

FOUR THOUSAND GIRLS LEARN SEWING IN PORTLAND SCHOOLS

USEFUL LESSONS IN NEATNESS, ACCURACY AND MANUAL DEXTERITY ARE TAUGHT



SEWING DAY AT THE LADD SCHOOL



TEACHER EXAMINING THE PUPIL'S HANDIWORK



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THREADING THE NEEDLE

BY LILIAN TINGLE.
IT IS nearly three years since the first introduction of sewing into the public schools of Portland under the supervision of Mrs. A. A. Sanborn. About 4000 little girls from the sixth to the ninth grades (though I am told that ninth grade young persons object to the term "little") are learning, willingly or unwillingly, useful lessons of neatness, accuracy, and manual dexterity in connection with needles, thread and thimbles and cloth of varying textures. In the beginning, it must be confessed

that the sewing lessons were not specially popular and were often misunderstood by parents and principals, grade teachers and pupils. Some parents thought the work simply a fad, designed to distract the pupil's mind from more solid studies; or they argued that it could better be taught in the home. The principals had troubles of their own in connection with programs and so forth. The teachers had usually no previous training in "domestic art," and, not unnaturally, objected to after-school sewing classes where they had to learn this in addition to their other work—over-time without

extra pay. And the pupils, even those who really wanted to learn, had a general notion that—in the words of a former student of my own, "sewing is nice, because you don't have to use your brains all the time," and often acted accordingly. Mrs. Sanborn smiles as she tells you of the initial difficulties of her work; for she has something pleasanter to add in regard to its success and the changing attitude toward it of all concerned. There are highly approving fathers; and mothers who have themselves learned something from their daughters' neatly-kept "sample books" and have received real help in patching, darning and the making of dur-

able buttonholes, from young fingers that formerly had neither skill nor patience for such work. There are principals and teachers who say that the sewing lessons are among the most helpful features of the school course in their practical, mental and moral effects. And the majority of the little needle women themselves thoroughly enjoy their work and the sense of power and usefulness which comes with the mastery of neatly placed stitches and the problems of seams and hems, tucks and patches. How is the teaching accomplished? Mrs. Sanborn and her two assistants, Miss

Anna Casey and Miss Viola Howenstine, visit all the schools, inspect and keep in close touch with the work, and instruct the teachers in the development of the course. What is known as the "sample system" is used—special exercises being given on small pieces of cloth. The pupils, as Mrs. Sanborn expresses it, "has to learn to walk before she can run," and the small pieces of cloth are given in order to avoid waste of material and to serve as a record for future reference on the part of the pupil, or as a proof of skill. If, later, she should seek employment where needlecraft is required. The ideal way is, of course, the combination

of sample work and garment making, for a girl naturally takes greater interest in a garment that can be worn and exhibited as her "very own work," than in a mere academic collection of samples, no matter how admirable in design and execution, which, as one girl said, "you put away in the bookcase and only look at when you have to." Practical garment-making, however, is not an easy matter to arrange in a course of only six hours a month, and with teachers whose normal training has not included a course in domestic arts. But already a few miniature aprons, skirts and pillow slips in "doll's size" are

used to add interest to the course; and as the work grows, and skill is acquired, the garment-making feature will be further developed in the course. The wise mother sees to it that the child has a chance to practice at home, on a larger scale, what she has learned in school on a small scale. Otherwise, it is rather like having a child take music lessons and denying her the use of the home piano. Better a little material spoiled, than that a girl should grow up without the valuable training and the sense of independence and enjoyment resulting from the practice of this most useful form of art and handicraft.

LIFE OF THE REAL MODERN COWBOY

No Longer an Animated Battery, but a Bronco Buster Still.

IT IS quite true that the cowboy of today is not a college man, nor one at all familiar with the manners and customs of polite society, says Out West. Neither does he go about his daily task with a brace of six-shooters slung at his hips and a repeating rifle held in the crook of his arm. Barbed wire fences, steam railroads, police courts and penitentiaries have rendered such appointments superfluous. And immediately after pay day he does not swoop down upon the nearest town, shoot out the lights and take part in a gun fight or two. For the \$30 or \$40 a month which he receives a strict attention to the duties of his job is expected, and in these days of

strenuous competition a job is a precious thing. The life of the modern cowboy is as full of hard and monotonous work as that of an Eastern farmhand, and there is very little difference in the intellectual and social standing of the two. Though thousands of cattle are grazed on the plains of the Southwest, very few are shipped direct from the range to the market. The places of individual cattle kings have been taken by great stock companies which own numerous tracts of range land in various parts of the West. A few years ago a dry season in Southern Arizona meant the death of many cattle and very frequently the financial ruin of their owners. The old-timers still tell stories of having walked for incredible distances on the carcasses of dead steers. But all that is past—they do things differently now. Let a dry year come upon

the Southwestern ranges and the cattle are hustled on board a train and transported to the cattle companies' ranges in Colorado or Montana or Dakota, where the season is good and the feed abundant. No long drives of hundreds of miles in search of new range as in the old days. Simply a day or two of rounding up, then a few hours' drive to the nearest shipping point on the railroad. Then perhaps a day in town for the cowboys and back again to the home ranch and the regular grind. Though the cowboy is not a college graduate, he is by no means an ignoramus. Usually he is American born and fairly well read, taking the same active interest in current topics and politics that other American citizens do. As a general rule he has been raised in the section in which he is employed and is of youthful

appearance. He differs very little from the Average American working youth. Western dialect stories to the contrary notwithstanding. In all cowboy bunkhouses there is a pile of current magazines, the contents of which are devoured with avidity. And one is not infrequently treated to the amusing spectacle of a youthful cowboy becoming so enamored of the kind of punchers pictured in modern fiction that he purchases a pair of utterly useless six-shooters, commences to walk with a swagger and to imitate the dialect of Red Saunders. But if marksmanship is no longer a qualification of the cowpuncher, horsemanship is. The modern cattlemen is as proud of his ability to ride anything on four legs as was ever the bronco buster of bygone days, and this is the first fact impressed upon a tenderfoot. Speaking in Sydney recently the Premier of New South Wales said there were fewer criminals in proportion to population in that state today than ever before, and one of the problems was what to do with the jails, which are rapidly becoming empty.

THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER TO SUSPEND

Pekin Gazette, That Was Founded Nearly a Thousand Years Ago.

IT IS reported from China that the oldest newspaper in the world, the Pekin Gazette, is about to suspend publication. The first number appeared in 911 A. D. and since 1851, more than a century before the discovery of America, it has appeared regularly. The Pekin Gazette has published a daily budget of the imperial court news and has been a repository of edicts from the throne, memorials from Provincial Governors and reports from Chinese officials. It would be wrong to infer that its contents were always dry. Frequently the Gazette has contained news of great interest to the world and information illuminating one phase or another of Chinese character or the governmental regime. Perhaps we read one day that not only the soldier who had stolen 30 boxes of

bullets had been severely punished, but the officer whose duty it was to inspect the stores and see that they were intact was condemned to 99 blows and dismissed from the service. This showed the grave responsibility imposed upon Chinese officials. It was Li Hung Chang who reported that the officials along the Yung-ting River had risked their lives in their efforts to prevent it from inundating the surrounding country, and in the same report he recommended that, though they tried to do what was beyond the power of man, they should be stripped of their buttons or deprived of their rank because they failed to avert the flood. We learned from the Gazette that the explanation of moral maxims to the people was a favorite prescription for amending their shortcomings. One day a mem-

orial in the paper said that as the inhabitants of one of the provinces were turbulent competent persons had been appointed to explain to them the maxims of the sacred edicts with the hope of improving their character. The Gazette often told of cases where bits of the flesh of a son or daughter were cooked and eaten by a parent afflicted with obstinate illness. It was believed that their lives might thus be saved. The Chinese Government will now support the publication by the Government Gazette, which will be much larger and conducted along more modern lines. It will be the official Government organ. The disappearance of the Pekin Gazette is one of the signs of the times illustrating the mighty changes that are coming to pass in China.