

**About Finger-Nails.**

"Few people understand how to cut their nails," said the young lady manicure. "A knife or scissors should never be used. I trim and shape the nail with a small file, and then carefully smooth down and bevel the roughened edges with emery board, which keeps them from breaking and trains them to a symmetrical growth. Another important point where people neglect their nails is in allowing the skin to grow out on the base of the nail. This should be carefully pushed back with a blunt instrument at least once a week. I soak the hands of my customers in tepid water a few minutes before I do this, so as to soften the cuticle. This is necessary, as otherwise it is liable to break. It requires great care as the base of the nail, which is very sensitive, may be bruised or the delicate edges of the skin broken. Another place where care is needed is at the sides of the nails, where it leaves the fingers. Lack of attention to this either hardens the end of the finger or produces the untidy and painful hang-nails which disfigure so many hands. In filing the nails the file should always be drawn from the finger and toward the end of the nail."

"What are the hardest things to overcome in operating on hands that have been neglected?"

"There are several things. Mothers sometimes make a practice of cutting their children's nails almost square with a pair of scissors. That hardens the ends of the finger and produces a misshapen nail. It can be overcome, however, in time. By filing the nail from the sides it can be narrowed by degrees to that filbert shape which is considered the height of beauty. The finger will be blunt, but even that will be remedied to some extent. Then we have the people who bite their finger-nails close off. They are hard customers to deal with, the nail is deformed and brittle, and care has to be taken in dealing with it. Manicures use a preparation to stop the biting and then correct the other defects by degrees."

"With whom do you do your best trade?"

"Well, here, in Pittsburg, so far, it has been mostly with society ladies. Have had very few customers from the working classes yet. Suppose that is because they have not yet learned that there is a manicure in the city. In New York, however, we treated fully as many working girls—that is, those who did work hard and wearing upon hands—as any other. The hands of such persons must of necessity be hard to keep in order, but there is no one who appreciates the beauty of a nice hand and pretty nails more than they. Do you know there are several diseases of the finger-nails?" she continued. "Well, there are. One is called onychia parasitica, which is much to be dreaded. It acts upon the nails by thickening and drying them. They lose their polish and grow rough and brittle. With a powerful glass the little parasites which cause the trouble can be seen growing in among the component parts of the nail. The nail has a dirty brown color, streaked with a darker color, and the nail is raised up and thickened. The disease is rare, and can only be treated by a skillful physician."

"The white specks on the nail, which we were told as children indicated gifts, are really a nail disease, resulting, I think, from slight diseases. Hang-nails are where the nail adheres to the cuticle, and proves more than anything else the use of the manicure's art. Hypertrophy often afflicts the nails, causing an excessive growth and a dull, yellowish color, and often produces extreme pain from ingrowing nails and other irritation. This can be remedied by a skilled manicure, but cannot be cured."

The blind men of Brooklyn are in the main self-supporting. All are engaged either in commercial pursuits or else work at trades. Piano-tuning is their favorite pursuit. Nearly all are married and have families. None have married wives similarly affected, and the total number of blind men in the city, which is less than one hundred, are friendly, and aid each other in time of need. One of them is worth \$100,000, and a dozen more are worth half that amount.

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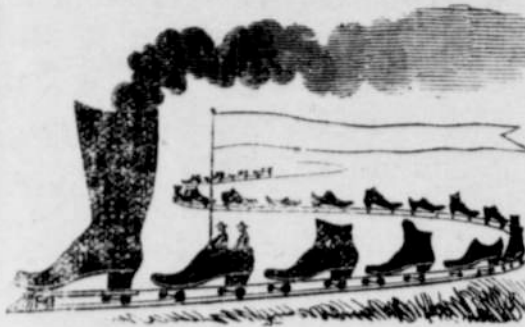
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