

## PRACTICAL HINTS.

### CARE OF BLANKETS AND PILLOWS.

The care of blankets and pillows is one of the problems which confronts hospital superintendents at this time of the year. Miss Lina Fish, house-keeper of the Chicago Municipal Tuberculosis Sanatorium, gives an account in the *Modern Hospital* of the system which she evolved to overcome the difficulty.

"We took rooms that were used for storage, seeing to it that they were not subject to floods or sweating steam pipes, and put up cases of 'deaded' ceiling, arranging them so that each compartment held just so many single or double blankets, folded exactly alike. We knew that when we had that space filled we had its allotted number. Upon the many cases we kept a card index. The index corresponded with the blankets inside and with the different units sending them for storage. By this means we were able to return in the fall, when needed, the same blankets that had been given care during the summer. We were very careful to see that moth marbles were placed among them in sufficient numbers to insure against any damage from moths, and I can state that, owing to this plan, we have never had a single blanket attacked by that dreaded summer scourge, the moth. It might be well to state here that all blankets are examined carefully to decide whether they require laundering or merely airing.

"When laundering was required, we saw to careful washing. One of the most important factors in a successful cleansing is the soap. It is necessary, in consideration of the animal wool, to have a vegetable soap if possible, for the purpose of keeping down the shrinkage, and, of course, the water must be kept at the same temperature throughout the process. It is best to give them two suds but not to use too much soap; the second suds should be light, with almost one half less soap than the first. All soap must be rinsed out for perfect work. With the drying of woollen blankets comes the principal task. Many are obliged, from restricted grounds, to use the dry-room tumbler, and this will do the work if the heat is regulated to a little above natural, but if the blankets are given too much heat they shrink and become hard, no matter how well washed. If it is possible, they should be dried outside, preferably on the lawn, as it is much easier to spread them and it makes such a difference in their condition if they are exposed to sun and air. In the case of cotton blankets, the drying should be done with the dry-room tumbler or in a dry-room rather than with the mangle. We all know that there is more wear and tear in the laundering and mangling of flat work than in the using. Cotton blankets can be folded up systematically and piled from the dryer, and then the nap is saved and they will still be sufficiently smooth for the bed. One-half of the wear, as we have found by experience, results from putting

them through the mangle. This, of course, applies more directly where cotton blankets are used for outdoor sleeping and take the place of sheets. The tendency with the substitute for the sheets is to put it through the laundry more often than is necessary, for the habit of a change of sheets every week is strong.

"While speaking of blankets, it may be said that feather pillows can also be treated to a bath and renovating bills be saved. The pillows should be put in the machine with about the same soap that would be used for blankets; regular laundry soap will do for this. The loads should not be heavy. The water should be a little warmer than for blankets, and the pillows should be given a good washing. Of course the extent of the first suds depends on the condition of the pillow. They should be given a second suds and rinsed several times. All the water must be kept at the same temperature after the first suds. Then the principal thing is the drying. They should be put in the dry-room tumbler and kept tumbling until dry. If there is not time to give them a full drying in the tumbler they can be placed in the regular dryer and finished in the tumbler. They will come out like new pillows."

### CARE OF LINOLEUMS AND CORK CARPETS.

If you have floors of battleship or inlaid linoleum, waxing is recommended as the best preservative and the easiest way to keep them clean. Before applying any wax, however, the linoleum should be thoroughly cleaned by scrubbing with warm suds made with mild soap, preferably a vegetable oil soap, free from alkali. After the floor is dry, a good floor wax, preferably liquid, should be applied and rubbed in thoroughly. The use of a weighted brush or an electric floor waxer will give a beautiful polish and a smooth surface, to which dirt will not adhere. After three or four such waxings, a week or so apart, the wax need not be renewed oftener than once every two or three months. Daily cleaning need consist only of going over the floors with a dry mop.

For printed linoleum, the best treatment is varnishing. The best results are obtained through the use of a waterproof, thoroughly elastic preparation, as ordinary cheap varnishes are liable to crack and turn white or yellow after they have been walked on for some time. This same method should be followed in scrubbing printed linoleum as in inlaid or cork carpet. Extreme care should be taken against the use of soap or soap powders containing alkalis, as their repeated use will make your linoleum wear out in a few years. These alkalis eat into the oxidized linseed oil in the linoleum just the same as they do in the paint or varnish of woodwork, the base of which is also linseed oil.

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Wednesday was Rose Day, and as is her custom Queen Alexandra drove through London to visit the rose sellers. As the hospitals can do with all they can get, we may hope the public responded generously to the flowery appeal.

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