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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Monday, October 24, 1932.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Economy Hints for the Household." Information from the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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Any time now is a good time to arrange a little kitchen garden in the sunny south window. There you can have fresh herbs to season your winter meals even when the snow is deep in the garden outside. You can grow sage, mint, thyme and parsley in pots or in a window box on that window sill. You can also grow onion sprouts-- nice to enliven winter salads. In fact, I've been told that three onions grown in flower pots in the kitchen will supply onion flavoring for a whole season.

But, if you have a gas stove in your kitchen, better have your herb garden in some other room. Gas is hard on any growing things. And be sure that your indoor garden gets plenty of sunshine. Water it just a little every day.

I've brought along with me today my collection of helpful hints-- recent contributions from my friends. And I've got a lot of fine economy ideas among them, thanks to all the housekeepers who have been contributing.

One listener writes that she has solved the problem of what to do with short blankets, the kind that aren't long enough to tuck in well at the bottom and come up around your neck at the same time. I don't know anything more annoying than bedclothes that are stingy in length, do you? You know how it goes when you try to sleep under short sheets or short blankets. By morning either your toes are cold or the wind is blowing in around your shoulders. Makes me shiver to think of it.

Well, the simple remedy for too-short blankets, suggested by this friend, is a strip of unbleached muslin, 12 to 18 inches wide, sewed to the end of the blanket-- the end that tucks in at the bottom of the bed. She says that will prevent cold toes.

Here's another helpful hint, just arrived. Maybe you've already thought of this one yourself. "A clean whisk broom makes a good clothes sprinkler because it gives a fine spray, sprinkles evenly and is quicker than hand sprinkling."

By the way, if you are in a hurry to iron your clothes and want them to dampen evenly and quickly, sprinkle them with warm water and lay the roll on top of the radiator. The heat helps the moisture penetrate the clothes quickly.

One good home manager who has her eye on the family budget declares that kitchen scales soon save their own price. She says scales of the registering kind are best for they are generally accurate and you can tell at a glance whether you have really gotten full weight for the pound of meat you paid for or for any other

groceries. A continual shortage mounts up during the year and a clerk is more apt to be careful if he knows you check up on everything.

Here are two hints to help you in the job of keeping the house clean. My Next-Door Neighbor says that she saves herself lots of time in cleaning out the various corners of the room or around the windows by using a small paint brush. It gets in the corners that you can't reach with a cloth or a mop.

Did you ever use floor wax to save work in cleaning? See how this idea appeals to you. One friend writes: "Applying a little ordinary floor wax to the woodwork around the pulls of drawers and cupboards restores the luster lost by numerous washings and at the same time saves future washings by protecting these spaces from soiled fingers. Many places about every home need a similar application to save both time and labor."

Many modern housekeepers go in for modern business methods, even when it comes to the old art of mending and patching. Here's a lady who says she keeps a file for her patches. "Instead of the clumsy old-time big basket full of pieces of cloth of all different sizes," she says, "I use a box letter-file for patches. A few pieces like each of my children's garments I clip to stiff cards and arrange them in the file under the proper letter. This I've found makes a very convenient and efficient way to find a patch."

Another mother says that every time she buys or knits a sweater for her young son she also buys a ball of yarn to match it. By doing this she always has the right shade of yarn at hand to mend the first hole that appears as well as to darn the inside of the elbows to make them wear longer.

Now for the economy menu. Vegetable soup for the first course, make it with --but I may as well give you the recipe instead of talking about it. I will as soon as I finish the menu.

The soup meat you can grind up and use to make browned dry hash. Combine the meat with potatoes and onions and plenty of seasoning. Then, for dessert, have hot muffins and apple butter.

Now for the recipe for vegetable soup- a good soup for a cold night.

1 large soup bone, cracked	3 quarts of cold water
4 tablespoons of fat	1 green pepper, chopped
1 cup of chopped onion	1 cup of finely diced carrots
1 and 1/2 cups of chopped celery and leaves	1 cup of finely diced turnips
2 cups of tomato juice and pulp	3 teaspoons of salt-or salt to taste,
	and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper

I'll repeat that list. (Repeat.)

Wash the soup bone and be careful to remove all small loose pieces. Put the bone in a large kettle, cover with cold water and simmer for two hours. Remove the bone from the broth. Cook all the vegetables except the tomatoes in the fat in the skillet for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the vegetables, tomatoes, salt and pepper to the broth and simmer until the vegetables are tender but not broken. This is a rather large quantity of soup but you can save it and reheat it next day.

