

PRACTICAL ECONOMY IN SHIRT WAISTS

BY MARY DEAN.
The many short lengths of pretty materials the shop sales are now offering may, with careful home making, accomplish very elegant bodices, beginning about the first of January those bargains in winter remnants go on until the spring. The assortment is in lengths, generally, from a yard and a half to five yards, but so sharply contrasting are many effects that even the thickest bit of lace or

used upon a flannel or silk waist, and little collar buttons of black silk or velvet may form ornamental clusters at the front of another and upon the sleeves. So, remember if a few yards of black braid or a dozen or more little buttons are left over from the street dress, they may prove most modish ornaments for the old waist. Small scraps of black taffetas, too, may be utilized with smart effect, for scarcely

Mary Dean Tells How Short Lengths and Left-Over Trimmings May Be Utilized.



SMART EFFECTS IN PRACTICAL BODICES

checked or plaid silk may be put to stylish account. Nothing is plain any more, unless it is a flannel waist for pure comfort, and so since odd fragments come cheaper than a single material all in one, it comes about as much the most economical, though sometimes the check or plaid will be cut in narrow biases, which are put on in flat rows stitched at each side.

For practical waists, flannel, alpaca, de-laine and checked and plaid silks are all desirable textures. Five yards are generally required for a bodice which is only slightly trimmed, and whatever its material or color it may show a garniture of silk in black or white check or some gray plaid.

These trimmings are generally put on in thin bias stripes, at the edge of bands made by the waist material, though sometimes the check or plaid will be cut in narrow biases, which are put on in flat rows stitched at each side.

The more finely spun Hercules braids, especially in black, are also sometimes

a waist is seen without some slight touch of black. Sometimes it is only used as an emphasizing line at the top of a lace stock, and at the bottom of the sleeves; but again there will be considerable black used, and tuffets seem the most rewarding texture for the simpler materials.

Two Uses for Hemmed Bias Bits.
Considering alone the fragments of taffetas left over from a skirt lining here are two valuable uses for hemmed bias bits.

These separate pieces may form the skirt, which begins with a plain V gore at the back. To this skirt two lengths sufficiently long to encircle the waist, and under the gathering of them put whale-bone for stiffness. Have the part which comes at the front loose at the lower edge to effect the slight drop a graceful waist line requires. Last, by consider a side fastening for the belt, and put there a small upstanding bow with ends, which may be made of four or five yards of material.

bodice pictured shows this stylish, square neck finish.

The Ready Made Lining.
As to making the waist itself, all experienced home sewers agree that to buy a lining ready made is a great saving of time. For this they get the under bodices

of coarse black or white muslin, which may be found in the shops from 25 cents up. The proper waist measure is carefully sought for, and since all waists are fairly loose with a right-sized pattern for the material to be put over this, a fit is assured at the outset.

After the bodice is fitted over this lining, tack the two together, and put them over the dress form, which of course should be of the dimensions of the figure. If there is a lace yoke the lining should be white, and fit this detail always while the bodice is on the form.

Putting in the Sleeves.
For getting the sleeves at the first trial at the sewing machine and drawing the bodice itself into trim lines at the waist, these stuffed dummies are invaluable. All home dressmakers of any expertness use them, and not only do they save considerable time, but they allow the trial of many ways of trimming before the right one is chosen.

dummy pin it to the figure at the neck line, armholes, and waist. Also remember that any smartly adjusted bodice should be fitted with its band of ribbon, belting, basted in the beginning at the proper waist line, for carefully fitted waists require this to hold them down.

The Model of the Practical Bodice.
The model of the practical bodice has generally a front opening and plain French back. Sleeves come to the elbow or a little above it, and a smart collar of some sort replaces the fancy stock elsewhere used. Turn-back, or flat band cuffs trimmed with the genuine elaymore employed, are jaunty details.

So many combinations are to be seen in the blouse beautiful—the bodice for strictly dressy purposes—that a girl must be dull indeed not to find use for almost any pretty scrap of lace or delicately tinted silk she may pick up on a counter, or find in her scrap bag. In fact, a half a dozen different laces may go toward one waist, and several yards of plain net in different degrees of fineness as well.

all the edges of the petals with sharp scissors, and if there are green leaves, trim those as well. Then straighten bent wires, press the fresh heart of the rose open so that it has a full blown look, and place the flower at the left bust of a low evening bodice, in some thin material.

Brand new, the corsage rose costs from \$2.50 up to anything; but with the rain and dew of careful pinning a 25-cent hat again may burst upon the eye like nature's own.

Out of the tiny pieces left over also shape a rosset or two for the waist, using, or cover minute buttons with them, or cut them out in round moons or big squares, and applique them, with a generous sprinkling of French knots, all over a net waist.

coarser imitations of the same lace. Again the finer sort may be used alone, this even forming the bodice and sleeve falls like border lace for a stitched ribbon binding makes the cut lace suitable for these details.

For a mixture of coarse and fine net, Cluny lace is a delightful blouse looking, this forming against the shiny background, many pretty yoke and suspender effects and ending the three-quarter or elbow sleeves at the outside arm.

Short Sleeves Are Essential.
Concerning those last, the winter lace certainly proves that one cannot be "dressed" in the evening with long sleeves. The arm covering must stop short enough to show four wrinkled gloves, and for as the home dressmaker is concerned this is a happy mode, with length sleeves requiring a much more careful fit than short ones.

For Making the Fancy Bodice.
For the making of the fancy bodice, which is nothing for theater, concert, reception, evenings at home and what not—let the home sewer remember that all transparent materials must be used with care, and that the gown material or dotted Swiss or tucked net for the shoulders should and must be used, played, but between this and the outside lace or net there is an interlining of chiffon.

bodice show shallow squares, and a slight round which is quite little girl in prettiness. These are mostly for social or home use, for the high transparent stock is thought in better taste for the public gathering.

For the most charming bodice for gold purposes buttons at the back, and if the rippled home sewer knows how to arrange drooping bertha effects for the front, the same will take off ten good years of her age.

A Charming Low Corsage.
A second waist in this picture deserves to be pointed out, for it represents a charming low corsage which may be got up at a moment's notice. That is if a girl has inherited two matching lace collars from a fairy godmother, or can afford two in a pretty imitation. Put over the shoulders in this quaint fashion, with the ends tucked back and front, two smart dress collars would almost make a costume.

Severe Woman's Clearinghouse

BY ERIKTHA DENTON.
"GIRL began as she took the steam-train, fragrant cup of tea her hostess handed her, and said to her, 'I want to do it in the most effective way.'"

"As well as the right way," said the woman.

"You see," continued the girl, "this man is too busy and too important a man for me to take up his office time in telling him all I want to about the project. If I want to see him there, I'd feel nervous. I know, and not half do my subject justice. I can't ask him to dinner because he would be bored to death by my boarding-house table. Besides he's married, as I said. I knew him before he married a wife."

"I think you are sure that both he and his wife will be interested in and say that you will be glad to have this opportunity of meeting his wife."

"Let me warn you of one thing; when you talk to her, be sure you are not talking to her as if she were a child. She is a woman, and she will be careful not to make the wife feel that she is 'second fiddle' to appeal to her as much as you do to him, even though she may feel that she is not grasping the business details. There is almost nothing a woman resents so much as being talked down to by another woman, especially if her husband is there."

The poor woman becomes a faithful and efficient servant. There never was a greater truth than the well-known saying that bad mistresses make bad servants. How can a servant be expected to take proper interest in her work if she never knows what she is to do from one day to the next? If before she has had time to properly finish her sweeping she is called away to iron a frock for the baby; or before the breakfast dishes are washed she is expected to make a cake?

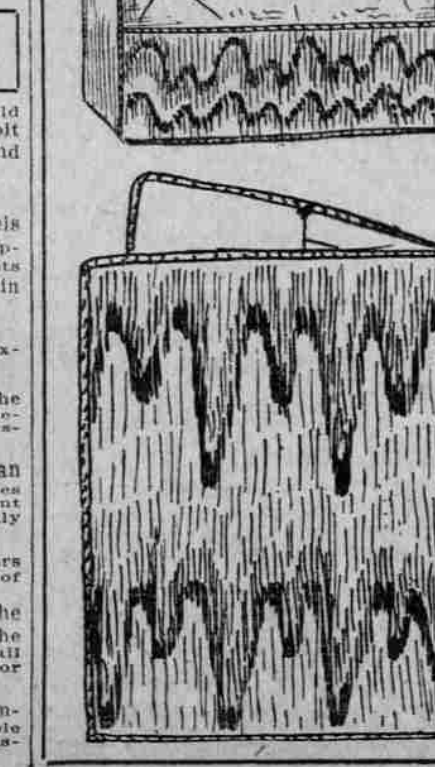
"Neither of them had met his wife, though they had known him for some time. He had been recently married. She was a girl of about twenty, and she said: 'Wouldn't you like to meet Mrs. Blank?' 'I'll send for her to come down.' 'What did the foolish girl do but say: 'Oh, no,' do," mother Mrs. Blank. "I want to talk to you on business, which would probably bore her." After such a rebuff the man could not well send for her again, and she had to wait until the call, which should not have taken more than half an hour, stretched itself out to two hours.

The wife, sitting upstairs, could hardly intrude when she hadn't been asked for. But the longer she waited for those two girls to leave the more indignant she grew. By the time the girls departed they had made her their worst enemy. Of course she soon convinced her husband that to appoint anyone with so little tact or courtesy or even common sense to a position in the public library would be a great mistake. "The girl lost her chance and to this day doesn't know why."

"Henceforth," said the girl as she took leave, "I shall always try to take the wife into my confidence when I have favors to ask of married men."

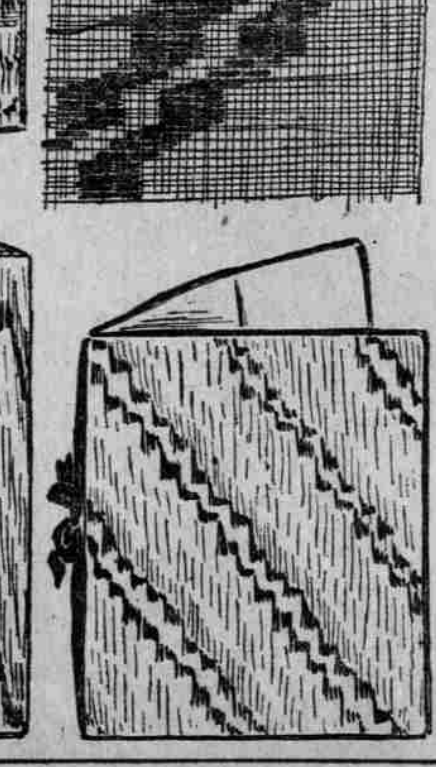
Revival of Old-Fashioned Canvas Work

BY JOSEPHINE HOW.
The letter rack is in five shades of old gold and black, the stitch is a long wave and then a short one.



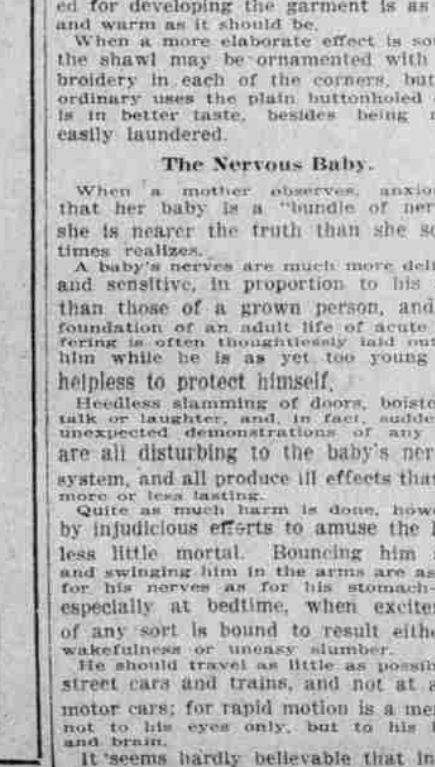
A Gravy for Beef or Mutton

BY FRANCES MORGAN.
One-half cup walnut catsup, 1 small cup tomato catsup, 1 small cup butter (may be omitted), 1 tablespoonful butter, rubbed smooth with flour, 1 small onion, chopped very fine, 1 teaspoon currant jelly, salt and pepper.



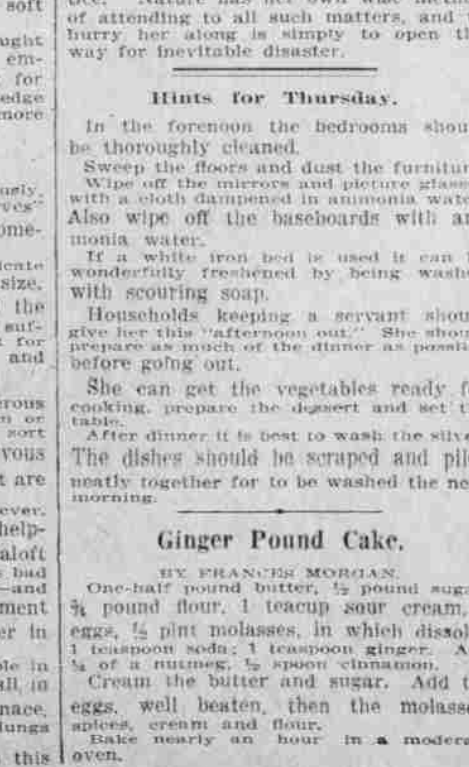
What a Baby Most Needs

BY STELLA FLORENCE.
A useful garment for the baby in cold weather, being an efficient safeguard against draughts while he is being carried from one room to another. At other seasons of the year it can be worn as an outdoor wrap when he is taken for an airing in the yard or on the piazza.



Hints for Thursday

In the forenoon the bedroom should be thoroughly cleaned. Sweep the floors and dust the furniture. Wipe off the mirrors and picture glasses with a cloth dampened in ammonia water. Also wipe off the baseboards with ammonia water.



Ginger Pound Cake

BY FRANCES MORGAN.
One-half pound butter, 1 pound sugar, 3 pound flour, 1 teaspoon sour cream, 4 eggs, 1 pint molasses, in which dissolve 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon ginger. Add 1/4 of a nutmeg, 1/2 spoon cinnamon, 1/2 spoon cream of tartar and sugar. Add the eggs, well beaten, then the molasses, spices, cream and flour.