FROM ODDS AND ENDS

HOW A WOMAN OF FASHION AND TASTE MAY UTILIZE EVERYTHING.

Some Startling Revolutionary Changes in Corsets—Little Waists From Left-over Scraps—Description of Some Charming Gowns.

Women coming home from Paris tell me the strangest tales about the corset of the future that the Parisian elegantes are already wearing. The leading modistes advocate them, and I have seen some gowns lately, worn by women of unquestioned authority in the matter of clothes, that have their upper width gathered across the back and hips with all the fullness the goods will allow."

"I am sorry to hear that," twittered Mase from her end of the table, where she sat picking daintily all the bits of mushroom from her patte of chicken. "The present fashion suit me entirely, and to my eyes the modern [illegible] does more to make stout women appear slender, to transform angular women into gracious sylphs, and to give height to the short, and dignity to the tall. Added to all these virtues, there never was a time like the present for utilizing odds and ends, pretty bits of left-over silks, and trifles of fur and embroidery in the make up of really attractive and useful little waists.

"You would all, I am sure, open your eyes," she continued, "if you learned for how little, and from what mere scraps some of my most fetching waists are made. Last week, for example, I was billed to read a paper before our every other Wednesday morning with Shakespeare. It's a club, you know, and we are profoundly studying the tragedies this winter. Now, it is easy enough I find to write a paper on the political conditions of Rome in the day of Brutus, but it is quite another matter to stand reading for twenty minutes before a crowd of perfectly frocked and awfully critically women in some old costume you've already worn a dozen times this season. One must wear something that will at once hold the attention of the audience, and command their respect.

"Well, I bent my whole energies to the evolution of a feature for wear, not only when I am hostess for the club, but when obliged to look my best on days at home, at the theatre and even at the opera when a decollete frock is not necessary. The foundation of my achievement is any one of my simple skirts ranging from a white silk one to a pretty cloth thing in the popular shade of turquoise blue. My waist is made of cloth, cream white and fitted into the figure, not by darts, but by the new French fashion of drawing down and stitching flat, in any tucks converging to the belt, all the fullness about the waist line at back and front.

"Back from the shoulders," Mase chatted on, "fall double cape revers faced with red silk and edged with gilt cord, and these revers expose the collar and shoulders covered with a piece of Persian pattened embroidery in which gilt and red are the prevailing motifs. A four-in-hand of red velvet runs about the base of the collar, knots under the chin and its long ends pass down to the waist line under a series of five little white cloth straps that fasten over the bust with gibb buttons. Now, for the remarkable inexpensiveness of this charming waist I really deserve no credit, for my dressmaker did it all out of bits left over from other gowns, and I must confess my paper on Rome went off beautifully."

"Mase you are a genius," sighed Mrs. Van Knickerbocker with sincerity. "You strong minded women so often are, and I will say it for the advanced women that some of them can dress with amazing taste. Now, there is Dr. Grace Peckham Murray. In spite of patients every day, when her afternoon at home was to be celebrated last week she stood up to the social exactions of life in a charming cream Liberty satin gown that was simple cause of envy. Her skirt was simple, had a mere relieving fold about the bottom and the waist laid in the most curious and interesting series of pleats, showed beneath each pleat a merely suggested line of turquoise blue."

"Charming," murmured the hostess. "Simplicity is with many women the order of the day now, and in spite of every temptation to stray after other idols dear old turquoise blue keeps its stronghold. I, too, have been to a tea recently and the two smartly got up women who received together wore both the most faultlessly demure little costumes possible. One adopted a cloth skirt in gray with not so much as a decorative tuck on it, and the back was laid in two broad box pleats stitched down on their folded edges for twenty-five or thirty inches beyond the waist band. A full soft blouse of gray Liberty satin was utilized with this, its flat neckband, elbow sleeve cuffs, and belt made of white satin ribbon overlaid with cream-colored lace and edged with mere pipings of brown fur. A perfect Quaker gown and not a jewel in evidence.

"The other young matron by the door displayed her lissom figure to exquisite advantage in a pale green poplin skirt having a top of heavy ecru lace through the mesh of which the green showed well. One half of the waist was made of lace over green poplin, while the yoke and sleeves were of polish tan chiffon. A moss green velvet belt and big knot of the same in the hollow of the right shoulder variegated the colors well and then there were three wee folds of green velvet holding the lace fronts together over the bust with tiny rhinestone buttons.

"I've been nosing about lately in the realms of good dressing and I've come to see that the smart sleeve has a cap of goods that fits over the arm half way to the elbow, and from under this comes out the transparent arm case that goes to the elbow and ends without a cuff. At the theatre recently I observed Hilda Spong in the new play wear a particularly fetching gown of Lex lace with lace caps, as I have mentioned, coming half way from shoulder to elbow and then shirred tan chiffon covered her arms to the wrists.

"Her first act gown was a dream, a dream in pure zinc gray satin faced crepe de chine, covered with embroidery in zinc gray beads. Her train was all fluffy beneath with gray chiffon, and many strings of beads formed her shoulder straps. I see she is an actress open to impressions, for throughout the play she wore not a jewel. She has been observing our smart women lately, who have temporarily at least abjured strings of pearls and precious stones to let their good looks shine by the radiance of their own bright eyes."

"Still there is plenty of bejewelling done to one's garments nowadays," put in Mrs. Van Knickerbocker, "and when it's done well it is the prettiest decoration in the world. I've just achieved out of my inner consciousness and with the help of my sewing woman, a little copy of a tea jacket that enchained my attention and admiration when worn by Mrs. Reid the other morning. Hers was made of creamy lace over rosy Liberty tissue, a long-sleeved blouse with Louis Sixteenth coat of darkly blue brocade upon it. Mine is done over from an old ball dress, and is white lace upon lilac silk linings, while my coat is of the deepest rose color, brocaded in white. The coat fronts do not meet over the bust, but are held together by three groups of triple jet chains suspended between rhinestone buttons and three jet chains drop over the tops of my long close-fitting lace sleeves. With a dark trained skirt, I can readily wear this afternoons at tea time, and the whole thing costs a quite infinitesimal sum."

These huge floral motifs which the eye encounters every where about the wardrobe of the fashionable woman may be exaggerated, but there is no gainsaying that they are exceedingly chic, and they impart that elegant conspicuity to a toilette which is the aim of both dressmaker and weaver. In street gowns the conventional floral arabesques are usually cut out of the cloth and underlaid with silk or satin of a contrasting shade upon which they are appliqued with rows of silk stitchings; on evening and house gowns they are formed by artistic embroideries in natural shades and embellished, by metal thread or jet or spangles, or they are fashioned of the gosamer web of fairy-like lace which has taken patient and expert fingers weeks to weave; or of the grosser, but not less effective, hand and machine made guipures. Both modes of decoration are illustrated in two exquisite models fresh from the famous workshops of Robert and Doucet.

The Robert gown is very simple in form. The skirt is clinging with a slight flare below the knees, and closes at the back under a deep box pleat. The material is a rich soft faille of a shimmering ivory shade, and it is made up over a well-fitting dropskirt of ivory taffeta finished with a deep ruffle of finely pleated ivory liberty silk. No additional underskirt is permitted for fear of spoiling the carefully observed contours. The decorative border is most attractive. It consists of a conventional poppy design, the flowers of which are cut out of ivory velvet and appliqued and embroidered with gold thread. The leaves are of various shades of sage green panne velvet appliqued and embroidered with gold thread like the flowers.

HOUSEHOLD

Remove Stains from Silver Plate Thus: Steep the plate in strong soap suds for the space of four hours; then cover it with whiting moistened with methylated spirit, and dry it by the fire. After which rub off the whiting, polish it with dry bran and the spots should not only have disappeared, but the plate look exceedingly bright.

Make Your Cloth Waterproof By this process: Take of powdered alum and sugar of lead each half an ounce and stir them into a gallon of rain water; when the mixture is clear pour off the liquid. Immerse the cloth in this for twenty-four hours, then dry it in the air and press it. This cloth will be uninjured in color or texture, and will stand any amount of rain to which you are likely to be exposed.

Broiled Fowl.—Prepare a fowl as for boiling; cut out the backbone and press the bird quite flat. Season with pepper, salt and a little chopped onion. Put it into a frying-pan and fry on both sides. Take it out and brush over with egg. Dip into breadcrumbs, place it upon a gridiron over a clear fire and broil a light brown.

To Polish Collars and Cuffs Thoroughly well a proper iron is necessary. It is an expensive item, but one that repays the outlay.

Directions for Sterilizing Milk for Babies.

Cleanse the bottles thoroughly before using, then pour into each, through a funnel, food sufficient for one feeding, but never fill them much higher than the seven-ounce mark.

Dry the neck of the bottle and cork it with clean, loose cotton. Do not let the food wet the corks.

Place the bottles on the rack and set the rack into the sterilizing chamber, and cover up tight with the lid and hood.

Fill the reservoir two-thirds full of water and place the apparatus over a moderate fire for one hour. If the milk is just from the cow, 40 to 50 minutes is sufficient.

The sterilizer may be used on a gas stove (turned low), kerosene stove, or an ordinary cooking stove; if over the latter, the griddle should not be removed. If the water is not bubbling inside you need more heat. It must not be put on the fire without water in the reservoir, and the water should never be allowed to get lower than one inch from the bottom.

It is not necessary to place the bottles on the ice after removing them from the sterilizer. Leave in the cotton plugs until feeding time.

To warm the milk for feeding put the bottle in a cup of hot water. Shake the bottle well so as to mix the cream into the milk; remove the cotton and draw on the nipple. Cold water should be poured into each bottle immediately after it is emptied to facilitate cleaning.

When about to cleanse, take very hot water with a trace of soap in it and some soda, brush the bottles inside and be careful that no particles of food adhere to the glass, rinse thoroughly and fill with boiled water, scalding hot. If any soda be left it will turn the milk pink.

Note.—A little common washing soda and water boiled in the sterilizer will cleanse the bottom should it ever become foul from sediment or spilled milk.

Pineapple Fritters.

Slice the fruit and cut it into pieces, lay it in a soup plate covered with castor sugar, and sprinkle generously with brandy, rum or wine, letting it stand covered for two hours. When wanted, dip each piece separately in the batter and fry in hot fat until of a golden brown; drain and serve sprinkled with castor sugar. Be careful as to the temperature of the fat, and try it before putting in the fritters, for if not hot these will be greasy.

For the batter beat up a tablespoonful of best salad oil, brandy and cold water with the yolk of an egg, add a pinch of salt to this when blended, and beat into the mixture sufficient fine sifted flour to bring the batter to the right consistency by the addition of a little more water. It should be as thick as good cream and sufficiently stiff to coat the spoon enough to hide its color without hiding the shape. Now let it rest for an hour or two, and just before it is to be used whisk in lightly the stiffly whipped whites of two eggs.

Economy in the Use of Coal.

There are many good housekeepers who are indifferent in the matter of saving small coal and cinders. Unseen waste goes on in most houses in this respect. If housekeepers would make it a point to see that all cinders and ashes are thoroughly sifted daily they would be surprised at the fuel they would save.

There are various arrangements for sifting cinders. The best, however, is a cinder-box fitted with rockers like a cradle. It has a wire tray inside and a lid which covers the top. The cinders are placed in the tray and the cover is put on. The box is rocked for a few minutes and then left to stand a quarter of an hour. Then cover is taken off, the dust will have subsided, the ashes will have fallen through into the box beneath and the cinders will have been left on the tray ready for use.

After the cinders have been removed cold water should be poured over them. This causes them to make much better fuel when mixed with coals.

A Boer Custom

When a Boer's children marry they settle within a short distance of the original family homestead, generally several hundred yards distant. In this way in a few years a small village is formed on the family estate, which may consist of from 5,000 to 10,000 acres of uninclosed grazing ground. Every son when he marries is entitled to a share of the estate, which he is supposed to use for the support of himself and his family, and in that way the various estate grow smaller each generation. When the estate grows too small to support the owner, he "treks" to another part of the country, and receives from the state such an amount of territory as he may require.

ADVICE TO GIRLS.

Do Not Be Ashamed to Help With the Housework.

There are many young women who think it is quite beneath them to lighten their mothers' tasks by helping to do the housework. They boast that they do not kno[illegible]ow to cook or sweep. They are [illegible] because they lie in bed in the [illegible] until breakfast is ready. They [illegible] in their use of clean clothe[illegible] would scorn to wash or iron [illegible]kerchief.

Yet these young [illegible] not live in a mansion in luxu[illegible]ease, with half a dozen well-paid [illegible]nts to wait on them.

A poor overworked tired mother does the tasks her daughter scorns. The mother toils in the kitchen over a pile of supper dishes while the daughter lounges in the parlor and tells her friends how little she knows about housework.

My dear girl, do stop a moment and think how selfish and heartless is your conduct and how you are lowering yourself in the eyes of every sensible person.

Do you think you are impressing the young man who is calling upon you with your refinement? He is without doubt deciding that you are too idle and selfish to make a good wife.

Some evening you wear a fresh, crisp organdie gown to a party and bring it home a few hours later crushed and soiled. You are satisfied; you have been happy in it, and you throw it aside to be again laundered.

Do you ever think that every hour of your pleasure has been paid for with an hour of your weary mother's hard work?

Look at the frills and laces and remember that each one had to be carefully ironed.

It would be a great deal more to your credit if you knew exactly how to freshen and beautify your gown as well as to crush and soil it.

You would enjoy your party far more if you wore a dress which you had yourself prepared. You have no idea how proud and pleased you would feel as you were leaving home if your mother could say: "How well you have done up your dress, my dear."

The young man would be proud of you, too. He would at once see that you were an industrious, clever girl, and an unselfish, loving daughter.

"What a fine wife she would make," would surely be his next thought, and he would be back to call promptly.

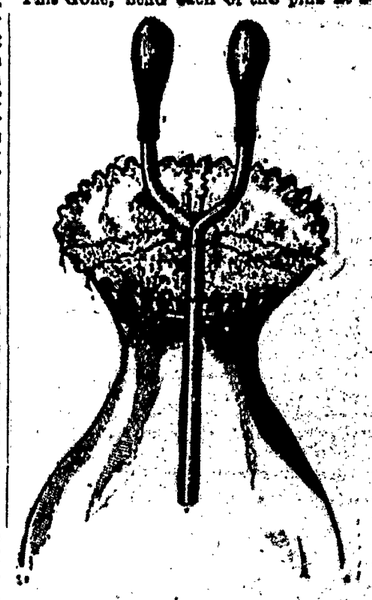
Mark my words, my dear girls, you can gain nothing by being selfish to your mother.

Your conscience will trouble you and every sensible, true man will pass you by when he is looking for a wife.

A Simple Device.

A simple device for the curler is shown in the accompanying illustration. It is for the purpose of keeping the iron from falling in a chimney that is too large to allow the base of the handles to rest properly on the top of the lamp-chimney.

To make it, procure a brass ring about one half an inch in diameter—not over three fourths of an inch at the largest—three strong wire hairpins of the regular size, and some fine wire. Invisible wire hair-pins will do for the fine wire if you have nothing else handy. Now fasten the ring to the pins, or rather the pins to the ring, twisting the fine wire about both ring and pin where they come in contact. This done, bend each of the pins at a right angle from its upper part, making the bend just below the curves.



Place in the top of the chimney as shown in the illustration, resting over the edge of chimney the hooks formed by bending the pins. This will keep the holder from slipping about. Thrust the curling-iron through the ring, and it will heat evenly, and with no danger of burning the handles.

This will fit any chimney. It is a very convenient little article, and will well repay any one for the few moments spent in the making. It is fully as good as the ones sold in the stores at ten cents each, is simpler, and will fold up into a very small compass when not in use.—May Myrtle Cook.

Clever Thoughts of a Clever Woman.

A kiss through a veil is like champagne through a straw.

Chaperones are counter irritants to produce matrimony.

Men never really love their babies. They only respect them for their family connections.

There is a charm about another fellow's widow that few men can associate with their own.

If brides wore wreaths of oranges instead of the orange blossoms, how odd it would seem!

A girl never quite forgives a man for kissing her nose by mistake.

Hammocks are webs in which Cupid gives an imitation of a spider.

Many a chap who looks like a Greek god has been refused by some snub nosed girl who preferred cold cash to classic illustration for domestic use.

When you have had appendicitis and been through supplementary proceedings you begin to get too blase for anything.