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LIBERTY ENLIGHTENS THE WORLD

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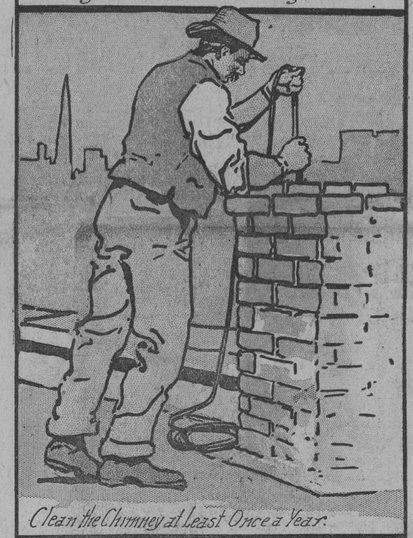
HOW WOMEN CAN FIGHT FIRES

Powell Evans, an Expert in Fire Prevention.

Miss Eva MacDonald Valesh, Organizer and President of the Women's National Fire Prevention Association.

Guard Against Drafts Before Retiring



Clean the Chimney at Least Once a Year.

See That the Stove Pipe Is True and Tight

Keep Ashes In a Metal Receptacle Away from Wood

Never Use Gasoline Indoors for Cleaning

Put Greasy Rags In a Metal Receptacle

Have Nothing But Metal Waste Baskets In the Home

Fill Oil Lamps In the Day Time

Remove All Cotton and Metallic Ornaments From Chandeliers

Don't Leave Oil Cans In Kitchen, Or Near a Stove

Before They Start Is the Time to Begin, Say Experts, Because Half of the Home Blazes Are Easily Preventable

"FIRE housecleaning" is the latest in domestic affairs.

Heretofore, a woman has persuaded herself that she was cleaning house when she transferred the movable debris from the living rooms to the cellar and the attic. Old clothes, too good to throw away, went into trunks or drawers.

Some months afterward, when mother wanted to rummage around in dark or ill-lighted crannies, she resorted to matches or oil lamps. Often there would be a fire, maybe a mysterious explosion that no one could account for.

Now the busy scientists, who are always trying to make trouble for peaceable people, are telling us that these fires were due to an inflammable gas, which was generated by dank and dusty rubbish. Consequently, there is beginning a national campaign having for its object the reduction of preventable fires in the home.

As the case stands at present, the woman herself is charged with being directly responsible for 5 per cent of the domestic fire losses. As one house burns on an average of every ten minutes in America, we can realize that it is about time for wives and mothers, sisters and daughters, to reform.

Not that the gentler sex are natural firebugs. Far be it from such. No bold, bad man would dare make such an insinuation. Ignorance and carelessness are the charges.

WHAT EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW TO AVOID FIRES

Fill the oil lamps in the daytime.
Put greasy rags in metal receptacles.
Never use gasoline for cleaning indoors.
Have metal wastebaskets only in the home.
Do not leave oil cans in the kitchen, especially near the stove.
Have simple, cheap screens in front of every open fireplace.
Keep the ashes in a metal receptacle, away from any wood.
Use only safety matches, and keep these away from the children.
Constantly clean the rubbish, particularly in the yards, cellars and closets.
Avoid the prehistoric mistake of using coal oil to help along a dying fire.
Make sure that all doors that would cause drafts are closed before retiring.
Pay particular attention to the stovepipe, and see that it is set firm and tight.
Keep curtains and draperies tied back, to prevent them swinging against the gas jets.
Remove all cotton and metallic ornaments from the gas or electric light chandeliers.
Don't take a kerosene lamp into cellar, attic or any other place where there is rubbish.
Have the chimney burned out and cleaned at least once a year, and before the fall season sets in.
Smokers of either sex, who carelessly leave matches lying around, are a menace to the home.
All sorts of rubbish, as commonly kept in an attic, is just as commonly the cause of a burned home.
Don't keep old clothes in trunks and closets. Better throw them away than have a fire start in them.
Be always on the lookout for a defective flue. This has been the cause of 50 per cent of the fires in the south.
Be particularly careful about cleaning grease out of a gas oven. Many women have been burned to death through a lack of caution.
Clean out the cellars. Rubbish in them is just as dangerous as in attics, and should never be allowed to accumulate in either place.
Portable gas stoves should have their rubber tubing renewed every few months. Otherwise they are likely to cause fires or explosions, or both.
If meat catches fire in a gas oven, first shut off the gas and then throw salt on the fire. Don't use water. The salt will put out the blaze and won't spoil the meat.
When you use a match, be careful where you put it. Careless disposal of burning or smoldering matches has caused many great disasters.

UNCONSCIOUSLY, housewives are daily inviting the fire demon to their homes, and when he comes they wonder how he got there. In a nutshell, they seldom worry about fires. They think it time enough to bother about them when they occur. And when such happens to be the case, they generally lose their heads and make no attempt to extinguish the blaze; possibly even losing their lives by imagining they are trapped in the building.

So, to educate women to prevent fires, to extinguish them and to make their escape from the burning buildings without harm when they do occur, crusades have been started in various parts of the country. New York city, Chicago and Philadelphia have already arranged fire-prevention departments, and other cities are preparing to do likewise.

Furthermore, a movement looking to the same end has extended to all parts of the country, and many well-known women have been enlisted in the work. Mrs. Eva MacDonald Valesh, who is prominent in club and suffrage circles, is the head of the organization, known as the National Association of Fire Prevention, and she is doing much effective service. Another who has accomplished much along these lines is Powell Evans, one of the country's best-known experts in fire prevention.

The trend of modern thought is to get at the roots of the evils of the day. The philanthropist, the settlement worker, the charity dispenser, the tenement house or factory inspector is no longer content to patch up existing conditions, but digs right down into the trouble, that it may be prevented from spreading.

Now this same practical lesson is being learned by the country's fire experts.

Fighting flames has been brought almost to a science. Men from all parts of the world who have inspected the American systems have gone home with high-sounding praises of the efficiency of the firemen and of their incomparable apparatus. But that has not prevented fires. Every year they increase by thousands. The geodetic survey bureau of the United States government has placed this total loss at $400,000,000 a year. Moreover, this amount is ten times as large as the fire waste in western Europe.

Of those who are devoting themselves to preventive work, no figure is more interesting than that of Mrs. Valesh. Already she has shown that she is a good student of human nature by lending her first efforts, as chairman of the National Fire Preventive Association, to cam

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