

WOMEN AND FASHION

Improved Washboard.

In an endeavor to provide some means of lessening the back-breaking labor every woman undergoes when washing clothes, a Nebraska woman has designed and patented a new arrangement of the washboard.



Women never use a washboard except on an incline, not realizing that every inch of the horizontal washboard is brought to the operator makes a great difference in the labor required. In the illustration the washboard is placed horizontally across the top of the tub, about three inches below the edge, and not on an incline. The usual position of a woman bending over the tub to reach the rubbing surface is thus avoided, as the tub can be raised upon a support high enough for the operator to move the articles being washed in a horizontal to-and-fro manner without bending the back. The washboard is supported across the center of the tub by hangers at each end. If desirable to incline the washboard, holders are

highly approved finish is that hand-embroidered collars are not cast-iron, and pins that will not tear a tautly-stretched and starched collar have not been invented.

Upon removing a new collar and perceiving it pierced with holes, she but-tooled these rents into ornamental eyelets. Now, she avers that her collar no longer tears, and, moreover, that it is pinned straight with much less vexation of soul than hitherto.



A great deal of colored embroidery on white ground and of colored hems on white pattern robes are striking features of new pattern robes.

Jaunty little Frenchy coats, of cretonne and a parasol to match will be seen with white or colored linen and pique skirts on next season's summer attire.

Long sleeves are seen again in some

ers in the sheath-fitting effect of the hips. There is a deep belt that extends the entire depth of the hips and from this there falls a flat flounce trimmed with innumerable insertions or rows of ribbons. The bottom is finished with little frills and ruffles. Such a skirt takes up little enough room and adds imperceptible bulk.

The Brain After Fifty.
The brain usually stops growing at about 50, and from 60 to 70 it is more likely to decrease. It has been related by Canon MacColl, says the London Spectator, that Mr. Gladstone's head was constantly outgrowing his hats. As late as the Midlothian campaign, when he was nearly 70, he was obliged to have his head remeasured for this reason. Canon MacColl's conclusion is that this continued growth of brain contributed to Mr. Gladstone's personal youthfulness appears not unwarranted.

Red Checks Without Rouge.
If you want to look very pretty and have red cheeks for a dance, you can do this, says the Delineator: Rub cold cream into the face, always with an upward rotary movement. Wipe that off, rub in more and wipe it off again. Then wash the face with hot water.

SOME OF THE NEW STYLES IN HATS.



The old-time hat of twenty years ago—the one that resembled an inverted kettle with a cockade which stuck up in the air several feet—is to be the latest craze this spring. The new creation is called "The Campaign Hat" and will cost all the way from \$50 to \$1,000—in order that the common people may not wear them and render

them ordinary. Among the most popular hats this year are the Campaign hat, the Merry Widow sailor, the black leghorn, and a new evening hat. The one thing that is barred in hats is the big, wide headpiece so fashionable a year ago. Also there will be no ribbons worn on stylish hats. There will be, however, abundant quantities of flowers and much fine lace worn.

of the handsomest wedding gowns and at a recent wedding not only the bride wore long sleeves but the bridesmaids also.

provided by it. The end can be lowered, so as to support the washboard at an angle necessary.

In the Sick Room.
Don't tell long stories.
Don't rebash other people's trials.
Don't think up miserable possibilities.
Good cheer is better than medicine. The best has an important part to play as a remedy for irritability.

Order, observation and obedience are three cardinal virtues in a nurse. Add to these fact, the want of which is the base of nearly every sin a nurse may commit.

Handkerchief Cap.
Take a large handkerchief with a pretty border and fold in the middle. Sew together at one end and reverse. Take the point where the seam and fold meet and bring it forward to the front and catch. Fold the loose corners at the bottom over for about two inches, and then put several plaits in the back at the neck. This will make a well-fitting, dainty "dusting cap," and one that will always look bright and neat, and can be easily laundered.

Her Collars Do Not Tear.
One bright woman has solved that problem which vexes every feminine who pins her linen collar across the front. The objection to this trim and

of all the collars offered at the neck-wear counters just now no other is so generally popular as the striped one-embroidered with colored dots or colored pattern.

Some of the most effective little blouses are made of striped voile and have accompanying their blond lace jabots edged narrowly with batiste in the color of the stripe.

Sleeves of this season's gowns which are to see use during the spring and summer will have to be cut down. There is little fullness gathered into the armhole, sometimes none at all.

Skirts are plaited, circular and gored, many of them with front panel effects. A wide band at the hem, which tips upward at the back, is one of the latest fads. It has been conspicuous on the other side all winter.

The belt fad of the moment is a plain strap of leather to accord with the gown and fastens with a monogram buckle. These are gold or silver, quite round, the wearer's initials being set within a fine rim. The clasp is precisely the width of the belt and so adjusted that it may be put on different bands.

Then dash cold water over it and dry it thoroughly with a soft towel. To add the final touch take a small piece of ice, cover with a towel and rub gently, three or four times over the cheek bones. This gives a color which will last for hours, and is really a mild form of Turkish bath for the face.

Many ladies before going to dinner use leather sponges, rubbing the cheeks first with warm water, then hot water, and dry thoroughly. This gives a lovely color.

Cleaning White Silk.
It is advisable to clean white silk by drying to shake it repeatedly and get it smooth by this process, so that it may not require ironing, as the application of hot metal removes the natural crispness from the silk and entirely spoils its appearance.

All soft silks, however, look better if ironed, but this should not be attempted until all the benzine has passed off, as the heat of the iron might ignite the spirit and the silk be destroyed.

Worth Knowing.
Here are some of the things which will tend to keep colors from fading: For blue use a handful of salt, for green a lump of alum. Ox gall will keep gray or brown from fading. When washing tan, brown or linen color use hay water, which is made by pouring boiling water over hay.



Electric Farming.

Although agricultural machinery originated in the United States and the American farmer used patent mowers, reapers and threshing machines long before their European contemporaries in the same field of labor had put aside scythe, rake and flail, the possibility of introducing electric power in farm work was first recognized in the Old World.

This has probably been due to the fact that the farmers of America, thrifty and far-seeing, recognizing the economy and reliability of the small oil engine, failed to perceive how any saving could be effected by generating electric current and distributing to its motors in outlying positions.

When, however, the mains from some large electric power company pass within reach of a farm or estate the conditions are much more favorable, and this state of things must already exist in a measure which will be largely extended in the future. Current German newspapers contain an interesting account of the application of electricity to a group of farms in Saxony. The electric current is brought from an adjacent town by overhead wires carried on wooden poles. Two receiving stations are arranged, from which the electricity is distributed to the farm buildings and to convenient positions in the fields for the purpose of driving threshing and other machinery.

Sixteen fixed electric motors are installed for chaff and root cutting, oat crushing, pumping and for operating machinery used in the manufacture of potato spirit. In addition to this power equipment, six portable motors are provided, which may be used for driving pumps, circular saws, threshing machinery, and so forth, at any point where their services are required. The houses and buildings on the farms are all lit by electricity. There are lamps and about 1,000 glow lamps being used for the purpose.

It must be pointed out, however, that this example could only be followed in the United States on a very large estate or a group of adjacent farms, and it is doubtful whether such a scheme could be made a commercial success for the operation of farming machinery pure and simple. It would appear that wood sawing, pumping and other operations requiring power must be included if the results are to compare favorably with those at present obtained by the use of oil or steam engines. But the Saxon experiment is full of interest, and displays a curiously progressive spirit in a country where farm fences are almost unknown, and shepherds and cowherds are still living amid picturesque realities.

Comparative Food Values.

An English journal, The Lancet, in discussing the comparative food value of roast beef and turkey, says that it may be said that, weight for weight, the flesh of the turkey is more nourishing than that of beef; but the latter is, generally speaking, cheaper than the former. The moisture in beef, however, exceeds the amount present in the flesh of the turkey, and the latter contains a better percentage of protein or flesh-forming substance. In either case the percentage of moisture is seldom less than 70 per cent.

In lean beef the amount of fat is much the same as in a not too well-fed turkey, but it must be pointed out that the flesh of poultry differs from that of beef and mutton in not having its muscular fibers permeated by fat, and, moreover, the fibers in the flesh of the fowl are short and rarely yield to the disintegrating action of the digestive processes. A large amount of fat in either case is apt to interfere with the digestibility of the meat. The fat of beef is more digestible than the fat of the turkey. The fat of birds, in fact, is harder, and owing to its tendency to become rancid, is unsuitable for the dyspeptic patient.

The Lancet believes that the most important difference from a dietetic point of view between beef and turkey is that, whereas beef contains a high percentage of extractive matters, turkey contains hardly any at all. The extractive matters in beef account largely for its peculiar and marked flavor, and owing to their absence in poultry generally, and in the pheasant and partridge, the flavor of these meats is delicate. But there is no doubt that the extractives of beef, as well as mutton, are valuable, for not only are they flavoring agents, but they also act as perhaps the most powerful stimulant to gastric digestion.

Learned by Hard Knocks.

So long as the bone market is not fully supplied there is no gain in shipping away.

As a rule the offspring of immature and pampered animals are predisposed to disease.

A proper rotation and wise tillage will do much to keep the soil supplied with available fertility.

Better methods, better stock and better tools have doubled the productions of more than one farm.

Oats contain largely the mineral properties requisite to form and grow bone and the protein that makes muscle and other tissues.

Quality of Grass Seed.

The Maine law regulating the sale of agricultural seeds requires that grass seed shall be sold under a guarantee as to purity. Bulletin 138 of the Maine agricultural experiment station, which, doubtless, many of your readers have received, gives analysis of the seeds which were collected by the inspector and those sent to the experiment station by correspondence in 1906. The dealers are very generally conforming to the law and the purity of most seeds is now guaranteed. The question naturally arises in the mind of a farmer, should a seed be strictly pure, and, if not, how nearly pure should it be?

The purity of seeds varies greatly with their kind. It is possible to grow timothy seed so clean that it shall carry practically no foreign weed seeds. It is not as easy to grow any of the other grasses or clovers so clean. There is no need for the sower to ever buy timothy seed that is much less than 99.5 per cent pure. Samples have been examined by the station the present year which contained not a single foreign harmful seed.

The best red clover seed will frequently carry as much as 1 per cent of foreign matter, although these impurities are usually comparatively harmless. It is, however, poor policy for the sower to buy a red-clover seed that is less than 98 per cent pure. The best grades of alsike clover will run about 98.5 per cent pure on the average. It is doubtful if the purchaser should buy an alsike whose purity is less than 97.5 per cent.

Redtop is the most difficult seed of all. It will, of course, contain more or less chaff. It is difficult to grow redtop free from timothy, and the seed cleaners find it difficult to separate timothy seed from redtop after it has once been introduced. Samples of redtop carrying as high as 12 or even 15 per cent of timothy are not unusual. If one could be sure that the impurities were harmless like chaff and timothy it might be safe to buy a redtop even as low as 85 per cent pure. Unless one is assured of the character of the impurities, it is unwise to buy a redtop less than 95 per cent pure.

Double-Edged Saw.

To make one saw take the place of two, and at the same time preserve its durability, is the recent invention of an Indiana man.



Every carpenter includes two saws in his kit—one for cross-cut and one for cutting with the grain. He can now dispense with one saw, as it is possible to put the two blades having different teeth on the one saw, as shown in the illustration.

The smooth top edge always seen on saws is changed to a cutting edge, similar to the regular cutting edge, the saw thus having teeth on the two longitudinal opposite edges. The handle is hinged to the blade instead of being rigid and can be reversed as it becomes necessary to use either blade. This saw is also an economical saw, as it saves the expense of purchasing two saws.

Grass Better than Drugs.

A famous veterinary surgeon declares that grass beats all drugs in creation as a cure for sick horses and mules. Horses should have a few quarts of cut grass daily, from spring until fall. The prevalent notion that it is harmful is without foundation. Grass is to horses what fresh vegetables and fruit are to the human family.

News and Farm Notes.

The profitable line of production is to maintain good health with early maturity.

More than half a million emigrants from Russia have passed into Siberia the past year to engage in wheat raising.

A farmer near McEwan, Tenn., is displaying an ear of corn twelve inches long, weighing three pounds and containing 1,384 grains.

A grain farm at Murray, Iowa, shipped twenty-seven carloads of timothy seed last fall, for which the farmers received from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a bushel.

A Kansas man claims to have invented a fence-weaving machine, run by a two-horse power gasoline engine, which will weave and set a mile of fence a day.

The United States produced 14,000,000 bushels of rice last year on a half million acres. The culture of rice is gradually creeping north and some very good grain is reported in Arkansas.

Holland has set engineers to work to pump the water out of the famous Zuyder Zee and turn it into dry land. When this work is accomplished there will rise where 4,000 fishermen now sink their nets and homes for 50,000 Hollanders.

A Washington dispatch says a genius has invented a dope which when used as paint for farm machinery will prevent rust and decay. This might be good news for those farmers who use the fence corners as storehouses for their farm machinery, but the probability is they are too lazy to apply the dope.



A Miracle of Medicine.

Colonel William C. Gorgas, chief sanitary officer of the isthmian canal zone, has lately told the inspiring story of how his department has converted one of the most deadly regions of the world into a place of habitation as healthful as any American city.

The story really begins with the remarkable work of the army board in Havana in 1901, by which it was absolutely established that the mosquito is not only a means, but the sole means, by which yellow fever and malaria are transmitted to human beings. By virtue of this knowledge, Havana was rid of both these tropical scourges.

The task at Panama, although similar, was much greater, but it has been accomplished almost as completely. Colonel Gorgas, who was at the head of sanitation in Cuba, has been in charge of the task of making the canal zone habitable since the beginning of American occupation, and to him more than to any other man is due the credit of making the construction of the canal possible without a terrible sacrifice of human life.

Yellow fever has been absolutely eradicated, and malaria has been so thoroughly brought under control that the sick rate among the 32,000 laborers is less than that of similar bodies of workmen in the United States. During the last year it was only twenty nine in the thousand.

The result has been accomplished by the simple expedients of screening the sleeping rooms of the men and oiling the surface of breeding places of the mosquitoes for a space of 200 yards from the barracks. The anopheles, which transmit malaria, can fly only about 100 yards.

To the person who views these achievements with the scientific imagination there is an outlook far beyond the conquering of malaria and yellow fever. He gains a new conception of the growing dominion of medical science. It seems almost as if the world stood upon the very threshold of that temple of knowledge in which disease shall be stripped of power and the afflicted of all the earth shall find sanctuary.—Youth's Companion.

A Chinese Opium Den.

An opium den usually takes up one floor of a building. Against the walls is a continuous wooden platform, perhaps two feet high and extending out seven or eight feet into the room. This platform is divided at intervals of five or six feet by low partitions, sometimes but a few inches in height, into compartments, each of which accommodates two smokers, with one lamp between them. Sometimes a rug or a bit of matting is laid on this hard couch, sometimes not; for the Chinaman, accustomed to sleeping on bricks, prefers his couches hard. A man always lies down to smoke opium; for the porous pill, which is pressed into the tiny orifice of the pipe, cannot be ignited, but is held directly over the lamp and the flame drawn through it.

The first den we entered was on the second floor of a rickety building. We climbed the steep, infinitely dirty stairway, crossed a narrow hall and opened a door. At first I found it difficult to see distinctly in the dim light and through the thick blue haze; and the overpowering, sickish fumes of the drug got into my nose and throat and made breathing a noticeable effort. There was a desk by the door, behind which sat the keeper of the den, with a litter of pipes and thimble-like cups before him. In a corner of the desk was a jar of opium, a thick, sticky substance, dark brown in color, in appearance not unlike molasses in January. There were twenty smokers on the couches, some preparing the pellet of opium by kneading it and pressing it on the pipe bowl, some dozing off the fumes, and a few smoking. An attendant moved about the room with fresh supplies of the drug. For each thimbleful, enough for one or two smokes, the price was fifteen cents (Mexican).—Samuel Merwin, in Success Magazine.

Only One.

"At the unveiling of Rodin's bust of Henley in Westminster Abbey," said a New York editor, "a number of good stories were told about the great poet. H. G. Wells praised Henley's conduct of the New Review. Of course this periodical failed, yet undoubtedly it was the best-edited magazine of the last century. In it Henley introduced to the world new writers of such distinction as Joseph Conrad, Kenneth Grahame, W. B. Yeats, Mr. Wells himself, and so on. One day as Mr. Wells and Henley stood in the office of the magazine, discussing rather sadly its gloomy prospects, a funeral went by with slow pace.

"Henley leaned out of the window and looked at the funeral anxiously. Then he turned to his companion and said with a worried frown: "Can that be our subscriber?"

Man's Limitations.

Man can drive wild horses, govern a nation, scale mountain peaks and win a war, but when he tries to rule a woman he knows that he will meet defeat.