Columbus, Ohio.

"If your child is well and happy, eats and sleeps and grows as he should, causes no serious worries, does all that other children of his age do, talks and plays and gets into mischief normally—this book is not intended for you.

"But, if,

In spite of his loveliness and ability, your child is difficult, stubborn, queer, hard to manage, different or nervous, will not play or eat or sleep, causes worries because he is a problem— it is for you this book has been written, in the hope it may help to guide your child into wholesome normalcy."

"What's to be done when Polly won't sleep?"

"How can I make Joan eat?"

"Felicity April runs away! What shall I do?"

No matter what the problem in child care may be, Miss Mateer has apparently found a solution for it. Her book should relieve many a mother's worry. She presents extreme cases of backward children and then explains how they may be guided back to normalcy. She has aided children who have been declared mentally deficient by competent physicians. It should prove interesting to follow her plan of winning a child's confidence, and then to apply her method of cure which is simply to develop a well balanced program of work and play. Miss Mateer convinces one that no child need grow up with a handicap. Even the most serious afflictions can apparently be relieved if managed properly.

Wherever the speech is corrupted, the mind is also.—Seneca.