

Uncommon Sense : Mental House Cleaning

By JOHN BLAKE

VACUUM cleaners and dust-proof window sashes have done much to abate the old custom of annual house cleaning. It used to be a terror to the menfolk in the house and an ex-haunt date to the women.

Once or twice a year carpets were pulled up, furniture dragged from its accustomed places, and soap and water vigorously piled in all parts of the house.

Incidentally while the dirt was being rid of great accumulations of old newspapers and magazines and discarded furniture and utensils of every kind were taken out to be removed by the rubbish man.

IT WAS a dreadful trial while it lasted, but a better and brighter house resulted—also a more healthful home, because germs of all sorts make the abiding places and harbors in the dirtiest corners of the un-swept corners of every house.

In those old days it never occurred to father, who was so irritated by the disordered condition of his home, that perhaps he needed to do little house cleaning too.

The result does not occur to him now, even when his house is cleaned from top to bottom every day.

He seldom looks the inside of his brain, even with his mental eyes, and therefore knows little of the accumulations of old, worn-out ideas and discarded theories, and stupid, time-worn notions that clutter up the hidden corners of it.

A MENTAL house cleaning now and then is as necessary to mental health and comfort as a physical cleaning is good for a house.

To examine one's stock of political and social beliefs, casting those which are dead or useless, and getting the junk pile under room roof, behalf of a more useful and intelligent character.

To get rid of all sorts of accumulated superstitions and suspicions makes the brain brighter and better, as soap and water makes brighter the doors and walls of the home.

BUT once a year for the mind is not enough.

A going-over once a month or once

a week is far better. For it is easier to keep the mind clean and in good condition than to overhaul it, once the things that ought not to be there have begun to germinate and take root.

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AMERICAN RELIEF WORKER BELIEVED SLAIN IN RUSSIA

Police at Simbirsk Confident Philip J. Shield Was Murdered

MOSCOW, Nov. 7.—(By A. P.)—The police at Simbirsk who are investigating the disappearance three weeks ago of Philip J. Shield, American relief worker, are holding a woman who told them that late on the evening of October 8 she saw two men lunging a sack from which two human legs protruded.

The woman lives near the place where Shield's hat was found. In her deposition she wrote that late in the evening of October 18 she came upon two men standing near a sack that lay on the ground. She overheard one of the men say: "Shall we take it here or to the river?" The other replied: "The boat is full."

One man attempted to shoulder the sack, she said, but it broke and she saw the two legs protruding. She said she recognized the shoes as can oxfords of American make. The authorities arrested the woman in the belief that she was an accessory. They declare the charges are seven in ten that Shield was murdered.

NAMES BRAZILIAN CABINET

President-Elect Acts in Advance of Taking Office

RIO JANEIRO, Nov. 7.—It was officially announced that President-Elect Getúlio Vargas, who will be inaugurated November 15, has selected his Cabinet as follows:

Minister of Justice, J. Luis Alves;

Foreign Affairs, Felix Pachano;

General Secretarion, Carvalho; Agriculture, Bueno Brandao; transportation, Francisco Sá; Finance, Sampaio Vidal.

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