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THE HOUSEHOLD

AMATEUR FURNISHING.

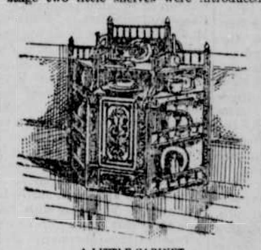
A Woman Tells How She Made a Cabinet of Very Workmanlike Aspect.

If there is one thing more than another that a housekeeper is partial to, it is a cupboard. She is positively greedy about cupboards, and probably the woman does not exist who would admit she has too many. In fact, in the average house these useful receptacles are "like angels' visits," few and far between.

Now, of course, cabinets do not go far in the way of providing storage room, but they are better than nothing and are admissible in rooms where anything more capacious would be out of the question.

The cabinet here illustrated consisted in embryo of a neat packing box, which, when placed upright, measured 27 inches high by 19 inches wide and 14 inches deep, the lid being used as a door. Behind the box were nailed boards to form a back, 45 inches wide and 54 inches high in the center, but dropping to 36 inches at each side. This back was strengthened behind with battens top and bottom. The next additions were the little upright pieces rising from the sides of the box. Their position will be understood from the sketch. They do not come forward quite to the edge in front, space being left for the pillars and for the small "quadrant" pieces which fit into the angles at the foot of these. Between the uprights a shelf was placed, and the triangular shelves were next fixed at each side. This finished the skeleton of the cabinet.

Before adding the spindles the back was faced with Japanese paper, and at this stage two little shelves were introduced


A LITTLE CABINET.

into the cupboard, the interior and door of which were lined with maroon cloth. The door was provided with ornamental brass hinges, and the front was paneled with lincrusta, the same material decorating the higher portion of the back. The spindles were somewhat of a problem, but were finally obtained, as were the other little adenda which complete the cabinet.

The enameling is a very critical affair. The color should be carefully chosen to harmonize with the surroundings of the cabinet. Oak, ebony or mahogany is generally safe to look well. This cabinet was ebonized.

Management of the Furnace.

The first thing to do is to get the house thoroughly warmed. When it is heated to the desired temperature, it will require less coal to keep it warm than if constantly cooling and heating. There is more economy in filling the fire pot full of coal than in putting in only a small amount, because that burns away more readily. Do not use your poker on the top of the fire. It is bad management in the use of hard coal. The grate will remove the ashes and clinkers, thus allowing free passage for air through the fire.

In filling the furnace with coal the smoke pipe damper should be opened and the ash pit door and slide closed, otherwise the smoke or gas will be forced out of the feed door. In the morning open all drafts, put in a small quantity of coal, let it burn thoroughly, then add fuel until full. Let it burn a short time for the gas to be consumed before closing the dampers. When your rooms are heated and there is a good fire in the furnace, shut it up as close as possible.

If your furnace heats quick and strong from a good draft, so that in warm weather you complain of too much heat, don't shake the grate, but allow it to clog with ashes, not under but on top of the grate. Ashes then lessen combustion. Never shut off all the registers at once. If you wish to close the registers, close those on the upper floors, as when the lower rooms and hall are heated the air finds its way to the upper rooms.

Turnip and Tomato Soup.

Chop up an onion and cook it in a covered pan for 10 minutes with 2 ounces or 3 ounces of butter or clarified drippings; then pour on to it a quart of boiling water or weak stock; add 4 or 5 medium turnips, a potato and 3 tomatoes, or their equivalent of canned tomatoes, all chopped up small. Season to taste with pepper and salt, and let them all simmer gently together till quite tender, when they must be all rubbed through a sieve together, put back into the pot with a little bit of butter, just to boil up, and served very hot. If the tomatoes are of a good color, this puree will be very pretty.

Revamping a Marble Case.

A little shine on an old thing often helps amazingly. The repairer is occasionally called on to expend his ingenuity on a marble clock case, and he can give it a handsome polish in the following manner, according to The Horological Review: Take ordinary yellow beeswax and dissolve it into a paste with turpentine, then take a soft and fine rag, place in the middle of it a round lump of wadding, fold the rag over it and tie it together right above the wadding. Upon this take a little of the wax paste and polish with it. Finally rub the case down with a soft chamois.

Vaseline Stains.

Vaseline, which is largely used not only as a toilet article, but also as a foundation for various kinds of ointments, often leaves a brown stain on white goods. If caused by the vaseline alone, there should be no difficulty in removing such a stain by a thorough washing with good soap rubbed on the spot and hot water, followed by the usual boiling. This applies to old and obstinate spots. If they are dipped in ammonia mixed with a little hot water, and then washed in very hot water, they will also usually disappear.

Almond Cake.

Three cupfuls of flour, 1 cup of white sugar, 1 cup of butter, creamed; the whites of 8 eggs, 1 teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a teaspoonful of soda. Season with a teaspoonful of almond extract and add a cupful of blanched sweet almonds sliced very fine.

GOOD HEALTH

MODERN DISEASES.

Lawn Tennis Arm, Housemaid's Knee, Dentist's Leg and Telephonic Tintinnatus.

The "lawn" tennis arm, like the "housemaid's knee" and the "dentist's leg," are all described as "modern diseases." The continuous use of the telephone is said to cause a buzzing noise in the ears of many people, accompanied by an intense nervous irritability. This illness, which seems destined to last, has already received the name of "telephonic tintinnatus." Its victims are intolerant of the faintest din and will sometimes develop serious inflammation of the tympanum. We might mention also among modern diseases the erythema developed in the skin of the face of those who are much subjected to the rays of the electric light or who are in the habit of working powerful electric batteries. Photographers suffer from various modern ailments, such as chronic acid poisoning, and the poisonous effects of phenol compounds are often observed in those whose lives are devoted to dyeing and to the manufacture of coal tar colors. All these affections of the human being were quite unknown less than half a century ago, says Popular Science News.

Causes of Consumption.

Dr. James Wood of Brooklyn states that, according to the latest authorities, consumption is dependent upon three factors: First, decreased vitality, antagonizing powers, or what you will. This is well known, as well as in what manner it is induced or transmitted. Second, an active inflammatory condition. This may be pneumonia, bronchitis, laryngitis or the like. Third, the presence of the bacillus tuberculosis. Without these three there can be no consumption. It is the usual thing in the examination in the doulhouse to find evidences in the lungs that the subject had at some time a commencing consumption, but the vitality had been so great that nature had encapsulated the infected part with tissue of high vitality and the condition became innocuous. The fatality from tuberculosis, then, is dependent on a decreased vitality, and we must look to a proper kind of diet and a consequent increase in the general antagonizing power of the body for the remedy.

Electric Medication.

One of the new features of electric medication is the introduction of drugs into the human body through the skin. The Industrial World tells that this is done by placing solutions of any drug upon a sponge, which is made the positive pole and placed against the skin. When the current is turned on, the drug is actually driven through the skin into the tissues. The application is not at all painful. Thus cocaine has been driven in over a painful nerve, and neuralgia has been relieved by it. Many other drugs have been used in this way. This property of electricity is known as cataphoresis. Operations have been performed after anæsthetizing the skin and subjacent tissues cataphoretically.

The Healthful Apple.

German analysts say the apple contains a larger percentage of phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable. The scientists tell us that the apple is "chemically composed of vegetable fiber, albumen, sugar, gum, chlorophyll, malic acid, gallic acid, lime and much water." In olden times a roasted apple was considered the best thing a convalescent could eat, or that a consumptive could have when needing something to tempt the failing appetite.

ETIQUETTE

GOOD FORM.

Points For People In Search of Culture and Polish.

The following notes gleaned from Harper's Bazar consist of practical advice to correspondents and are adapted to the wants of every day:

A young widow wears English crape trimmings on dresses and capes. There is no prescribed time for wearing the crape veil over the face. It is an unwholesome fashion that should be abandoned soon, the milliner draping the crape to hang at the back and providing a thin veil for the face. A black border is added to cards and stationery. The husband's first name may be retained if the widow chooses and indeed is now preferred to the old plan of using her own name.

Fin de siecle literally means the end of the century, but its accepted meaning is "up to date." Chic means style.

Cards need not be sent to the "at home." If you attend, you will leave two of Mr. Smith's cards and one of your own. A subsequent call is not necessary. Cards are sent to teas (where you do not attend) during the specified reception hours. Yes; send an acceptance for a wedding reception.

The invitation should read: "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith request the pleasure of your company Tuesday evening, January tenth, at eight o'clock. Dancing at nine." Introduce your guests as opportunity occurs. Plain white stationery is always good style. Stamp with the address if you choose.

You should always give your hand to callers in your own house. Ask them to call again if you want them, certainly.

It is not necessary to acknowledge a card of condolence, but it is polite to do so by a note of thanks. An invitation to a church wedding needs no answer. Mourning dress for a mother is worn a year; visits are not paid during the first six months.

Many women prefer to walk without taking a man's arm. You should certainly thank him for his trouble in escorting you home.

Leave three cards, one for each lady. Leave cards whenever paying a formal call. It is better in the use of cards to err on the side of too many than too few.

You should make a call on the hostess within a week after attending her dinner party.

The seats of honor at a dinner are at the right of host or hostess.

It is more gracious to allow your glass to be filled than to refuse wine; you need not drink it, of course. Serve your coffee after dessert. Mark your books with the name only, "Mary J. Smith."

The hostess enters the dining room last.

Soup, coffee and desserts are served by the hostess where the service is from the table.

The wedding cake is put up in small boxes furnished by the caterer and is taken away by the guests; it is not sent out. The groom's card should read, "Dr. John Smith;" the bride's, "Mrs. John Smith."

Science Progress

AN ELECTROSCOPE.

An Improvised Instrument For Discovering the Presence of Electricity.

Bend a piece of straight wire at right angles into the form shown in the illustration. Place the upper horizontal branch on the border or brim of a glass, and over this place a little tin cover or a metal plate. The vertical branch must not touch the glass, and the lower horizontal branch should have a little band of tin, folded in two, straddled on it.

A HOMEMADE ELECTROSCOPE.

If now you rub a glass stick or a stick of sealing wax with a woolen cloth and bring either of these close to the metal covering, you will immediately see the two branches of the tin band start violently away from each other, just as it takes place in the well known apparatus of the physicist's laboratory, the electrometer or electroscope.

A French writer, who devised the ingenious arrangement just described, says that this improvised electroscope will not only enable one to discover if a body is electrified or not, but it will tell with what kind of electricity, positive or negative, the body is charged.

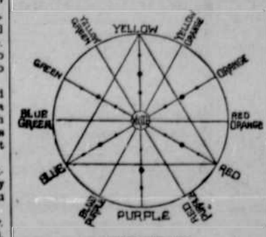
Bring close to the metal plate, for example, a sheet of very dry paper which has been electrified by rubbing it vigorously with a brush, and while the bent band or leaves of our electroscope start apart under the influence of this paper touch the metal plate or covering with your finger. The leaves fall back, but if you take away your finger and then the sheet of paper they diverge again. Now the apparatus is charged with electricity of a different nature from that of the paper. In order to discover what kind of electricity this is bring slowly up to the plate the stick of glass rubbed with woolen cloth. Now we shall see the divergence of the leaves increase, which indicates that the electricity of our electroscope is the same as that of the glass—that is, positive, so that our sheet of paper was charged with different electricity—that is, negative. On the other hand, if the divergence had diminished, we should have concluded that the body to be investigated was charged with positive electricity.

Precious Stones In the United States.

Up to the present time there has been very little mining for precious or semiprecious stones in the United States, and then only at irregular periods. It has been carried on during the past few years at Paris, Me., near Los Cerrillos, N. M., in Alexander county, N. C., from 1881 until 1888, and on the Missouri river, near Helena, Mon., since the beginning of 1890. True beryls and garnets have been frequently found as a byproduct in the mining of mica, especially in Virginia and North Carolina. Some gems, such as the chlorastrolites, thomsonites and agates of Lake Superior are gathered on beaches, where they have fallen from rock which has gradually disintegrated by weathering and wave action. Mr George F Kunz, in his recent report on the mineral industries in the United States, says that a very limited number of diamonds have been found in the United States. They are met with in well defined districts of California, North Carolina, Georgia and recently in Wisconsin, but up to the present time the discoveries have been rare and purely accidental. Their occurrence is chiefly confined to a belt of country lying along the east flank of the southern Alleghanies from Virginia to Georgia, and another along the western bases of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade range, in northern California and southern Oregon. The corundum gems, sapphire, ruby, oriental emerald, etc., have been found in only two states, North Carolina and Montana, and then never in fine gems. Tourmaline has been found for the past 60 years at Mount Mica, Paris, Me., in magnificent crystals, which have furnished some gems rivaling any ever found.

An Aid In the Grouping of Colors.

The points of the triangle show the three great primaries from which all other colors are produced. Diametrically opposite these are placed their perfect contrasting colors. The points on the circle situated midway between the primary and secondary colors show the middle tones, or half colors, with their true contrasts directly opposite. To better show the use of the chart we will take the upper point, yellow. In opposition to it we find purple, its contrast, and the same with the other primaries. The half way color, between the primary yellow and the secondary orange, which is yellow orange, finds its perfect contrast on the opposite side of the circle, which is blue-purple, and so on all around the circle.



A COLOR CHART

To show the use of the chart as a determiner of harmony we will take as an example purple. The dots marked on the line toward the center, white, denote the various tones of purple produced by its admixture with white. Any of these tones form a harmony with pure purple. Moving along the circle on each side of the purple we find its harmonies decreasing as we leave it until we reach its most imperfect tones, blue-green and red-orange. Continuing the round of the circle, we approach its contrasting colors, gradually getting more pleasing, until we reach its perfect contrast in the primary yellow.

A study of this chart, originally presented by The Decorator and Furnisher, will greatly assist the decorator in the grouping of colors, and it will be useful if kept as a reference.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP

MESMERISM.

First Announced as a Subtle Fluid Diffused by the Planets.

Mesmerism was first brought into notice by Frederick Anton Mesmer, a German physician, in 1766, when he published a thesis on "The Influence of the Planets on the Human Body," claiming that the heavenly bodies diffused through the universe a subtle fluid which acts on the nervous system of animated beings, and he further stated that he regarded the new force, which, he said, could be exerted by one living organism upon another, as a means of alleviating or curing disease. In 1778 he left Vienna for Paris, where he gained numerous proselytes and much money. His discovery was fostered by Dr d'Elson, physician to the king's brother, and in 1784 the French government ordered the medical faculty of Paris to investigate Mesmer's theory. A committee was appointed, who subsequently reported that "the violent effects which are observed in the public practice of magnetism are due to the manipulations, to the excitement of the imagination which leads us to repeat any thing which produces an impression upon the senses." One year later—1785—Mesmer's popularity had so far declined that he left Paris and retired to Switzerland, where he spent the balance of his life. Mesmerism excited some attention again in 1848, when Miss Harriet Martineau and others announced their belief in it.

Peculiar Virtues of Menthol.

There are peculiar virtues possessed by menthol, and in fact the drug itself is comparatively a new discovery in America, but the Chinese and Japanese have made use of it for a long time. It is a white crystalline substance deposited from oil of peppermint and is obtained by freezing and thawing the oil a number of times, the crystals being deposited during the congealing process. These crystals melt at 97 degrees Fahrenheit, are slightly soluble in water and entirely soluble in ether and the volatile oils. In the manufacture of menthol the Japanese oil is generally used, as it yields the crystals more richly than the others. The drug is used for external application and often gives much relief in cases of headache. The effect produced is mainly a sensation of intense cold, caused by the rapid evaporation of the thin coating of the substance which is left on the skin when the menthol pencil has been rubbed over it.

An Early Cremationist.

In St. George's burial ground in the Uxbridge road, England, is a monument, bearing date 1769, erected to the memory of Honoretta Pratt, who ordered that her body should be burned. It stands near the back of the chapel. On it are four columns supporting a canopy, under which is an urn with snakes twined around it. The inscription on one side of it reads thus: "This worthy woman, believing that the vapours arising from graves in the churchyards of populous Citys must prove hurtful to the inhabitants, and resolving to extend to future times as far as she was able that charity and benevolence which distinguished her thro life, ordered that her body should be burnt in hope that others would follow the example—a thing too hastily censured by those who did not inquire the motive."

The Bifurcated Nether Garment.

A woman fashion writer asserts that by patient archæological research carried on by one woman it has been proved, for the gratification of all women, that the bifurcated nether garment supposed to be specially distinctive of the masculine toilet rightly belongs to the feminine dress. The women of Judah, it seems, were the first wearers of the garment in bifurcated form, and man, perceiving the convenience and comfort of this article of dress, evolved by the superior intelligence of woman, appropriated the same for his own use and doomed his womankind to encumber their limbs with flowing robes, which render it impossible for them to cope with man in the useful avocations.

Liberty Bell at the World's Fair.

The famous old Liberty bell during the World's fair is located on the right side of the main entrance in the Pennsylvania state building. It is suspended from the ceiling of the second story floor so that persons on the main floor can stand under and look up at the bell. At a point about midway of the bell's height there is a balcony, and visitors can have a close inspection of the bell, though they will not be able to touch it because of the railing around the balcony.

Women In Chili.

A writer in Lippincott affirms that Chili is the woman's Utopia. It is the only country in the world in which women are possessed of full political rights. Every woman over 21 can vote on all questions. The street cars are all conducted by women too. The native women have not good opportunities for education, but they are said to be possessed of fair mental ability. In manner they are modest and dignified, in person small and delicate.

Sevres Ware.

Sevres ware was first produced in France in 1698, and during the past two centuries it has occupied the highest niche of honor among the many wares of France. The Sevres of today is not materially different from the Sevres of a century ago, except as to decorations, which have during the past few years acquired a greater degree of excellence, the result of higher artistic attainments among the designers and decorators.

Origin of the Pawnbroker's Sign.

It is generally held that the three golden balls used by pawnbrokers as a sign were adopted from the armorial bearings of the Medici family of Italy by the Lombard merchants, among whom were several representatives of that family. This sign was used in London in very early times by some of those merchants who had emigrated from Italy and established the first money lending establishments in England.

Four Classes of Men.

An Arabic philosopher has classed men into four kinds:

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not. He is a fool; shun him.

He who knows not, and knows that he knows not. He is simple; teach him.

He who knows, and knows not he knows. He is asleep; wake him.

He who knows, and knows he knows. He is wise; follow him.

The Seasons.

The seasons, nominally and according to the calendar, begin as follows: Spring, March 20, at 3 a. m.; summer, June 22, 11 p. m.; autumn, Sept. 22, 2 p. m.; winter, Dec. 21, 8 a. m.

FASHIONS

STYLES IN SHOES.

Smart Boots—New and Dainty Evening Shoes and a Bag For Carrying Them.

Shoes, though a much neglected item, are a particularly important one in a woman's dress. There is a good deal of character in a pair of boots or shoes. They are to some

SHOES AND SHOE BAG.

extent an index to the mind of the wearer. To see a woman appropriately and carefully shod seems to indicate a proper self respect and a certain decision of character. A well booted woman generally walks well, or at any rate fairly well, for to walk absolutely well is a rare accomplishment. But there is no disguise about the ungainly shamble of the woman in loose, ill shaped boots or shoes.

The straight toe cap is very smart for day wear, and the prettiest boots are in patent leather, with glace kid tops. Taste in evening shoes is less whimsical than a season or two ago, when gold and silver kid, tinsel, gorgeous brocades and antique paste ornaments were the fashion. Satin and glace are the materials principally used, the ornaments usually consisting of neat bows or small steel ornaments. One of the daintiest shoes brought out for some time is that in the sketch ornamented with a pansy. It is of satin. The shoe exactly opposite—open in front to show the instep—is of glace kid, with crescent shaped bands studded with jet cabauchons and an elaborately embroidered toe.

Pretty bedroom slippers are of felt or velvet, with warm flannel linings and trimmings of soft, dark fur. Unlike ordinary slippers, they have a moderate heel and rather smart toe.

An effective evening shoe, which scintillates as it catches the light, is of glace kid studded all over with tiny cut steel points and adorned with a horseshoe shaped buckle. A capital receptacle for carrying shoes is the bag shown in the middle illustration.

Early Spring Walking Gown.

Among attractive and graceful outdoor costumes for the coming season is the French model here depicted.

NEW FRENCH OUT OF DOOR COSTUME.

The bell skirt and long blouse are in dove gray cloth edged with sable; the short bodice and puckered sleeves of short gray velvet, with upright collar and sash to match. The tiny velvet capote is ornamented with jet wings.

Sleeve Buttons and Watches.

This is to be a season of sleeve buttons. The linked buttons of the same size prevail. Here again is enamel in all colors surrounded with a broken edge of gold or silver. The silver buttons were never more tasteful and artistic. Elsie Bee says in The Jewelers' Circular that the display of watches with chatelaines is as pretty as anything shown in a long time. There is a preference, above all, for enamel. The enameled watches with portraits and figures prevail. The brilliant enamels in solid color are set with stones. The blue enamel is superb. Other watches have covers made of closely set stones, as turquoise. The chatelaines are made to correspond. The bowknot prevails, but there are enameled swords, long loops caught at the lower end, and, still newer, three enameled forms like sleeve buttons, each with some heraldic device, and pendent loops in which the watch swings. Sometimes a flower-de-luce is on all three.

New Hairdressing.

A stylish arrangement is of loops and bows of hair placed quite on the top of the head, after the style of the 1830 period. These bows start from a twist of hair at the back of the head and are intermixed with diamonds and other ornaments. Everything that savors of the empire is now for the moment a la mode, and the Recamier coiffure is among the newest.

It is the fashion now to wear a little bunch of flowers or feathers and velvet for full dress as well as diamonds. Little sprays of violets or roses or any other bloom are worn. Frequently these are intermixed with shaded velvet, standing up in two points like donkeys' ears in the immediate front.

Rows of pearls, with pearls and silver flowers in the front, are intended to be placed round the coiffure at the back, and a white satin bow, with a humming bird in the center, is quite a new idea.