

The Smart Looking Woman

A recent luncheon an absent member of the sex was discussed. And while it was admitted that she wasn't pretty, all conceded that she was smart. Although the words "smart" and "well groomed" slip so glibly from the tongue when summing up the appearance of a faultlessly attired woman it is seldom that their real meaning is realized.

When a woman is smart or well groomed it denotes that she has paid attention to detail.

The first principle of smartness is cleanliness. No woman can expect to be smart who isn't clean, whose bath is not a daily rite and who does not pay strict attention to what Little Lord Fauntleroy called "the corners."

No matter how stylish the frock, how pretty the face or how elaborate the coiffure, hair that is not carefully washed, a neck that shows the stain of collar rims and fingers that bespeak

no intimate acquaintance with a manicure set counteract the entire effect of the dress.

It is the little things which make one either noticeably smart or inelegant. How often a well groomed woman will be seen whose richness of toilet attracts all eyes, yet the otherwise perfect picture is spoiled by straggling locks of hair falling in disorderly fashion on the back of her neck. A hairpin would have adjusted the trouble, but lack of precision in detail spoiled the whole costume.

If we take the general outline of the smart woman, first admitting that she and all her belongings are immaculately clean, there are two things which class her among the inelegant. One is a skirt that sags. The other is neglected shoes. It is not economical to wear a skirt that sags at the back. On the contrary, it is out only slovenly and unhygienic, but it is ruinous to the skirt. It is very false economy to wear out one's shoes instead of having them repaired while there is still hope.

The would be smart woman who need not consider expense has an enormous variety of shoe gear to choose from this season. There is every kind of boot, shoe and slipper, from the heel-less mule for bedroom wear to the high storm boot that laces well up the calf of the leg. But it is not so much the number of shoes she has as the care she gives them that stamps her as smart or slovenly.

The well groomed woman invests in the best kinds of shoes. Blacking and polish, and keeps her blacking and her brushes together in a regular blacking box, and she blacks her shoes as soon as she has taken them off unless they are wet. Should they be wet, they are dried on shoe trees, which prove an economical investment in the long run, though they cost from 60 cents to \$1 a pair to begin with.

Shoes that are thrown into a closet heater skelter last about half as long as those that are cared for and placed on shelves in one of the new shoe

boxes or in a shoe box of home make. This box is the same size as a shirt waist box, only it opens in front instead of at the top, and there is a shelf in it, so that two rows of shoes or a row of shoe boxes can be kept there without crowding. It is always best to keep slippers in the original store box, unless they are kept on trees.

If she buys inexpensive shoes they should be of the plainest kind, for the minute she gets elaborate looking things without paying a good price for material she invests foolishly. There are bargains to be had in shoes, of course, at some of the many sample shoe stores, and frequently by buying shoes out of season she can get good values.

The woman who wants to look smart on a small allowance should try to buy out of season as much as she can, both as to goods, suits, underwear, and in fact in all branches of shopping.

In buying such things as tailor suits, for instance, one which is to look well for several seasons should be chosen in one of the moderate styles, and should not be the whim or fashion of the moment. Last year's extreme Directorate is a back number this year, while the inconspicuous tailored skirt and coat can still take its place beside the creations of today.

Timely Suggestions for Christmas

TRY festoons of cranberries and popped corn for room decorations. The corn may be on separate strings and colored many hues, or they may be used alternately in stringing. These also make effective loops for trees.

Try cotton batting, sprinkled with diamond dust, in flakes and in fancy designs, for both trees and gift tables.

Try placing seven candles in sand, in a fancy dish, for lighting purposes, instead of putting them on a tree. It is a much safer way and you may have as many dishes scattered about the room as you like, without endangering the presents on the tree.

Try using Santa Claus dolls in the decoration of the tree. If you have not small children in your own family, there are plenty who will gladly take

the dolls off your hands after they have served this purpose.

Try trimming the tree and festooning the room with gilt stars. To do this, run a strong string around the room, close to the ceiling, and fasten the stars to this by another thread, allowing each star to hang by itself. If you desire still more, run threads across the ceiling, having the thread which holds the star exactly in the center, so the stars will hang flat against the ceiling; or, you may cover the entire ceiling with blue mosquito netting, over which the stars have been pasted or sewed.

Try the silvery gray bayberry with the native holly for garlands, also the common red elderberry, for festooning and other decorations.

Try lighting the room with Japanese

lanterns, having them as varied in shape, size and color as possible. It will be a surprising and welcome change from brilliant lights.

Try touching the branches here and there with shellac, and dusting with diamond powder before it dries. The effect is beautiful.

Try a pyramid of polished red apples and yellow oranges for a center piece on the dining table. Heap the fruit on a platter covered with cotton batting thickly sprinkled with white diamond dust, and decorate with sprigs of holly.

Try giving the birds a Christmas dinner of grains and leaf suit. To do this, erect a pole with a "table" on the top, so the cats cannot reach the feathered guests. The birds will accept the invitation gladly.

Try the berries of the alder or coral bush; they make the prettiest of Christmas decorations. They may be threaded on stout strings and looped among the branches, woven in and out wherever a strong touch of color seems to be needed. They may also be mixed with green, or festooned around the room, or woven into wreaths. If you wish more variety, find some of the pretty white snow berries to mix with them. The red and white form a charming contrast.



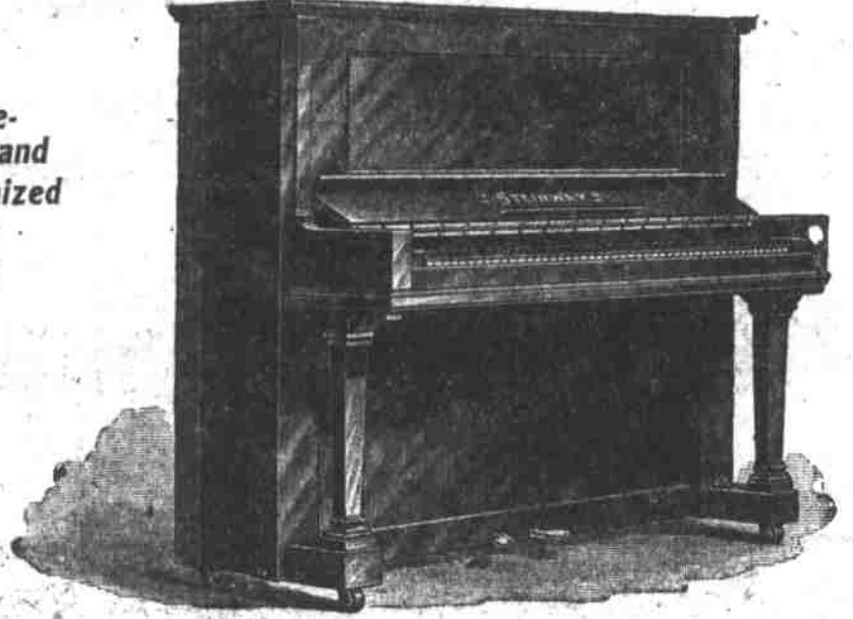
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