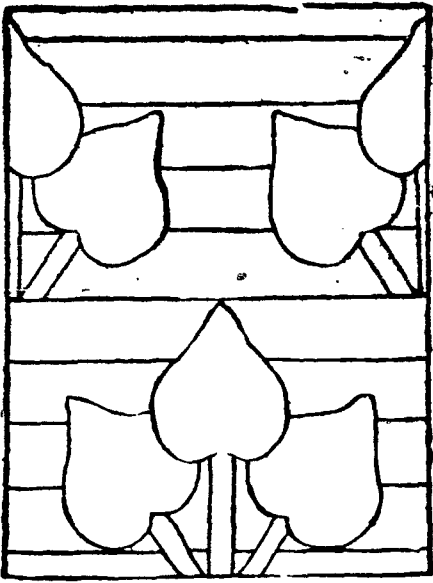


## THE QUILTING BEE.

Is Likely to Become Quite a Social Function Many Still Stick to the Old Fashioned Designs.

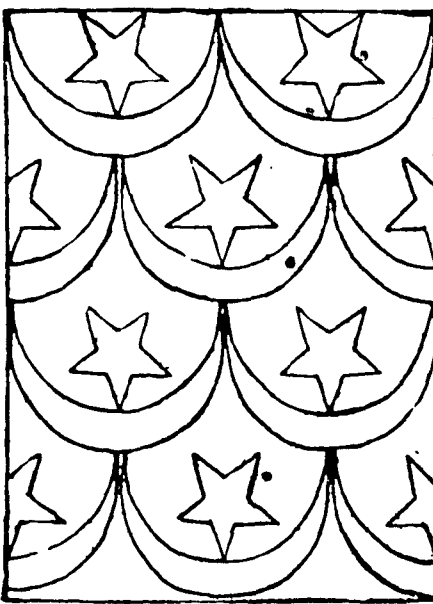
The quilting bee is likely to become an accepted social function not only of the rural districts, but among city dwellers. The advantage of the old-fashioned "pieced quilt" are again being recognized and the handwork involved in the quilting is receiving ardent appreciation. Indeed it is the quilting rather than the piecing which is receiving marked attention, although the designer of log cabins and star patterns is perhaps only a step removed in popularity.



Egyptian Pattern.

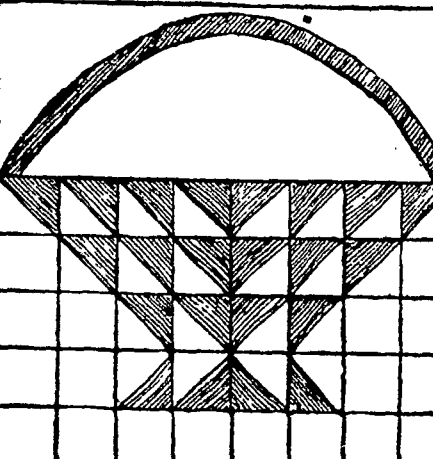
So widely spread is the interest in quilts that the art embroidery houses now issue perforated stamping patterns of quilting designs and lists of several hundred patterns for piecing. Some of the modern designs for quilting are elaborate, others, no less so, are a return to the style of our grandmothers. Essentially new in effect are the Egyptian pattern and the ivy leaf which among the old time patterns are the star and crescent and the shell.

In our grandmothers' day, when there were no patterns to be purchased and it is doubtful if our thrifty grandmothers would have bought them if there had been—designs were cut from cardboard and were loaned or exchanged in a spirit of mutual helpfulness. Many of the old quilts were made from white muslin. An elaborate pattern was drawn and the parts were stuffed as the work progressed, leaving the finished design in prominent relief. No outer spreads were used in those days, and the elaborate pattern of such a quilt was not hidden from view.



Star and Crescent.

All sorts of devices were resorted to for designs. A flower center was encircled by rows of stitching marked by means of plates of various sizes. The shell pattern was made by using a piece of string doubled and tied with three knots at equal distances. Starting at one corner of the quilt a pencil was placed in the end loop, the first knot was held firmly on the corner with the thumb, and a quarter circle marked. Then the second knot was held at the corner and a second quarter circle marked, and this was repeated with the third knot. The first knot was then placed at the upper edge of the third circle and the process repeated, continuing the entire quilt in the following manner:



Old Fashioned Basket Pattern.

The marking was usually done after the quilt was placed upon the frames, working a short distance ahead, as the quilt was rolled. At some of the modern bees, however, it has been found that more accurate marking can be done, and the time of the quilters saved, if the entire cover is marked before it is placed upon the frames. If one of the modern stamping patterns is used the same rule holds good, and the entire surface is stamped by repeating the pattern before the quilting is begun.

### Chocolate Cake.

Cream, 1 cup sugar with a scant half cup of butter, add 2 eggs (slightly beaten), 1/2 cup milk, 1-1/3 cup bread flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 cup dry cocoa or 1/2 cup grated and melted chocolate. Be sure and use bread flour and a moderately hot oven. If too hot it will burn easily.

## FOR THE AMATEUR DRESSMAKER

They are Advised to Learn to Cut By Actual Measurement.

First we would advise the woman who does her own dressmaking to learn one of the many good systems of cutting by actual measurement. No doubt the paper patterns are very useful, but they are also arbitrary. One must not make too many alterations when using them or proportions are interfered with, sometimes lost, and the result is lack of symmetry. For example, you buy a pattern, 36 bust, and find that perhaps while it fits at the bust it is too small at waist line, a little too short or too long-waisted, or the shoulder line not just right. The chances are that the patterns are correctly proportioned, but the woman wearing clothes cut by them are not always so fortunate. Out of a dozen women all 36 bust, perhaps no two will be found to have exactly the same measurements in other respects, and from 7 to 10 different measurements are necessary to produce a perfect fit. Many a bad quarter of an hour might be prevented if only the home dressmaker could or would have a little good instruction before undertaking this interesting but sometimes disappointing work. The only outfit necessary with some systems is the square and tape, with other systems other things are required, but the simplest is perhaps best. As to basting, much might be said. There is the plain waist, the draped waist and the jacket or eon, in which the lining should be tacked after garment is otherwise finished. One thing must be always kept in mind, no matter what the garment—the lining must be slightly full to outside. This is absolutely necessary. Always cut lining first and then cut outside by it. Never cut darts up center until fitted and stitched. Baste from waist line up when putting garment together from top downward when basting lining to goods. Hold curved or bias edge of seam toward you and back of shoulder seam in basting.

### Ladies Tucked Shirt Waist.

Displays of summer waistings include some lovely mercerized fabrics that closely resemble satins, and are equally as expensive. The waist shown here is developed in gray and blue mercerized chevvy. The pattern is provided for a glove-fitted feathered lining which closes in the center front. This may be omitted and the shirt waist adjusted with shoulder and under-arm seams if preferred.

The back is plain across the shoulders and has slight fullness at the belt. The closing is made invisibly at the front under a broad box plait. Two backward turning tucks extend to the bust providing fullness that blouses lightly over a narrow satin belt. A fancy necktie fastens in a bow at the neck, and the ends are passed through slashes in the box plait.

One-piece bishop sleeves fit the arm



closely from shoulder to elbow, and are quite wide at the lower edge, where the fullness is arranged on wristbands, drooping well at the back.

Shirt waists in this style are made of French flannel, albatross, velvet, foulard, China silk or wash fabrics. In some the box plaits and wristbands are embroidered or covered with lace.

To make the waist in the medium size will require three yards of material—thirty-six inches wide.—Modes.

### Snowy Ostrich Feathers.

White ostrich feathers lose all their beauty if the least bit soiled or bedraggled.

Make a lather of pure soap with a little ammonia in it, using about a quart of water or more if the feathers are very large. Move them to and fro gently in this, then lightly press them from stem to tip between the thumb and finger, and do the same in an equal amount of clear hot water. Then repeat it in one of cold water slightly tinted with blue. Hang them up to dry where there is a draught, and shake at intervals; before quite dry gently shake them before a gas stove, or they can be partially dried by steam over a pan of quick boiling water, and finished as directed. Comb them carefully and curl any stray strands with a silver knife.

### Wisdom's Whispers.

A man knows how to make excuses with success.

When a woman can't have her own way she shows her displeasure. The man who tells fancy stories has no idea of the value of time. Some women have an odd way of showing affection for a man.

To the industrious man holidays come in the nature of toll.

A woman likes to feel that her social movements are worth noticing. Some men carry their business into all their dealing with others.

Men of good standing pay close attention to correct correspondence.

## WOMEN OF JAPAN.

The Many Deeds of Patriotism and Self Sacrifice Have Rivalled Those of Spartan Women.

No nation has a better right to be proud of what its women have done in wartime than Japan. Even the mothers and wives of ancient Sparta have been rivalled in deeds of patriotism and self-sacrifice by the women of Japan.

In the feudal times, which came to an end in Japan only thirty years ago, all gentlewomen were trained in the use of the sword and lance. The woman of the samurai class received a regular military education and if the castle of a daimio was besieged, they were capable of assisting in the defence if necessary.

A noted instance of the martial prowess of the Japanese women occurred during the siege of the castle of Wakamatsu in 1869, where the Shogun made his final stand against the forces of the Mikado. Nearly one thousand women and girls belonging to the families of samurai attached to the Shogun fought behind the barricades and on the castle walls. Many of them were killed in battle, while not a few committed suicide rather than undergo the humiliation of defeat.

Yet the Amazonian qualities of the women of old Japan did not detract from their womanliness. They were tender mothers and loving wives. The nursing of the wounded and sick was part of the education of every samurai woman.

With the passing away of the age of chivalry in Japan, upon the downfall of the Shogunate, the Japanese woman was called upon to face new conditions, and how she met these conditions is shown in the history of the Chinese war of 1895.

It is a matter of record that some 16,000 Japanese women volunteered to go to the front as nurses in the field hospitals at the outbreak of the Chinese war, and advices from Japan state that the number of women volunteering to go to the front as nurses to-day is greater than in 1895. But the women who stay at home are not lacking in patriotic devotion.

There is an anecdote concerning the mother of the heroic Commander Sakamoto, who was killed on the bridge of his ship, the Akagi, at the battle of Yalu, which shows how the spirit of patriotism flames in the hearts of Japanese women.

An official of the Navy Department called on the family of the naval officer to convey, as delicately as possible, the news of his death. Having communicated his tidings to a member of the family, he was about to depart, when the frail old mother of the dead commander staggered into the room.

She had been an accidental eavesdropper and had heard all. Trembling with emotion she bowed low to the visiting officer and said:

"Tell the Emperor I rejoice that a son of mine has been able to be of some service to him."

Some Japanese women refused to weep over their dead, because it was considered disloyal to the Mikado to weep for those who had had the honor to die fighting for him. When a wife or a mother heard that a husband or a son had been killed in battle the first expression uttered, was an acknowledgement of the honor conferred upon her by the gods in being bereaved for the cause of the Emperor.

To the Western mind such patriotism appears to be fanatic and hard to understand. In the light of Japanese history it does not seem so strange.

The spirit of patriotism in the Japanese women of the present generation is the outgrowth of ages of feudalism. The loyalty and devotion which the women of past generations gave to their feudal family head are in the present generation given to the Mikado.

In time of war the Empress of Japan sets an example for all the women of the country by her activities in behalf of all those who are suffering or in distress. She may be seen frequently visiting the great military hospitals, accompanied by a party of court ladies and noblewomen's wives.

Following the example of the Empress, all the great ladies of Tokio society do what they can to relieve the distress and suffering that inevitably follow war. There is no class of women that does not contribute something to this cause; even those butterflies, the geishas, and the unhappy creatures in the Yoshiwaras give their share.

This history of the feudal warfare in Japan is replete with instances of the heroism of the women. It often happened that the wife of a daimio was called upon to defend the castle from attack during the absence of her husband. She was well qualified for the task both by training and experience.

Considering what Japan has been in the past, it does not seem strange that the Japanese woman of to-day should possess a keen martial spirit and intense patriotism.

### Rice Pudding Without Eggs.

Wash 1 cup rice and let it soak two hours in cold water, and then drain. Put the rice into a double boiler with 1 cup water and cook half hour. Then add 1 heaping teaspoon salt, 1 cup raisins and 1 quart milk. Cook an hour longer. Butter a mold, pack the rice in and let stand 20 minutes. Turn out on to the serving dish, and decorate with bits of bright jelly, and then pour over it 1 cup thick sweetened cream. The cream should be cold and the pudding hot. Omit the raisins if not liked.

## AT A FAMILY DINNER

A Woman's Way of Refreshing Herself After a Tiring Day.

After I have spent a busy day in shopping or in social duties and every nerve is tingling from the strain which exacting duties demand," said a wise woman, "I never attempt to go through the evening in this jaded state. I bathe my hands and face and sponge with some cooling toilet vinegar; slip on a kimono and give myself up to an hour of complete rest before dressing for dinner, if it is in any way possible. If I can catch a few moments of sleep during this resting period, all the better. The very act of undressing is refreshing. The tired muscles and flesh held in by close bands about the wrist, have a chance to relax and this proves wonderfully restful. A quick sponge bath and an alcohol rubdown is another invigorator worth trying. After this I put on my prettiest gown and if my husband unexpectedly brings a friend home to dine I feel as serene as only a well-groomed and refreshed woman can feel."

Certainly it seems a duty every woman owes herself and her family to be at her very best at the evening meal, when the toil and fret of the day is laid aside. The family should look forward to this hour as the beginning of all good things, rather than the end. Family dinners are too often a failure simply because there is little or no effort made to keep the conversation in a pleasant channel; if there is a grievance, it is sure to be ventilated, a thing which should not be tolerated. In this inimitable manner Thackeray speaks of the company dinner and how "the house assumes a neat, jovial, snug appearance not visible at other seasons." Why cannot this same state of pleasure be maintained when the family are alone? It is worth pondering over, and wondering whether the woman above quoted has not more than half solved the problem.

### Recipe for Chocolate Fudge.

Fudge should be boiled four or five minutes; to test it, drop a little in cold water, if done, it will form in a soft ball when rolled between the fingers. Stir constantly from start to finish. The materials required are two squares of chocolate, one rounding teaspoonful of butter, two teaspoonfuls of vanilla extract, two-thirds of a cup of sweet milk and two cupfuls of granulated sugar. Put the milk, grated chocolate and sugar into a new saucepan, boil and test as directed; when done take from the fire at once, let cool for a few seconds then stir in the flavoring and beat until smooth and creamy. If the sauce pan is set in a pan of cold water it will facilitate the cooling process. Spread the mixture in a shallow buttered pan and mark off into squares. Fig or nut fudge is made by chopping the fruit or nuts very fine and adding them to the chocolate fudge after taking from the fire. To ensure perfect flavor use new pans in which to boil and cool the fudge.

### Girls' Dress.

A stylish dress is shown here made of rose-colored cashmere, with black velvet ribbon for trimming. The full back is box-plaited from shoulder to belt and arranged on a fitted lining back.

The skirt portion is gathered and attached to the waist. The front of the dress is in one piece. It is plain on the shoulders and hangs loosely,



the fullness at the waist being drawn in by means of a belt that conceals the seam in the back and has a fashionable droop in front. Three backward-turning plaits at each side of the center front form a triple box plait, beneath which the garment closes invisibly. The plaits are stitched to the waist line, but only pressed below that fullness to the skirt.

A broad sailor collar completes the neck, the edges being drawn together with a jaunty black velvet cravat. The pattern is provided for the shield, which is permanently attached to the right side and closes invisibly on the left. It is completed with a standing collar.

Full puff sleeves are gathered at the lower edge and arranged on deep fitted cuffs. The belt and edges of collars and cuffs are finished with velvet pipings, surmounted by rows of machine stitching.

Dresses in this style may be made of serge, flannel, brilliantine, linen, pique or mercerized wash fabrics. The collar and shield are usually of contrasting material.

To make the dress for a girl of eight years will require four yards of material thirty-six inches wide.—Modes.

### Prima Facie Evidence.

Madge—Miss Passay has volunteered to get up a booth at the Christmas bazaar and sell kisses. Isn't it awful?

Marjorie—Dreadful, my dear! I never thought that girl had the face to do it.—Smart Set.

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