

WOMEN AND FASHION

Women and Housekeeping.

If there be any one thing more than another calculated to try the patience of a faithful housekeeper, it is to discover, after dutifully accomplishing a morning's routine work, a rip in the carpet, or a worn place in the rug, grinning insouciantly at one, with the suggestion in its open countenance of the truth of the saying that woman's work is never done.

I have long wondered, and am still at a loss to decide (having tried both methods), which is the happier woman, she who at once goes and mends the rip, or darts the hole, or she who puts her shawl over her head and runs into a neighbor's to gossip till time to get dinner. One thing is certain, the woman who doesn't let the rip affect her conscience will keep a smooth complexion longer, and the question is, will her husband be more disgusted by catching his foot in the rip, or with the wrinkles she brings upon her face, by persistent application to the petty duties that waste the heart and wear the body?

It is a fact that men are not given to a warm appreciation of domestic virtues; they take them too much as a matter of course; they do not stop to consider that washing dishes and sweeping floors and cooking meals is work, and work of the very hardest and most trying kind.

The average man comes home from his business in the evening expecting to find a nicely cooked, nicely served dinner awaiting him. He is ignorant of the many steps, the infinite care, the inconvenience of being roasted over the stove, and the countless trials and annoyances that are incident to the preparation of a meal. He thinks it is natural to a woman to keep house, and if she does it well she is only doing what she ought to.

I have frequently noticed that women who are not too careful in house-keeping have the most devoted husbands. Women who wear themselves out accomplishing narrow perfections must find in those perfections their own reward, for men will never appreciate them.

The good dinner, the general aspect of comfort, these impress man deeply, but for the rest, he would rather have a pretty and smiling wife than one too earnest in her household duties.

Hence I believe it is just as well to put a rug over the ripped place, or set a footstool over it, and go gossiping, as to get down on all fours and make your back ache and ruin your fingers sewing it up. Blessed be the woman whose blood and judgment are so well combined that she finds time for both mending and gossiping, and does not allow herself to become hopelessly addicted either to the minutia of house-keeping or to the habit of industrial mate gadding.—Juliet V. Strauss in Chicago Journal.

Getting to Sleep.

If you are troubled with insomnia some of the following ideas are worth trying out, as they are certain to accomplish what seems impossible of achievement, woeing sleep successfully: A warm bath before retiring—not a cold one, for the latter will wake you. Drink a cup of cool, not iced, water, and this will bring good repose. Sleep with your windows open at the top and bottom, be it ever so small a space, so you can just feel a breeze on your face. Put in your bath a little bag containing dried clover tops and lavender flowers, and as the water cools there will be a delightful odor arising from it. It is thus medicated and slightly perfumed and a sure cure for insomnia.

Hat with High Crown.



The frame of this hat had a high crown and narrow turn-down brim. It was covered with dark blue liberty satin, which was plain under the brim and tucked on top. A wide piece of embroidered velvet was draped around the crown. A pearl buckle was placed on the right side near the front. A large bunch of fancy feathers ornaments the left side.

When You Visit.

When you contemplate a visit try to make it a point to arrive at your destination during the daytime. It is often difficult to locate a place at night and is embarrassing to the hostess and

guest. Many women could confess to their great annoyance at receiving a card stating that a guest would arrive that day and "please meet me at the train." Possibly there is not a vacant room in the house for a guest and hundreds of trains may come in during the day, yet the writer never states what train to meet and the annoyance of preparing meals and the like makes a guest of this kind anything but welcome. Some women swoop down upon a hostess, never sending word, but an excuse is made that she wished to surprise them. She does. A woman is a hospitable creature and entertaining is one of her delights, but she does not want it a compulsory affair and she wants time to prepare for it. When you desire to visit a friend write her relative to your desires, wait for her reply, prepare for the appointed day and go on the train you tell her to meet, or telegraph any change. A woman who has no consideration for her hostess is not deserving of a very cordial welcome.



Elaborate braiding is seen on many of the newest models, both in cloth and velvet, the narrow soutache being the most popular. Braiding, combined with heavy embroidery, is particularly effective on broadcloth or velvet.

A jacket showing a decided point at the front is one of the styles seen among the newly arrived linen cos-

boiled and strained, thirty drops of alcohol, one ounce of oxide of zinc, eight grains of bichloride of mercury, twenty drops of glycerin.

The most simple way to reduce your flesh is to avoid all starchy and sweetened food, all cereals, vegetables containing sugar or starch, such as peas, beans, corn, potatoes. Have your bread toasted, sprinkle it with salt instead of using butter. Milk, I regret to say, if it be pure enough, is fattening. Skimmed milk may be drunk. Hot water is an excellent substitute for other liquids. Add a little juice of limes or lemons to it, if you choose. Limit your sleeping hours to seven at the outside. No naps. You must take exercise.

The Economical Woman.

The woman who must study economy in planning her new spring clothes will find a separate skirt a useful addition to her wardrobe. If she carefully studies the latest fashion reports from abroad she knows that the costume—that is, the skirt and waist made of the same material and sometimes cut in one—is much more the vogue than the separate skirt and the shirt waist. Yet sometimes it is not always convenient to have an entire new gown, in which case the separate skirt will prove invaluable.

Biccough Easily Stopped.

This is a most distressing and obstinate complaint to those in whom it occurs, says the Family Doctor. We do not refer, of course, to the biccough attendant upon great prostration of the system, but to those instances (very frequent, indeed) of a simple spasmodic condition of stomach and esophagus which assails the individual without any other symptom of disease, and in the treatment of

DAINTY HOME-MADE NEGLIGEE.



times. It is a pattern carried over from early winter which had its share of popularity among the more dressy jacket suits.

Thin folds of satin or of taffeta are used to trim semidress costumes and lend themselves admirably to original effects. They may be applied in broadening designs and also in serpentine lines and short zigzags on hems and waistcoats and are also used to frame motifs.

With the summer dress will be worn some pretty ribbon sashes. But these ribbons will be wide, ethereal in appearance, and tied in four loops at the back. Some of the streamers are also knotted a few inches from the end. The idea is to get a ribbon to match the delicate weave of the dress.

The smartest dresses worn at present are those composed of cloth skirt, velvet jacket, braided and fancy or old-time waistcoat fastening down the front with small antique buttons. The popularity of gossamer tissues much embroidered is very evident, the idea having been borrowed from the East.

A simple house wrapper is made with a square yoke, rolling collar, bishop sleeves and five-gored skirt that is attached to the waist. While a wrapper, yet it has a shirtwaist finish that is neat. Polka-dot materials—that is, of the small design—with bindings or bands of plain trimming, look neat for such garments.

The handsomest and most expensive of the stiff collars have Irish lace insertion used in a sort of conventional design. While these collars may be very beautiful, they are less satisfactory than are the hand-embroidered collars, for the lace will not hold the starch and constant heavy washing soon tears the fragile material.

In making up a black spangled robe over a ruffle of plaited chiffon it is a clever idea to connect the two by sewing to the ruffle at regular intervals big disks of black velvet. These may be cut out, leaving the edges raw, for they will not fray, and they relieve the dead whiteness of the ruffle in contrast with the black above and make a connecting link between the two materials.

To Whiten the Skin.

After you have washed and dried your face carefully, apply the following lotion: One quart of water previously

which anti-spasmodics prove inert. Relief can be obtained by directing the patient to hold the arms straight above the head and to keep inspiring as long as is feasible, so as to retain the air in the lungs for as long a period as possible.



The average weekly wages paid to female laborers of all classes in Germany is a little over \$2.25 each.

Out of every 1,000,000 girl babies born 871,268 are alive at the age of 12 months; 30,000 less boys live through the first year.

The possession of \$15,000 left to her by a relative so unhinged the mind of a young woman named Bell of Sterk-stroom, Cape Colony, that she committed suicide.

The medal presented to Grace Darling for her heroism in saving nine lives from the wreck of a Poffarshire steamer in 1838 will shortly be sold at auction in London.

Miss Mira L. Dock, who is one of the vice presidents of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women, has the unique honor of being the only woman on the forestry commission of Pennsylvania.

Ohio stands second in the number of clubs in the general federation and seventh in the club membership among the States represented in the general federation, with 305 club and 12,500 clubwomen enrolled.

Miss Martha E. Johnson, of Laconia, N. H., has the somewhat unusual honor for her sex of being a tax collector. She does it well, too, and her first annual report is so satisfactory that she is to be reappointed.

One of the most fearless adventurers in the world is Miss Lavinia Rudberg, who, under the auspices of Yale University, was sent up into the wilds of the Quinsuit Indian reservation to take the physical measurements of the Indians.

LONDON FOR A QUIET LIFE.

Cows, Nightingales and Fowl Make Country Too Noisy.

There is only one spot on earth where the jaded spirit, weary of the rush and noise and hustle of modern life, can find true peace and perfect quiet. It is known as London Town. What with cows, dogs, poultry, motor cars and nightingales the country nowadays is such an uproarious pandemonium that only a deaf man or an artilleryman can live there in comfort, says the London Daily News.

Such were the arguments which Dr. Robinson, town clerk of Shoreditch, advanced when G. S. D. Murray concluded his inquiry on behalf of the charity commissioners into the application of the Ironmongers' company to remove their almshouses from Kingsland road, Shoreditch.

It has been suggested, Dr. Robinson said, that the old ladies in the almshouses were disturbed by the noise in the district, but probably the site was always noisy. The coaches going to York in the old days made quite as much noise as any London county council tram car did to-day. If the old ladies thought they were going to escape noise by removing to the country they would be bitterly disappointed.

He lived in the country himself and he was often awakened at 1 o'clock in the morning by the passing of an old wheezing, croaking motor car belonging to his majesty's postoffice. If people wanted to know what dust and noise and stink meant, let them go into the country, where there was no police commissioner to stop motor omnibuses from carrying on their infernal traffic.

To take only one night of his life, there was a cormorant rasping outside his door till 10 o'clock. Then he was awakened by a nightingale—a bird which made music for a quarter of an hour, but became troublesome when it sung for two hours. When that ceased a cow began bellowing and then a dog heard the local policeman walking down the street and barked for an hour. At dawn the birds began again. London was the one place where people could get rest from such noises.

QUEER STORIES

There are forty-five medical societies in New York City.

"American butter" is the name given in Syria to oleomargarine.

An Iowa man has invented a machine for paraffining butter tubs and boxes.

The estimated value of dairy products for 1907 was \$800,000,000, and that of poultry \$600,000,000.

Bears are liable to taxation in some Japanese villages. The origin of this curious custom is unknown.

The paper caps used on milk bottles are made at the rate of 600,000 a day, and one man operates five machines.

Imports into Canada in 1907 (estimated) from the United States will amount to \$165,000,000, against only \$78,000,000 from Great Britain.

Canada's government revenue from all sources this year will be more than \$100,000,000. In the first seven months the customs receipts increased \$6,500,000.

A few days ago David Plingree, of Salem, Mass., bought several hundred thousand acres of the "wild lands" of Maine, thereby becoming possessor of a tract of land larger than the entire State of Rhode Island. It is the best hunting ground in the eastern part of the United States.

A cosmopolitan citizen says that the foreigners, artists, philanthropists, editors, scientists and sociologists who go to New York City to study America are likely to be led into all sorts of errors if they confine their studies and observations to the metropolis, for New York City is less typical of America than any other part of the country.

The linen industry is the greatest manufacturing industry Ireland possesses. There is invested in it something like fifteen and a half million pounds, and it gives employment to 70,000 people. It is a matter for much uneasiness that year after year for a considerable time has marked a decline in the area under flax in Ireland.—Northern Whig.

Few people will have had the courage to sit down thirteen at table for the greetings of a new year. But five-and-fifty years ago Lord Roberts was one of thirteen who sat down to dinner on New Year's day at Peshawar. Eleven years later—though most of them had been through the Indian mutiny and half of them had been wounded—they were all alive. And Lord Roberts is still very much alive.—London Chronicle.

Thackeray's Poets.

Thackeray's favorite poets were Goldsmith and the "sweet lyric singers," Prior, whom he thought the easiest, the richest, the most charmingly humorous of English lyrical poets, and Gay, the force of whose simple melody and artless ringing laughter he appreciated. He admired Pope, too; but while admitting Milton's greatness, thought him "such a bore that no one could read him." It is not surprising, therefore, that Thackeray never said the "big bow-wow kind" of poetry.

When your ship comes in, if you are like most people, instead of being thankful, you will find fault with the captain for the delay.

AGRICULTURAL



Value of Humus.

1. Humus is decaying vegetable matter in the soil.

2. It is the storehouse of nitrogen, the most expensive and the most necessary of all plant foods.

3. It contains the food upon which the soil organisms live, whose function is to convert organic nitrogen into nitrates in order to be available for the use of plants. It materially assists in decomposing the mineral constituents of the soil, such as potash and phosphoric acid, making them available for the use of plants.

4. It increases the power of the soil to hold water without becoming water-logged.

5. It makes clay soil more open and friable. It serves to compact sandy soil and increases its drought-resisting power.

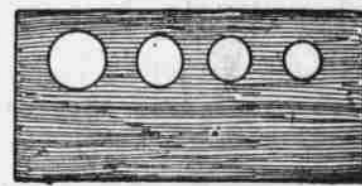
6. It prevents washing to a great extent; thereby diminishing the loss of fertility by that cause.

7. Soil filled with humus more readily admits the air so necessary to all useful plant growth.

8. There appears to be a distinct relationship between the amount of humus in the soil and the amount of available nitrogen therein. It has been observed that when it is absent from the soil there is a distinct reduction of the ability of that soil to grow crops. Hence in practice in order to obtain the best crops we have to resort to barnyard manure rather than the use of concentrated fertilizers.—Rural World.

Grading Apples.

Some apple growers have been using the grading board shown in the figure. A common board or piece of pasteboard is hung up before the wiper. In this board holes are cut the size of various tiers, such as three, three and one-half and four tier, etc. As the apples are wiped they are properly tiered. The advantage of this method is that the packers have the apples practically graded and can do



GRADING BOARD.

much more work in a day, and after the first half day the wipers can usually accomplish fully as much as with the old method.—Denver Farm.

Nitrate.

In purchasing nitrate of soda, the most quickly available source of nitrogen for plants, buyers should steer clear of low grade nitrate. The more usual adulterants are common salt, and salt cake from the manufacture of acids, both worthless as fertilizers and containing no plant food. Nitrate of soda now comes in original bags, which now contain about 200 pounds. The old 30-lb. bag was very clumsy.

Watering the Horse.

A successful horse raiser says: "I count the swallows my horses take while drinking a pailful. Some take larger swallows than others, but I know them all. If I am out on the road and come to a trough, I get out and count while my horse drinks, so that he will not take too much at once. I give water often, and so keep my horses free from bowel trouble caused by overdrinking."

Wood Ashes.

It is seldom that a farmer can accumulate a sufficient amount of wood ashes for a large field, but on farms where wood is used there is a limited supply which can be put to good use on the garden or on the young clover. Ashes are excellent also on all grass lands and in orchards. They are applied broadcast, in any quantity desired, as many as 100 bushels per acre having been used on certain soils.

Making Swamp Land Tillable.

A drainage ditch twenty-four and one-quarter miles long that will drain \$5,000 acres of Iowa land is fairly under way in Monona and Harrison Counties. It will cost about \$750,000, and will empty into the Missouri River just a little above the town of Little Sioux. The swamp land reclaimed will make some of the most valuable farm land in the State.

Cure for Roup.

A recommended roup cure for chickens is to take two parts sweet oil, one part gum camphor, one part turpentine. To each ounce of this mixture add ten grains menthol and one teaspoonful listerine. Take a small drop syringe or oil can and put this remedy into the roof of the mouth and in the nostrils twice a day.

Farm Notes.

Many orchardists make a great mistake planting trees too deep.

Hogging down corn has a great deal in its favor, but the hogging process should be finished before heavy snows come.

The advantage of testing each ear or seed corn separately is that nearly all the poor seed can be thrown out. If only one ear in each bushel is found to be impure it will pay to do the test.

Convenient Harrow.

After working several years among stones, stumps, grubs and young orchards, I learned I needed a special

harrow for the work.—I could find none to suit me; so studied and planned and made one last spring, which does even better than I expected.

The cut will to some extent explain how it is made. I made mine of oak timber 2½ inches by 3½ inches, 4 feet long and 6 feet 3 inches wide. It is composed of a middle section and two wings, the latter fastened to the middle section by ½ inch bolts 8½ inches long, on which the wings fold very easily. The teeth are scattered over the harrow so that they are 9 inches or more apart, and yet cut every 3 inches, and are placed in the harrow sloping back, about 20 to 25 degrees from a perpendicular. They cut just as well and do not catch as if placed in perpendicular, and are easier on man and team. I have heddles to the middle section of mine, and a rope from each heddle to the outside corner of each wing, so as to lift it conveniently and quickly. I can pass readily between trees or stumps less than 3 feet apart. It is just the thing for orchards and rough ground, while on clean smooth ground it works just as well as any other smoothing harrow.—A. J. Umholtz.

Cheese Under False Colors.

According to a recent consular report about 2,000 imported empty Camembert cheese boxes, bearing the names of well-known French cheeses, were imported at New York on one steamer recently. Duty had to be paid on the printed matter on their 2,000 labels and another duty on the imported boxes. According to a New York trade journal, these boxes are distributed in New York State, filled and sold in this country, and represented as being made abroad. It is said that many dealers claim that their domestic cheeses when put up in the imported boxes, can not be told from the imported brands except by experts.

When Trees Are Blown Over.

Should excessive winds blow the top of a tree out of shape, which often occurs, cut it out, leaving a nearly erect southwest branch to become the new central stem. Shallow, loosely planted trees sometimes blow over. They may be put back by excavating on the opposite side and pushing the tree back, tamping the earth as firmly as possible on the side toward which it leaned. Care should be taken not to wrench the roots loose in this operation.

Cutting Back Trees.

In highly interesting experiments at the Woburn (England) experimental fruit farm in cutting back apple trees when planted the ultimate result was found to be that trees not cut back until the end of the first year continued to form wood in subsequent years, and the crop borne by them during the first ten years was only one-third that of those which were cut back when planted.

A Balanced Ration.

In the ration-fed farm animals either alfalfa or clover should be given to balance the corn. Either one of these legumes will likewise be needed to "balance" the effects of corn on the soil. Considerable plant food, especially nitrogen, is removed from the soil by corn, while alfalfa or clover gathers a great deal of nitrogen from the air and places it back in the soil.

When Horses Are in Condition.

A bright, clear eye, a brilliant coat, high spirit and mettle, are good signs of perfect condition in the horse. To this might be added sufficient flesh thoroughly to "round him out," but not enough to interfere in the slightest degree with his natural action, which on no account must be impeded.

Pruning.

In trimming trees the wound made by cutting off a limb close to the trunk will soon heal over, while the wound made by cutting off the limb two or three inches from the trunk leads to decay and sometimes causes the ultimate loss of the tree itself.

Sawdust as Fuel.

Sawdust is turned into transportable fuel in Germany by a very simple process. It is heated under high steam pressure until the resinous ingredients become sticky, when it is pressed into bricks.

Quick-Growing Seed.

A turnip seed increases its own weight fifteen times in a minute. On peat grounds turnips have been found to increase by growth 15,000 times the weight of their seed each day they stood upon the soil.