CHAPTER XIII

RENOVATING

WHEN you decide to clean or renovate materials be sure they are in a condition which will repay you for the labor which you will put on them. If you have your doubts about this, make a careful inspection of them, and if they warrant the expense of so much energy, well and good; if not, put them in the rag bag and direct your energies elsewhere. Do the ripping with a sharp penknife, remove all the threads, shake each piece well; dust silken fabrics with a piece of flannel or an old silk handkerchief. Woolen goods should be shaken well, then brushed with a whisk broom. Velvet should have every tiny speck of thread picked out, then brushed with a soft brush or a soft piece of old crinoline. All such pieces of old silk or crinoline should be kept in the rag bag, as they are at times invaluable.

For any material which will wash, such as woolens, serges, etc., I would recommend Ivory
soap. When naphtha, benzine, gasoline, or alcohol are used, remember that they are highly explosive, and must not be used at night or near a fire or light. Never use these cleansing fluids in a room which is not freely ventilated. I have in mind at this moment a very fine woman who lost her life while cleaning some goods in a bathroom which, like most bathrooms, was small with one window in it. Unfortunately, this window was closed. The pressure of gas and the friction made in the cleaning process combined caused fire, and in a few seconds the whole room was a mass of flame. The poor woman was helpless and lost her life through thoughtlessness. I relate this sad instance that others may profit by it. Always ventilate a room in which these explosives are used. When materials have been cleaned with the fluids just mentioned, they should be hung in the open air for the disagreeable fumes to evaporate. If the materials are colored do not hang them in the sun or they will be streaked when dry.

CLEANING LININGS

It is very poor policy to use old linings, as they will shrink out of shape, and a dress cannot be properly fitted over a lining which is soft and
askew; the washing or cleaning takes all the life out of linings. The same thing happens to a lining which has been dyed. If one has to economize to the extent of using old linings save them for linings for the children’s frocks. When the linings are washed and ironed they will serve very well for the foundations when cut down.

SPONGING AND WASHING SILKS

When sponging any material, use a downward stroke and try to get a piece of the same material to use as a wad. When washing goods in soap and water, do not rub the soap all over the material, only on the soiled spots; it is better not to use the washboard except for very heavy goods. Black silk can be made to look almost like new silk if sponged with spirits of wine on both sides and ironed on the wrong side. When ironing black, or in fact any silk, I have found that tissue paper placed over the silk gives the best results. If white China or Japanese silk is ironed when damp with white tissue paper over it, there will be no change in the color. The iron should be almost hot. These silks turn out beautifully if washed in a lather of Ivory soap. There are various fluids for sponging black silks besides those
mentioned. Equal parts of warm water and alcohol, cold strong coffee well strained, stale beer, and water in which an old black glacé kid glove has been boiled, using a pint of water to one glove, boiled down to just one half the original quantity; this pulpy mass must be strained, adding a little cold water if too thick. Use this fluid to sponge with, responge with clear water, partly dry, and iron. The material may be dried without ironing by pinning the wet pieces to clean sheets spread out on a board or carpet in a room which is not used. Then, too, black silk may be cleaned by being dipped in naphtha or gasoline. Do not wring silk out like other materials, but hang it out to drip. A very strong decoction of ivy leaves is said to clean black silk.

Black satin, worn until the surface is shiny, may be renovated by dipping the entire piece or garment into naphtha and hanging out in the air to dry. Satin should not be sponged, as it destroys the surface of the material.

**REMOVING SPOTS FROM SILKS**

These few suggestions may help one when a grease spot is to be taken out of either black or colored silks. If the silk is to be sponged look
over it well and mark with a fine needle the grease spots. Rub the spots well with a lump of magnesia, or separate a visiting card and with the soft side of it rub the spots and the grease will disappear. French chalk will also remove grease spots. Scrape the chalk on the spots, rub it in and let it remain there about twenty-four hours, then brush it off; repeat the process if necessary. Some spots are hard to eradicate. Chloroform also is a very satisfactory cleanser, particularly for white or dainty colors. This fluid should be obtained at a druggist's, as he usually keeps on hand the proper solution for cleansing purposes. Ammonia is of great assistance in cleaning some materials if used with discretion; otherwise it will take the color out of the fabrics, particularly if too much is used. One teaspoonful to a quart of water is a good proportion.

CLEANING RIBBONS

To renew black ribbons the same processes may be used as for black silk. To keep them from wrinkling, roll them around a bottle until they are partly dry, take them off and iron with a moderately hot iron, having placed a piece of tissue paper or crinoline over them while ironing. The
motion of ironing should be from edge to edge not through the center of the ribbon. Ribbons may be steamed by placing a wet cloth over a hot iron. To insure the thorough steaming of the ribbon hold a thick piece of cotton cloth over it, smoothing out the creases when it is necessary. A brush may be used also. Some taffeta ribbons will not yield to anything but pressing; a wet cloth must be placed over them during the pressing; if they come out stiff pull out on the bias. Another method used successfully is to sponge the ribbon with a mixture of one third alcohol to two thirds water; when partly dry iron it under a cloth or piece of crinoline.

CLEANING SCARFS, ETC.

Silk scarfs, ties, colored ribbons, chiffon veils, etc., may be cleaned by dipping them into a bowl of naphtha. They must be soured up and down, then rinsed in another bowl of clean naphtha, and hung in the open air to dry. They should be pressed dry and placed so that the air will get through them. This will assist in removing any odor of naphtha which may cling to the articles. It is a wise plan to keep white silks, crêpes, chiffons, and like materials wrapped in blue paper; this keeps
them white. If exposed to the light they are likely to become yellow. However, if they do discolor, make them up cream colored, as any attempt to bleach them will prove a failure. Never rub silk vigorously, as that will displace the threads. Freshen Japanese, China, India, and pongee silks in warm Ivory soapsuds, rinse them quickly and let them dry in the shade; roll them in a damp sheet for a few hours and then iron with a warm iron, having white tissue paper between the iron and material. A hot iron will discolor these silks. Ammonia may be tried on fruit stains; it restores the color, but sometimes leaves a ring around the spot. This may be removed by rubbing with naphtha. Colored silks may be cleaned in water in which a kid glove the color of the silk has been boiled, using a new tin pan to boil it in; strain, and add a little hot water and ammonia; wash in this, put half a teaspoonful each of borax and spirits of camphor to a quart of rinsing water; hang each piece up until it dries, but do not iron it. Ether is also used in cleaning colored silks.

STEAMING VELVET

When velvet is very much marked and does not respond to the steam process it may be made
very beautiful if transformed into mirror velvet. This effect is produced by ironing it the way the nap runs; the iron must be moved constantly. Velveteen and plush may be treated in the same manner. The steaming of velvet is done in this way. It is necessary to have some one assist you. Hold one end of the piece of velvet with the left hand while the other person holds the other end taut over a pan of boiling water. With the right hand brush up the nap while the steam is ascending. This process removes wrinkles and restores the nap. It may be applied to colored or black velvets. If there should happen to be a grease spot remove it with French chalk before steaming. A sticky spot may be removed by touching it with clean cold water.

RENOVATING WOOLEN GOODS

To remove mud or ordinary spots take a whisk broom and brush briskly; take a piece of the same material which has been dampened and wipe off the spots with it. Black woolen goods, as serge, cheviot, henrietta, are very easily cleaned. Grease spots may be removed in various ways. Naphtha or gasoline will remove these spots, but, as I urged before, be careful of these fluids as they
are explosive, and do not expose them to a lamp or fire. Silk and woolen fabrics should be washed by the hand, and should not be rubbed on a washboard. Never wring them out by twisting in the hand; run them through a wringer. Let them get just a "scutch" in the air. When nearly dry iron them on the wrong side with a moderately warm iron.

Black woolen goods may be very successfully cleaned by washing in soap-bark water. Take a quantity of soap bark—five cents' worth will be sufficient for one dress—soak it in warm water overnight, strain through a fine cloth; if any woody particles come through, strain again. Put this suds into two tubs, add warm water until it is about 98° Fahrenheit. Place the woolen goods in the first tub, and knead it as you would bread. Do not rub soap on the goods, and never rub it on a washboard. Turn it over and over, kneading it until you have taken out as much dirt as possible. A washing machine would be very helpful for this purpose. The material should be folded carefully and put through a wringer. Repeat this process through the second tub. Rinse it in water which is the same temperature as the first. Be sure that all traces of the soap have disappeared before it
is put through the wringer. If the wringer creases the material, take it out of the rinsing water and hang it by the selvage or straight edge upon the line to drip and dry. When nearly dry iron it on the wrong side.

Woolen goods of almost any color may be washed in a lather of Ivory soap. Alpaca or mohair may be washed in the same way as woolen goods, adding a little gum arabic to the rinsing water. Paint stains may be removed with benzine; if the latter leaves a ring remove it with French chalk. Water stains may be removed by rubbing the spot briskly with a piece of cloth until dry. When silk-warp woolen begins to shine, part of it may be removed by a sponging of alcohol and water. The shine, however, returns and is only entirely removed by redying the fabric, as the shine comes from the wool wearing away, exposing the silk in the warp. Wash colored woolen fabrics in warm water, putting a teaspoonful each of beef's gall and ammonia to a pail of water. Have the rinsing water ready, with a small portion of beef's gall in that; wash and rinse quickly, dry in the shade, and iron on the wrong side with a warm iron. The water may be softened with a little borax. Grease spots may be removed by
rubbing them with wet hunk magnesia; when it becomes dry brush off the powder.

Great care must be used in cleansing white woolen goods. Nearly all of these fabrics shrink considerably when washed unless the utmost care is used. A soft soap lather should be made by cutting up a piece of white soap into shavings, put them into a vessel with sufficient water to make a good lather, let it heat thoroughly; use this instead of rubbing the soap on the goods. Cold water should never be used on white woolen fabrics, nor should they be rubbed on a washboard. Rinse them in warm water and put them through the wringer as smoothly as possible. Put them in a pillow case and hang out in the air until the goods are nearly dry; iron them on the wrong side with a warm iron.

**DRY CLEANING**

White woolens may be dry-cleaned with hot corn meal or flour. Fill a bowl with either of these and rub the goods in it; take out and shake the meal off; repeat this process if necessary. Iron on the wrong side; if creased, sometimes the evening air will remove wrinkles if the material is hung out. White worsted shawls, baby
sacks, and other knit goods are cleansed by putting them in corn meal and leaving them there twenty-four hours. White cloth may be cleaned by patting into it pipe-clay or magnesia. Trimmings like white cloth revers, collars, cuffs, etc., are cleaned by being covered with salt overnight, which is rubbed off with stale bread sliced. Linen which has become yellow with age may be whitened by being boiled in milk and soap; one pound of soap to a gallon of milk.

**REMOVING STAINS**

Grass stains may be removed from white woolens with cream of tartar and water or alcohol. They may be removed from muslin with a little molasses; keep covering the stain until it fades away. Knit sweaters should be washed in hot soapsuds; souse them up and down in this, then press rather than wring the water out. The collar or neck band, cuffs, and the band around the bottom may be rinsed in colder water to shrink them. Pin it out on a sheet and place it in an airy room to dry in the proper shape.

Mildew stains will disappear if rubbed with a diluted solution of chloride of lime and then rinsed in clear water.
Sewing machine oil spots may be removed from white goods by putting them at once into cold water.

Blood stains may be removed by washing them in cold water without soap. They may also be taken out by wetting laundry starch and placing it on the spot like a paste. Leave it on for an hour and then brush it off. A very small speck may be removed by a piece of cotton thread which has been thoroughly wet and rolled into a wad; place this on the spot; it will draw out the stain.

A solution of chloroform, sold by druggists for the purpose, will clean any silk, either colored or white.

A very highly recommended cleansing fluid may be made from the following:

- Gasoline..............1 gallon
- Ether..................1 teaspoonful
- Chloroform...........1 teaspoonful
- Ammonia...............2 teaspoonfuls
- Alcohol...............1 gill

Mix well and do not use near a fire or light, or in a closed room. This fluid cleans silks and woolen materials, leaves a new finish and does not shrink the fabric or give white goods a yellow tinge. It
may be used on the most delicate colors and fabrics and is very inexpensive.

Pour into a china washbowl sufficient of the fluid to cover the material or article to be cleaned; wash as you would in water, rub the soiled spots with an old, soft brush; a toothbrush will answer this purpose on a flat surface. Wring the material out of this fluid and rinse in a second portion. Wring out again and hang out in the air until the fluid evaporates. Save the remaining fluid, as it can be used a second time on dark materials, like black dresses, carpets, hangings, etc.

Stains made by sweets or sirups should be first washed in clear water.

Strong borax water will remove oil stains from cotton or linen.

Tar and axle-grease stains are most discouraging, but if taken in time will yield to soap, oil of turpentine, and water applied in turn. This applies to white cotton and linen.

Colored cottons and woolens are smeared with lard, then rubbed with soap and water and left standing for an hour, and finally washed with oil of turpentine and water alternately. For silk proceed as for woolens, only use benzine instead of turpentine.
CLEANING BLACK LACE

If black lace is really very dirty it may be washed in a suds of cold water and soap, a white soap if possible; or in a pint of warm water in which a teaspoonful of borax has been dissolved. Use an old black kid glove to sponge it with. Borax, diluted alcohol, beer, strained coffee, and cold strained tea, are all excellent renovators of black lace. It is better not to iron lace; it should be pinned out on a board; every point should be pulled into place and pinned there. But if an iron has to be used, in case of pressure for time, a well-padded board should be used and a cloth placed between the iron and the lace. A very successful and simple method of freshening black lace is to soak it in milk overnight, then rinse in cold water and press lightly when it is nearly dry, using an old silk handkerchief under the iron. Another freshening process is to souse the lace in water containing a few drops of alkali volatile, ten drops to a quart of water. When lace has been sponged it may be rolled around a bottle filled with warm water, where it should remain until it is thoroughly dry. Lace which has become rusty from dust should be well shaken and rinsed in a
cup of water with a tablespoonful each of alcohol and powdered borax. When sponging lace rub from the beading or selvage down to the edge.

CLEANING WHITE LACE

Very fine real white lace should be dry cleansed. Take a piece of clean white paper and cover it with calcined magnesia, lay the lace over it and sprinkle magnesia over it thickly; over this place another piece of paper. Put between the leaves of a book for three days; after this take out the lace and shake it well to scatter the powder. White silk laces are cleaned by soaking them in milk overnight. They should then be washed in warm soapsuds, rinsed, pulled out, and firmly pinned down on a board which has been covered with a clean white cloth.

COLORING LACES

To give lace a yellow tinge, wash it in coffee. Make the coffee strong, boiling it for an hour, strain, and dilute with cold water until the right tint is secured. Put the lace in it and let it remain for half an hour. A creamy écru tinge may be given to white lace by putting powdered saffron in the rinsing water. If a pink shade is desired
on dipped lace it can be gotten by putting the lace in strong tea which has been strained and diluted with cold water until the color has been secured. Strong powdered black pepper steeped in water will give lace a dark tan color. Since dyed laces are so very fashionable they may be dyed at home very profitably. The "Dainty" Diamond Dyes give great satisfaction; a deal of patience must be used, but the exact shade can be gotten if the directions on the package are followed. Laces should always be soused up and down and squeezed between the hands, but never rubbed.

**WHITENING LACES**

Silk and cotton laces which have become yellow with age may be whitened by covering them with soapsuds and allowing them to stand in the sun. White laces need a little bluing in the last rinsing water. Lace which is very dirty may be cleaned by washing in warm soapsuds. When lace is ironed, the thicker the padding on the board the better the pattern will be brought out; the lace is, of course, ironed on the wrong side.
CLEANING FUR

The dark furs, such as seal, mink, sable, etc., respond to mahogany or fine cedar sawdust as a cleanser. These may be purchased from any manufacturing furrier. Place the fur on a table with the hairy side up and rub the sawdust in by the handful. Use plenty of sawdust and rub vigorously. Shake the fur over the table to save the sawdust that falls, as it can be used again. Turn the fur with the hair side down on large pillows according to the size of the garment; beat it well with a switch. Shake the pillows occasionally and continue beating until all the sawdust is removed. White furs are cleaned in a similar fashion with corn meal. Grease spots may be removed from fur with gasoline. Remembering that it is very explosive apply the gasoline with a piece of cotton batting. It is often necessary to repeat the operation several times. If not successful, spirits of ether, oil of turpentine, or benzine may be tried.