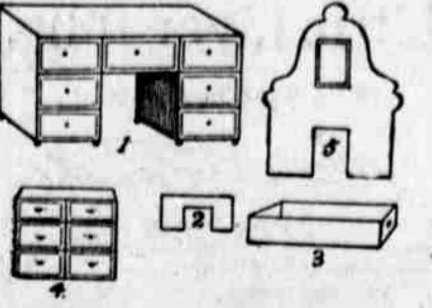


# FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS



**Furniture from Match Boxes.**  
By using ordinary small matchboxes of cardboard of uniform size, very neat toy furniture may be made. For a writing desk, first take out all the drawers and then paste the boxes together in the form of figure 1. On the back side paste a piece of cardboard having the shape of figure 2, being careful that you do not get too much mullage inside of the boxes. Now



cover it all with brown or black paper. Next cover the front part of the drawers with the same kind of paper and make the drawer handles of thread and a pearl button. Figure 3. When both the boxes and the drawers are entirely dry, insert the drawers. Make the feet from wood or glass beads.

A chest of drawers such as is shown in figure 4 may be made in the same way.

Make your dressing table the same as the writing desk, but the back side cut as in figure 5. A piece of tin foil makes the mirror and the frame is made from gilt paper.

To make a sofa fold a piece of stiff paper once—A B is the fold—and cut it according to the drawing. Spread it out and bend it according to the dotted lines.

To make parlor table fold a piece of stiff paper twice—see cut 1—and cut it according to the drawing. Unfold it—cut 2—and bend the four legs down; then you have a table.



according to A. Unfold and bend to a chair, B.

**Mrs. Grey's Good Fairies.**  
Collin was standing by the pile of snowballs he had made, and rubbing his hands to warm them. His sister Madge came running out of the house.

"Look, Col, what I have," she cried happily, holding up her basket. "There are cakes in here, and butter and tea, and all sorts of nice things. We may take it to Mrs. Grey's cottage, down by the pond; so come along."

Collin ran indoors for his gloves, and then the pair started across the snowy park.

Madge walked along sedately, with her hands tucked into her muff and her basket on her arm, while Collin kept running off to chase the birds or follow the tracks made by rabbits in the snow.

"Col, I wish you'd come here a minute," said Madge presently. "I believe Mrs. Grey is out; there isn't any smoke coming from the chimney. Can we get in?"

"Yes, she never locks the door," answered Collin. He lifted the latch and they went in.

"Oh, how untidy it is!" cried Madge. "Look what that naughty Kittle has been doing—the stockings pulled out, and the buttons all over the floor."

"She's left the window open, too!" said Collin, "and the fire's gone out."

"It's the leaves that have made such a mess," he said. "I tell you what, Madge; let's pretend we're fairies, and get it all ready before Mrs. Grey comes back."

"The very thing," said Madge, as she put the workbox away. "I'll lay the tea while you sweep up and light the fire."

Collin was ready, and soon the fire was crackling merrily, and the kettle Madge put on began to sing.

Just as they had finished there were footsteps outside. Madge sprang to her feet.

"Let's hide and see what she says!" she cried.

They had only just time to scramble into the cupboard, when Mrs. Grey came in, and oh! she was surprised!

"Why, deary me, whoever did this?" she said. "Nobody's been here that I know of. It must be the two little fairies from the big house!"

"I'm so glad you're pleased," said Collin.

"But how did you know who it was?" asked Madge.

Mrs. Grey pointed to the basket which Madge had left behind, and they all laughed.

Then Mrs. Grey kissed them, and said:

"Now you must stay and have some of the tea you have made ready so kindly."—Little Folks.

**Mrs. Red Squirrel.**  
Mrs. Red Squirrel sat in the top of a tree;

"I believe in the habit of saving," said she;

"If it were not for that, in the cold winter weather

I should starve, and my young ones, I know, altogether; But I'm teaching my children to run and lay up Every acorn as soon as it drops from its cup, And to get out the corn from the shocks in the field— There's a nice hollow tree where I keep it concealed. We have laid up some wheat and some barley and rye, And some very nice pumpkin seeds, I have put by; Best of all, we have gathered in all that we could Of beechnuts and butternuts grown in the wood; For cold days and hard times winter surely will bring. And a habit of saving's an excellent thing.

"But my children—you know how young squirrels like play, 'We have plenty, great plenty, already,' they'll say, 'We are tired of bringing in food for our store; Let us all have a frolic and gather no more! But I tell them it's pleasant when winter is rough, If we feel both to use and to give we've enough; And they'll find ere the butternuts bloom in the spring That a habit of saving's an excellent thing.'—Young Folks.

**Traveling Habits of Wild Oats.**  
Get a head of wild oats and lay it on the table over night, first moistening the oats. Next morning you will discover that the head of oats has crawled off the table and likely enough has made tracks for the outside door. This peculiar gift of traveling lies in the spikes that extend from the coverings of the grains. As the moisture soaks into the head of oats it swells and the spikes change position in such a way as to set the head to tumbling over and over sidewise. The larger and coarser varieties of wild oats have this power of locomotion developed to a remarkable degree, and even domestic oats will develop it if allowed by neglect to degenerate.

**An Experiment in Parlor Mag's.**  
Soak a piece of thread in strong salt water, dry it, and repeat two or three times. When thoroughly dry tie one end to a chandelier, and on the other, or lower, end tie a ring or some small but not too heavy article.

It is now ready for the experiment. Set fire to the thread, and behold the ring does not fall to the floor nor does the thread break.

The explanation is: The thread has in reality been burned, but the salt with which the thread was saturated forms a solid column, and that supports the ring. Varied experiments can be made, using several threads for one article, and, in fact, many others which may suggest themselves to the readers.

**CEREAL CROPS OF RUSSIA.**  
Competition with America is Already Attracting Attention.

With the return of normal conditions of traffic on the western section of the Siberian railway and a sufficiency of rolling stock to meet the growing wants of the trade, Russia threatens to become a formidable competitor of this country in the British and European markets in regard to a great variety of agricultural products.

Already Russian butter from beyond the Ural mountains is finding its way into the English market and, according to a report from the British consul at Riga, arrangements are being made for the quick transportation of butter from Western Siberia to connect with the steamship service from Riga to London and Hull. From the port of Libau on the Baltic to the south of Riga there were exported last year 71,855,640 eggs, as against 59,377,696 in 1898, and the export of butter from the same port rose from 275 tons in 1898 to 700 tons in 1899. As yet the export of meat from Northern and Eastern Russia has not begun, nor is it to be expected from Western Siberia until the population has increased and the agricultural development of the country has become more advanced. The population, however, is growing rapidly, the immigrants from European Russia having exceeded 500,000 in the last two seasons, and great attention is now given to cattle raising. The passenger and freight rates are kept by the government at the lowest possible point for the purpose of stimulating traffic.

Hitherto the export trade in grain and meat from Russia has been almost entirely confined to the south, the grain and cattle being shipped at Black Sea ports and finding their way to the Mediterranean and Western Europe by the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. A certain quantity also crosses the western frontier into Germany, but the tariff restrictions imposed at the instance of the agrarian party in Germany interfere materially with the development of the trade.

It is to afford other outlets for the produce of Northern Russia that the Russian government has taken up the question of opening a direct trade with England and Western Europe by sea, and has ordered the construction of large steamers specially adapted to the purpose. Unless therefore, events prove unpropitious we shall soon see Russia entering the lists as an active competitor with the other countries exporting foodstuffs and farm produce with an organized system for the handling of the produce from the time it is put into the station on a railway line until it is landed at the place of import.—New York Sun.

**Accidents in Iron Mines.**  
During 1898 there were 226 accidents in nineteen mines on the iron range in Minnesota, resulting in deaths averaging one to every 193 employed. During 1899 there were 421 accidents, with the same average rate of fatalities.

## CULTIVATE A FIGURE

LATE DEMANDS OF FASHION REQUIRE IT.

Otherwise There Is No Use of Spending a Great Deal of Money on Clothes— "Line" Counts for Much in Woman's Costuming.

New York correspondence:



**WOMAN who hasn't** a good figure might as well devote herself to getting one before she bothers about spending much money on clothes. There was never a time when "line" counted for so much as now in a woman's costuming. Though a matter of great exactness the line is rather conventional. The body is thrown forward on the balls of the feet, this without bend at the waist. The horror of the "Grecian torso," a contortion old comic pictures recall, is not suggested. Women carry the chest high and have developed such an out-throw in front below the bust that many never will be able to get again into the old style corset without torture. The back below the waist line is lifted. Shoulders are held

back and down, the arms falling well back of the hips. Carried thus, any figure will do.

As a result of these new standards the yoke is giving way. It had a hold that seemed likely to last for a long time, but now usually appears combined with a tiny vest. Revers have increased in numbers and in size. Lace collarettes and kindred devices are used in great numbers. The sleeved bolero whose top is lace covered is numerous and deservedly so. An example is shown in the initial picture, a striped biscuit and red cloth with collarette of white guipure. It was over a bodice of white silk dotted with red. Revers are single, double or

triple, but the single ones ordinarily are large, their size being indicated by two gowns of the next illustration. In the first of these was a bolero of black lace net over white, its deep revers and sleeves having a narrow chinchilla edging. In the other white broadcloth had Russian sable revers. Electric blue corded silk was the material of the first, white chenille and gold braid trimmed the other. The gown of this group shown in rear view corrected a defect in outlines by the addition of a postilion back. Not a great many of these are seen, but their stylishness is sound. This one was pleated. The dress goods was black velvet.

In fancy waists these rules are carried out with almost startling exactness in some cases, and again are modified with admirable ingenuity. In all they are observed in greater or less degree, but the downright fanciful waist always is a law by itself. A new fabric has come forward with a rush for fancy waists,

This is silk poplin, which is accepted cordially by women who are wearied over the cracking of taffeta. It comes in varying weight, is soft and of beautiful gloss. It does not tuck well, however; nothing tucks as does taffeta. But tiny box-pleates are the newest cry instead of tucks. Only the observing eye notes the difference, but to the observing eye the difference means a lot. Lovely pattern waists embroidered, or with pattern lace inset, can be purchased ready to make up to measure. Wonderful effects are being produced by the use of fur and chiffon for fancy waists. A bodice with a deep Persian lamb belt is all delicate chiffon above. The skirt is cloth and Persian, a bolero of Persian covers the chiffon of the bodice, seeming when in place to be part of the belt.

Yokes for fancy or other bodices remain varied as to shape, though smaller. Square, round and V-shaped ones abound. The first two almost always have a narrow vest extending to the waist line, the last named sort ordinarily is much smaller than the others. In the next illustration is a round yoke and vest of tuck white velvet outlined with hunter's green velvet and black and white lace. Oyster broadcloth and green velvet were the dress materials. The square yoke shown was white undressed kid embroidered in silver. Dark blue panne velvet was the dress goods. Silver buttons held straps of the kid on bodice and skirt. The tiny yoke and collar of the gown shown between the two just described were cream lace, and the dress material was scarlet chevot. Novel arrangements of double and triple revers are very effective, but are not easy to devise since their size must be kept inconspicuous.

That is as much, of course, as saying that they are in great demand. Leather is being used a deal in bodice finishings, waistcoat fronts and underleaves even being made of it. Dainty sorts are used, of course, but the idea is taken from outing rigs made for the roughest possible service. Undressed kid decorated with hand painting seems to be the finest thing in this line.

Long coats are rapidly losing their somewhat severe plainness of the fall and early winter. The general favor for fur lapels and collar accounts for one showy form of trimming, but young women demand further ornamentation. Braids, applications of cloth and of gilt and varia-

tions of the simple cut of the garment are their mediums. There are coats in which the bottom is cut into tabs ten inches across, and a deal of variation comes in collar and lapel arrangements. Then some are banded freely with chenille or fancy braids. One of this type is pictured herewith. It was tan cloth banded with fine black chenille and finished with bear fur. Though simple in plan, the trimming stood out strikingly. In applications of cloth still more conspicuous examples are seen, the complicated designs set on about shoulders and hem being in a shade to contrast with the coat's stuff and demand an observer's consideration. Though it seems almost a pity to alter the long coat's sleek plainness, these newer examples are very pretty. Women who like elaborations will use them anyhow, and others of more quiet taste seem to her looking with favor on the moderate models, at least.

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## BODICES FANCIES DEVELOPED BY THE STRAIGHT FRONT.



## AS YOKES ARE NOW CUT.

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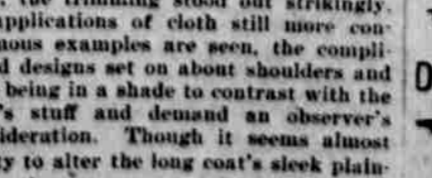
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