# WOMEN AND FASHION

**Mothers in the Schoolroom.**

"It always does me good to have you make a visit to the school, Mrs. Johnson," said the teacher of Mrs. Johnson's two daughters. "That, I am sorry to say, is not generally true of mothers."

Undoubtedly the "schoolma'am" in question expressed the opinion held by most teachers in regard to most parents. The mother or father who comes to the school comes usually to complain that Mary has too much home study, or that John is not taught good manners, or to demand—not to request—that Gwendolen shall be excused from composition, or that Jane shall leave school an hour early for her music lesson. In these ways, and in a score of others, the mother's wishes run counter to the expert opinion of the teacher, and increase needlessly the difficulty of education.

So annoying is this friction that it comes to take too large a place in the teacher's mind. For one mother who comes to the school and makes trouble there are ten who do their best to further the plans of the skilled educator. The households in which the needs of the children are ignored for the pleasure of their elders are not nearly so many as those in which careful consideration is given to the habits and the occupations of the boys and girls.

Perhaps the thoughtful and unselfish mother stays a little too much in the background so far as the school is concerned. It would be well for her to express satisfaction with her children's education otherwise than by silence and absence.

Upon the teacher's ears, so used to the voice of peevish complaint and unreasonable request, there would often fall with cheer the hopeful word, "Mary is making such progress in her school that I thought I should like to come to tell you about it."—Youth's Companion.

**Dainty Matinee Waist.**

A charming waist, appropriate for luncheons or matinees, is made from pale blue messaline. Yoke and stock are all-over, white lace, the design of which is large oval medallions. The blouse below yoke has four deep tucks, front and back. Similar treatment is also given the elbow sleeves, which are finished with a unique arrangement of lace. A blue chiffon rose is fastened in front, where a joining is made, and the crushed girdle is a dark shade of blue velvet, harmonizing with the material.

**Caring for the Canary.**

Vary the bill of fare for the canary. Add lettuce, sweet apples, cress and occasionally a bit of ripe pepper, seeds included, to his menu. Like Polly, he is fond of a cracker, and occasionally a little bread boiled with his milk. This should be reduced to a paste and given him cold. If he becomes asthmatic, give him lime and rape seed, with something from the above list, every week or two. If he is rough and sheds his feathers, look carefully for the almost microscopic red parasites with which he often becomes covered, when he must either have a bath of water and insect powder or one in a weak lotion of white precipitate and water. Afterward wash with warm soap and water, wrap in flannel and put near the fire to dry. When the feet become sore—if the cage is already kept scrupulously clean—bathe the feet ten minutes at a time two or three times a day.

**Health and Beauty Hints.**

Nothing contributes more toward a good complexion than frequent baths and brisk rubbings.

Potatoes, cereals and all starchy foods should be thoroughly cooked so that they may be easy to digest.

To relieve a gumboil a homely remedy is to take a thin strip of dried fig, dip it in milk, toast it and then apply hot to the swollen gum. Relief is speedy.

To go up and down stairs correctly is to cultivate good looks. You can make of stair climbing a gymnastic tonic or you can hake it a hard, unpleasant task.

Skin eruptions show an impaired digestion and an impure condition of the blood. For the blood take the old-fashioned remedy of sulphur and molasses. Avoid rich and greasy foods and each morning before breakfast take a glass of hot water, in which you have squeezed the juice of an orange or lemon.

**Custom of Ancient Origin.**

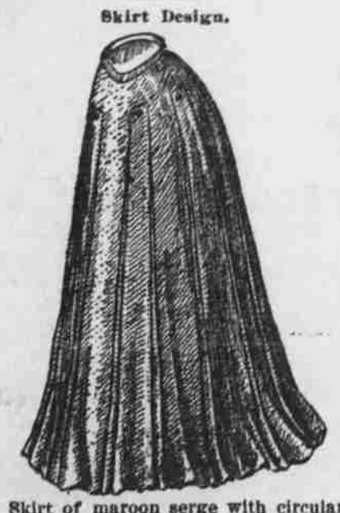
Casting a shoe after a newly married couple is one of the oldest customs that still cling to the fabric of this up-to-date life. Centuries ago—nay, thousands of years ago—it was one of the means employed by the people of antiquity to indicate ownership. When a piece of land was purchased or given to one, or a man acquired ownership of a house, a cow, or took unto himself a wife, it was the established custom to cast a shoe over the land, the building, the animal or the woman, thus asserting to the world that he had acquired all rights of ownership. The custom is mentioned in several places in the Bible; for instance, in Psalms ix., 8, where the phrase, "Over Edom will I cast out my shoe," is employed to mean that by this method will ownership be asserted. Few who do it probably know why they cast a shoe after the newly married, but in this ancient custom is its origin found.—Answers.

**SMART PHASES OF THE NEW REDINGOTE.**

**The Hands.**

Remember that one can have the hands in soap-suds with soft soap without injury to the skin, if the hands are dipped in vinegar or lemon-juice immediately after. The acids destroy the corrosive effects of the alkali, and make the hands soft and white. Indian meal and vinegar or lemon-juice used on the hands when roughened by cold or labor will heal or soften them. Rub the hands in this, and then wash off thoroughly and rub in glycerine. Those who suffer from chapped hands in the winter will find this very comforting.

**Skirt Design.**



Skirt of maroon serge with circular to p and stitched box plaits joined under a large button. Suitable for broadcloth.

**To Destroy Moths.**

Make a mixture of gasoline and one-fourth as much wood alcohol, in which has been dissolved as much corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury) as it will hold. Inject this with a syringe into the cracks of a wall and floors and spray "infested" furniture with it behind and under upholstered seats, etc. Take one room at a time, being careful to have no fire or artificial light about, and shut the room up closely for eight hours. The process may have to be repeated once a month for perhaps three months if the infliction be grievous, but if faithfully done it is sure death to all vermin.

**Don't's for Mothers.**

Don't try to divert when obedience is your right.

Don't allow your child to become a source of annoyance in a public vehicle.

Don't permit a fear to be implanted in your child. Deal summarily with those who would dare implant it.

Don't entertain all your friends with a detailed account of your children's marvelous sayings and doings.

Don't fret your children by perpetually worrying about them. They must have some common sense; teach them to make use of it.

Don't treat your son and your daughter at 20 as you would have treated them at 12. Remember that they are now a man and a woman.—Gabrielle E. Jackson.

## FASHION NOTES.

Woolen satin is a novelty.

Smooth cloths are smartest.

Muffs display two kinds of fur combined.

All the fur coats crave little cravats of ermine.

Wear a plain silk blouse with your plaid skirts.

There is a decided tendency toward plain skirts.

A cloth made of rabbits' wool is new in millinery.

Bright colors run riot in the silk petticoat corner.

Mink is accounted a comforting substitute for sable.

Brown is undoubtedly the fashionable color of the winter.

The finest of embroidery supplants lace on the new underwear.

Most of the taffeta frocks seem determined to be copper-brown.

Even the pert little plume that stands erect runs into several colors.

There are possibilities of a dainty evening wrap in an old white lace shawl.

One can have a dozen different kinds of hand bags without possessing too many.

It is generally accepted that a walking suit should have a plain coat sleeve.

Silk waists of all-over work in broderie Anglaise pattern are very handsome.

Frock-coat suits are undoubtedly the most general choice. These are made of the various cloths, the coat being long and the skirt short.

Those very elaborate muffs of lace, flowers and velvet to match the costume are again carried this year, but only with dressy toilets.

A fine embroidery band, edged on both sides with narrow lace, comes by the yard, and of it you can make the daintiest collar and cuff sets.

**White Felt Hat.**

Here's a white felt hat, with Gainsborough brim and crushed tam crown of white silk, embroidered with violet pansies. Two violet plumes.

**Be Kind.**

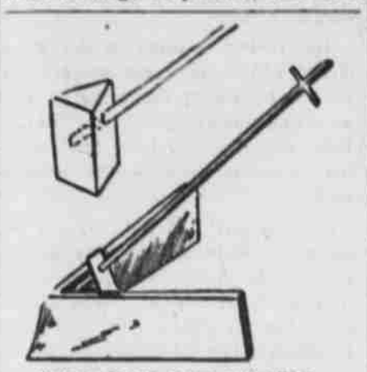
The deepest wound from which the heart hath bled
Is from the unkind thing that you or I have said;
Therefore, be kind, 'tis but bread on life's stormy waters cast.
To be returned in that restless turmoil vast.
Ere you have realized the greatness of your little deed,
You, too, may have felt the need
Of some kind word from a sincere heart given,
That will light thy being like contact with heaven.
—Exchange.

## FARMERS' CORNER

**Hand Plow for Snow.**

When there is such a quantity of ground to be cleaned of snow as is found around the average farm home, something more than the ordinary snow shovel is needed. If the snow is deep and the space to be cleared considerable, then one should bring into use a large plow with the horse to pull it. For a hand plow nothing is better than the simple one made in the following manner:

Select two pieces of board free from knots, each three feet long and six inches wide. Bevel the end of each board and nail them together in the form of a V. If necessary they may be braced at the wide end by a strip three inches wide and the necessary length. Then put in a pole five feet long with a cross piece at the upper end. To strengthen the end in which the handle is inserted cut a block of wood as large as possible, and fit it



SIMPLE HAND PLOW FOR SNOW.

in the end where the two pieces of board join.

This will make it easier to insert the handle firmly and will make the side pieces stronger as well. The small cut in the upper part of the illustration shows clearly how this block of wood should be formed and the handle inserted to get the best results.

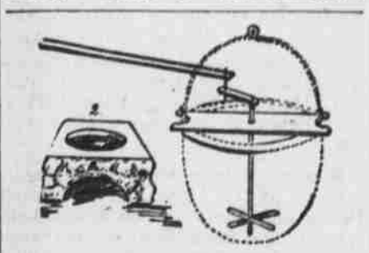
**Thinning Apples.**

Thinning apples may be a profitable operation under some circumstances; but as fruit is ordinarily marketed in the commercial apple-growing sections of New York, it is not profitable. Investigations in thinning by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station (Geneva) were carried on for four seasons in a commercial orchard. The results, in improvement of the fruit, in size, in color and in quality, were marked, whenever fair to heavy crops were borne on the trees, but the quantity of fruit was usually lessened; so that unless a higher price is secured for the improvement in quality the expense of the operation is not repaid. Full details of these tests are given in Bulletin No. 239 of the station, which any apple grower or other person interested may secure without cost, by sending his name and address to the director, with a request for this bulletin. Any available station bulletin may be obtained in this way.

**Stirring Cooking Food.**

Where more or less food for stock is cooked, some handy way of stirring it ought to be devised. Of course, the old-fashioned ladle, or the great wooden spoon, is always available, but if the quantity is large, to use these instruments means aching arms and shoulders. A stirrer which will save much labor is readily made in the following manner. Make a shaft of a strip of wood two inches thick and long enough so that it will extend three or four inches above the top of the kettle. At the bottom of this shaft make paddles by crossing two thin boards two or three inches wide.

Fasten a crank to the top of the shaft and to this crank fasten a pole, or not, as preferred. Then prepare a strip of board six or eight inches wide, bore a hole through the middle, through which to pass the shaft,



TO STIR COOKING FOOD.

notch both ends to fit over the handle of the kettle and at one end fix a slide and a set screw to hold it in place. If the cooking of the food for stock is done away from the house, as it ought to be, one should build a fireplace of bricks and cement in which to set the kettle. The illustration shows both the fireplace, or pot, as suggested, and the plan for making the stirrer and it will be seen that it is comparatively easy to arrange the device as suggested—Indianapolis News.

**Color of Honey.**

The color of honey varies greatly, ranging from water white to a very dark brown. The bees themselves have no control in regulating the color of honey; in fact, it seems to make no difference at all to them whether it is light or dark, as there is plenty of it. Light honey is not always the best in flavor, though it does always bring the highest price. Light-colored honey is gathered from such flowers as clover, bass-wood and mountain sage, while the dark is gathered from buckwheat, autumn flowers and whitewood. In some localities it is almost impossible to secure a crop of light-colored honey. We know of no way of making dark-colored honey light; bleaching it would impair its flavor and would be impracticable. We would rather have dark good honey than light poor honey.

**From Grass to Dry Feed.**

Changing farm animals from grass to dry feed is a critical time in the fattening period. While the stomach of a critter is able to withstand considerable ill treatment without causing death, yet at the same time sudden changes in the ration may greatly interfere with his general thrift. The secret of success in making the change is to do it so gradually that the system will not be deranged. A little dry feed should be given at first, this being gradually increased until the animals become thoroughly accustomed to it. It is better if animals may have access to old grass for several weeks after they are placed on dry feed. Some adopt the practice of hauling a little hay to the pastures late in the fall, and claim that this bridges over the change period in a most satisfactory manner. In making the change it is better to underfeed during the first week or two rather than overfeed, because it may take months to correct the injurious result of overfeeding at such a time. There are those who make the claim that an animal overfed at any period of its existence will never completely recover, but will appear more or less stunted even up to the time it goes to the block as a fat animal. Where fattening animals have had considerable range it is a great mistake to confine them in close yards suddenly, because they will fret considerably and may refuse to make gains for several weeks.—Iowa Homestead.

**The Mortgage Paid.**

We ain't havin' many luxuries, like city folkses do,
We ain't wearin' all the latest styles an' all our clothes ain't new;
Of our honesty and goodness we ain't a parade,
But we're havin' all we want to eat an' got the mortgage paid.
We ain't pilin' up a fortune for the boys to fight about
When our last day's work is over an' we're steppin' down an' out,
But it's good to have succeeded in the effort that we made
For to keep things runnin' smoothly an' to get the mortgage paid.
We have had our share of ups and downs, as other people do,
But we've tried to keep our spirits up when things were lookin' blue;
We'll be ready for the ending when the game of life is played,
For we've raised the children best we knew and got the mortgage paid.
—The Gentlewoman.

**Smoking Meat Safely.**

Take an old stove and lead the smoke through a long stove pipe, b, into a large box, a. Set the box a little higher than the stove. Drive nails through the top of the box and bend them into hooks, c, to hang your meat. Make a small door in the side to put the meat through. With a stove you can control your fire and it is also much safer.—Henry Nessen, in Farm and Home.

BOX SMOKE HOUSE.

**Kill Off the Cabbage Lice.**

Cabbage aphis is one of our worst cabbage pests. The lice multiply very rapidly when conditions favor them and are a source of great loss and annoyance. They may be killed only by insecticides that smother, or kill by contact; ordinary poisons have no effect on plant lice. Kerosene emulsion diluted with 10 parts of water, applied thoroughly to the lower side of the leaves when cabbage plants are small, is effective in a measure. Fumigating seed stocks in spring with carbon bisulphide gets rid of the original brood. The pest is nasty and should be treated wherever found.—Farm and Home.

**Road Dust for the Hennery.**

Collect a few barrels of dry earth, road dust, fine dry dirt in the cornfield or potato patch, or anywhere that is most convenient. This is a handy thing to have in the fall and winter for sprinkling under the roosts and on the floor of the poultry house. It absorbs ammonia, keeps down smells, and keeps things ship-shape. It will pay to attend to this when it can be so easily done. It costs but little and is a real advantage.

**Some Incubator Hints.**

Do not turn the eggs for three days from beginning the hatch, nor after the nineteenth day.

See that the incubator sets perfectly level, otherwise the egg chamber will be warmer in one place than another.

Use only the best oil, and feed and trim the lamp every morning, no matter how long it might burn without doing this.

Open the egg chamber only when turning the eggs. Take the eggs out to turn them, and shut the egg chamber while they are out. Let the eggs cool for from ten to thirty minutes, according to the weather, every day.

Leave chicks in the incubator from twenty-four to thirty-six hours after they are hatched; they do not need feeding for at least thirty-six hours after they come from the shell. Nature has provided for their sustenance during this time.

Do not open the egg chamber after the chickens begin to pip the shell, even if some chick seems to be having a hard time to get out. A chick that cannot get out of the shell without help is not worth saving. If the chicks gasp and struggle, do not bother them—it is good for them.

## THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN

**One Hundred Years Ago.**

Letters of marque and reprisal were issued by Great Britain against Spain.

Mr. Livingston, American minister to France, left Paris for Rome on business of state.

The tailors of New York City formed the first organization in that city having the character of a trades union.

The dock yards at Cronstadt and Rivel were doing rush work and a formidable fleet was nearly ready.

A desperate struggle took place at Antwerp between Spanish and American sailors, the former mistaking the Americans for English.

Austria, Prussia and Russia were negotiating for the peace of continental Europe.

**Seventy-five Years Ago.**

The State of New York purchased 3,470 acres of land in the State from the Oneida Indians, who were to move farther west.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad was completed almost to Ellicot City, Md., and pleasure parties made the trip every day.

The customs were consolidated in Ireland.

The President's message reached New Orleans in four days and a half, the quickest trip then ever made between Washington, D. C., and the Louisiana metropolis.

Queen Christine of Portugal died, aged 54.

The American minister to Colombia obtained indemnity for American trading vessels captured by the Colombians.

Riotous demonstrations against labor saving machinery occurred in the south of England.

**Fifty Years Ago.**

The Victoria bridge across the St. Lawrence river was carried away by the pressure of ice.

All liquor shops in New York were closed by order of the Mayor.

Soldiers and Indians of the war of 1812 assembled in Washington, D. C., to get Congress to give to each a grant of land of 150 acres.

A commercial convention from the southern and southwestern States assembled at New Orleans.

Railroad riots in Erie, Pa., were renewed, the tracks in the city torn up, and the bridges demolished.

Great numbers of unemployed workmen in New York were meeting every day, marching through the streets carrying banners, on which were such mottoes as "We want work; we must have it!"

The Governor General of Canada issued an order restoring the officers who took part against the government in the patriot war to their former places.

**Forty Years Ago.**

The Missouri convention passed an immediate emancipation ordinance.

Mass meetings were held in the large cities of the North to send supplies to Savannah.

The railroad bridge over the Mississippi river at Clinton, Iowa, was completed, connecting central and western Iowa with Chicago and the East.

The Chicago stock exchange was organized with J. C. Hilton as president.

The report on incomes in the First District of Illinois showed that Potter Palmer, John V. Farwell and Peter Schuettler were the only persons in Chicago whose annual income exceeded $100,000.

**Thirty Years Ago.**

The trial of the action brought by Theodore Tilton against Henry Ward Beecher opened before Judge Neilson in New York.

Emile Pereire, the famous Paris banker, died.

The manner in which $275,000 of the Pacific Mail subsidy had been distributed, it was alleged by Richard B. Irwin, was disclosed to the congressional investigating committee.

**Twenty Years Ago.**

Grover Cleveland, President-elect, resigned as Governor of New York.

The press of London declared that a formal declaration of war by France against China was imminent.

The leading newspapers of England were demanding a change in the Gladstone ministry because of foreign policies.

Reports from Madrid placed the casualties of the recent earthquakes in Spain at 1,400 killed, 900 wounded and 43,000 homeless.

The Gladstone family was given prominence in the English press by the announcement of the premier's convalescence, Mrs. Gladstone's illness, and the son's approaching marriage.