

## CHILD-CULT IN JAPAN

Extrema Delicacy Shown in the Bringing up of the Child, Americans Could Profit.

A recently returned traveler from the Orient, a young woman whose life is devoted to art, has during her visit to Japan formed the idea that we are actually the barbarians which the Chinese now, and the Japanese once upon a time, asserted us to be.

This young woman says that half the charm of occidental life is lost by our lack of manners.

"No one can become cognizant of this," said she, "until they have passed a few weeks in the Mikado's Empire. To me upon my return to America, the children appear especially like barbarians. We do not understand child cult as they do there, and our lives are robbed of half its charm consequently. To the average American, children are more or less of a burden and certainly under no conditions are they given that careful study they deserve and which falls to their lot in Japan.

"The Japanese are truly idealistic. The child is the center of the home life and is positively idolized. From the moment of its arrival upon the scene of its life becomes to its parents a subject of the most serious study. Its clothing must embody one of the national ideals. One of these ideals is cheerfulness, which will be manifested in the cleanliness and brightness of the child's dress. The symbol seems to affect the temperament of the child, for one may go days in Japan without hearing a baby cry. Loyalty and pride, which are such marked features of the Japanese character, one will find embodied in rich though severe coloring. The tiny baby distinguished by the dainty quietude of color and style of its kimono exhibits the token of seriousness which its mother has adopted as its ideal, whilst yet another will display the emblems of patriotism in garments of red and bronze, relieved by glimpses of white, which show that purity dominates the ruling passion.

"The Japanese mother would not dream of leaving the choice of her child's clothing to a common caterer. The advent of a baby is an event of vast importance in a Japanese woman's life. Before its arrival the friends of the mother are invited to a meeting at which is discussed a scheme of decoration for the set of miniature garments the little one is to wear. In the discussion of this important matter the subject of the design of the child's dresses is very closely considered. This might be cherry blossom or apple, or a landscape pertaining to the month in which the new arrival will be born. Very often the costume is selected to express the ideas and sentiments of the mother. Having been finally decided upon, the designs are placed in the hands of some great artist, who executes them in water colors on silk. When these are ready, friends of the family again convene to discuss the execution of the designs. These are, finally, given to an expert stencil cutter and, after the finishing touches have been given them by the artist, are applied directly to the silk. In this way a Japanese baby often is arrayed in garments as costly as a permanent picture would be, for in order to have the design absolutely unique the stencils are often destroyed.

"Launched thus artistically upon the sea of life, the child thereafter becomes an object of unceasing care to its mother. Every motion of the infant is watched and influenced so that it shall be graceful and natural. It is taught to walk with the same care that would be bestowed upon a soldier's drill. It is shown how to stoop and to bow gracefully, so that while yet an infant it possesses an innate grace of carriage, pose and manner. The taste and expense lavished upon the clothes are supplemented by lessons in the proper use of them, and the smallest children are careful that the folds of their kimonos shall not be disarranged, even at play.

"As far as manners go, at least, I think that we might profit enormously by the training given the child in Japan, and perhaps the American would more nearly approach the ideal were she to give her attention to her own offspring rather than to her horses and dogs."—Josephine West.

**Comforts for the Cook.**  
Among the new things brought out to brighten the lot of the "mistress of the kitchen" are:

A chocolate grater which uses up every bit of the chocolate, while protecting the hands.

A jelly strainer which sets on a tripod, and is adjustable to a kettle of any size.

Coffee machines by which coffee is made at the table.

A new meat chopper, which has a deep, curved blade that gives eleven inches of cut, and is warranted always to cut across the meat. As the top is removable, the blade can easily be cleaned.

The ring mold, which is simply an ice cream mold made in the form of a ring, with an open center.

A cake pan with a bottom that comes off, allowing the cake to be taken out easily.

A cork extractor which fastens to the wall and holds the bottle while removing the cork.

It requires no strength of mind to be mean—it does to be generous.

Every man is a volume, if you know how to read him.

## A STYLISH PRINCESS GOWN.

Made with High or Square Neck Closing at Left Front or Centre Back. Princess gowns are among the features of the season and are exceedingly becoming to well formed women. This one is both novel and handsome and allows of variations without number. The model, however, is made of broadcloth, in the new shade known as Lombardy plum, with the epaulettes and cuffs of velvet in the same color overlaid with applique of heavy lace, the square yoke and collar of cream chiffon, tucked and enriched with lace, and trimming of fancy braid piped



with velvet. The color is as beautiful as it is new and the combination of materials singularly rich and attractive but the gown can be made entirely of velvet, of cloth or of any similar material. As illustrated the closing is made invisibly at the left shoulder seam and beneath the trimming at the centre back if preferred. The square yoke of chiffon also can be omitted and the backs cut off at indicated lines to give a low square neck when desired.

The gown is made with centre fronts, side fronts, backs, side backs and underarm gores. Both the centre front and the back are full length but the side fronts, underarm gores and side backs are lengthened by the circular doume which is joined to the edges of the front and the backs. The epaulettes are arranged over the shoulders and the neck is finished with a regulation stock. The sleeves are among the newest of the season and show deep flare cuffs, which extend well over the hands and above them form full drooping puffs.—May Mantou.

## A NEW KIMONO.

Kimonos or negligees which owe their inspiration to the garment of Japan, have taken a permanently hold in Western favor and are constantly appearing in some new form. The graceful, yet perfectly simple, model



shown is among the latest and has much to commend it. The original, from which the drawing was made, is of fine soft flannel with bands of plain India silk, but all the materials used for gowns of the sort are suitable. Charming ones show plain cotton crepe for the foundation, flowered silk for the bands and countless other suggestions might be made.

The kimono is made with fronts and backs and is shaped by means of shoulder, underarm and centre back seams. The sleeves are cut in deep points that are eminently graceful and both their edges and those of the neck and front are faced to form the bands.—May Mantou.

## Queen's Perfumed Laces.

Queen Alexandra's laces, linens and silks are perfumed by a method which almost any of our women readers can copy. The drawers in which they are kept are lined with white paper, strewn with rose petals, says Woman's Life. On this is placed a layer of fabric to be scented, over that a layer of rose leaves, and so on in alternation until the drawer is filled. Over all a sheet of tissue paper is spread. At the end of twenty-four hours everything in the drawer will have a delicate perfume that will cling to it for a long time. Perfumes are believed to make clothes and linen much more wholesome. Flowers and certain prepared perfumes have excellent medicinal qualities.

Fortune may find a pot, but your own industry must make it boil.

## AFLOAT ON THE OCEAN WAVE

A Veteran Tourist Gives Advice on Looking Trim on Shipboard.

"I have prided myself, always," said the veteran tourist, "on looking even more trim and trig aboard ship than I would on terra firma. Women who fall victims to sea-sickness are prone to come on deck looking careless—yes, even untidy. If sea-sickness overtakes you, go to your berth, and stay there until you are well—able to look your best. Nowhere are women more open to criticism from the other sex than aboard ship. For men, he it said to their credit, are fastidious as to the appearance they make on deck.

"First and foremost, provide yourself with a well-fitting, gracefully hanging walking skirt, one that escapes the ground by a good margin. On board a liner you will also need a smart high gown for dinner. And don't forget a pretty dressing gown, for the bathroom is often far away from the cabin. For neckwear have several cravats. They are easily adjusted, comfortable for the lounging existence aboard ship, and they are becoming, too. Some tourists adopt the stiff linen collar, with the long, narrow four-in-hand ties. The tourist hat should be of soft felt; craps have been somewhat displaced. The brim of the hat should be narrow, so that in the luxurious pose of the deck chair comfort is not hindered.

"A veil is essential if the tourist would preserve her face from the unwelcome tan and keep her hair neat. Those of chiffon are best and drape prettily on the hat when not veiling the face.

"Don't do your hair in a 'floppy' way. Sea breezes and salt air have a way of loosening even the most tidily done hair, and if you start by looking merely 'floppy' you'll probably end by being disgracefully untidy. Provide yourself with plenty of hairpins, and wear a net if your hair is of a kind that quickly gets limp in fresh air.

"Comely, of graceful shape, should the shoes be for the feet slow noticeably beneath the fare of the short skirts (canvas oxfords in white and gray are chic and effective, oxfords of brown unlined calfskin are in high favor, too. Shoes and stockings are terribly in evidence as one goes up and down a companion ladder, so both must be above reproach.

Be at all times carefully gloved. Chambray and washable kid are best, because being made to wash the damp air does not affect or spot them. A long ulster preferably a rain coat, is essential and a ready warm wrap is necessary. However, warm the days may be, the evening air is always chilly.

## Heaven and Baby Clothes.

If it be true, as the poet says, that "heaven lies all about us in our infancy," much of the celestial strain fused into this mundane atmosphere should be credited to the efforts of those interested in the advancement and manufacture of infants' garments, for every worth while device known to modern art or science has been introduced into each separate article designed for the greater comfort of the latter day child. And to many of us, who have a long time passed the stage of infancy comfort is synonymous with the heavenly state.

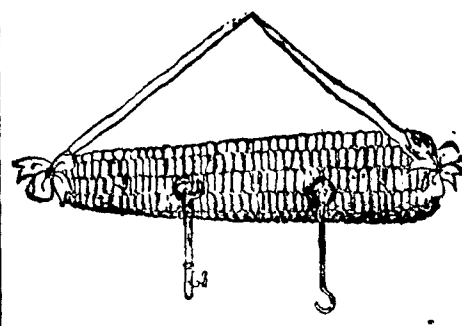
First, in the history of infants' wear, there was the scant garment of necessity, as required by climatic conditions or the usages of custom; then came, gradually, the outfit of many pieces, more or less cumbersome and intricate, and of questionable beautiful properties. These were the days of long, weighty, befrilled and beruffled petticoats, skirts and dresses, of straps, bands and pins innumerable, whose discomfort to the child and inconvenience to the mother removed heaven many leagues from the nursery and made earthly attributes a near and undesirable thing.

A period of protest was followed by one of extravagance, and what was missed from skirt lengths was added to trimmings, so that little was gained for the child by the transposition of weight. But the problem worked out its own solution through the hands of designers and manufacturers, until today the garments combine great comfort, rare beauty and a degree of practicality not furnished elsewhere.—The New York Furnisher.

## An Ear of Corn.

The ear of corn to be used as a "dangle board" is just the thing for some bright little boy or girl to make for mamma or other housekeeping friend.

The corn is gilded and has five brass hooks, etc., on. Rows of bright colored ribbon are tacked on the ends, and also a piece of the same is used



to hang it up by. Another easy way to make these useful little articles is, to saw padlocks or horseshoes out of a piece of cherry or walnut wood, polish them and screw in the hooks. A bow of ribbon is tied on each side of the padlock. Toy rilling-pins are frequently employed for this purpose.

Next to cash, a man's best asset is confidence.

Presumption lies at the bottom of much that we call success.

## HOW WOMAN MARRIES

She is Discriminative Between the Ages of Seventeen and Twenty-seven, Then She is Apathetic.

There are times in every woman's life, according to a high feminine authority, when she will marry anybody that comes along. These times are when she is seventeen and twenty-seven. Between these ages she is discriminative, and after the second of the two she is apathetic. To the girl of seventeen, it is said, the idea that she makes a real live man's heart go pitter-patter is so ecstatic that in gratitude for the distinction of a passionate proposal she easily fancies she is in love. She thinks her refusal to marry Augustus will break his heart and send him to an early grave. So she weds him out of generous pity in order not to wreck his life. She says "yes" and leans afterward that Augustus's heart is tough and had survived numerous prior deperate attachments. At seventeen it is any man—any individual sufficiently inoffensive to allow her to nourish unchecked the illusions which her self-love cherishes. For at this age man is only the occasion, not the object of her affections. He is only a dummy; it is she who occupies the whole stage with her swiftly varying fancies and caprices.

At nineteen she evolved an ideal. It is no longer any man but a particular man—a man tall, dark, passionate-looking with a Byronic air. One at war with his kind and of abnormal opinions in type. He may be pessimistic and melan-holy. His merit is that he finds in her her beauty, purity and innocence that restore his faith in humanity and make happiness again a rational hope. A year later she is still romantic, but experience begins to make her a trifle more practical. The spectacular beau of striking physical aspect is relined into the strong, earnest man, who looks at things in a lofty, high-minded way and has a fad. Her idol may be a matinee hero, an unappreciated genius, a social settlement worker or a long-haired poet. It is a time of danger. She may accept a theological student or slope with her music teacher. Such is her mystical spirit that she is capable of marrying a drunkard to reform him.

With twenty-two there is less risk of such unpromising ventures. She begins to enjoy life in its objective aspects, without exclusive reference to her subjective meditations. Marriage, like heaven, is a cherished aspiration, but social incidents have become interesting. She sees farther than before into the drama of life as others play it and it entertains her. Many tepid admirers, she thinks, are better than one who is tery. In short, she is having a good time and is averse to exchange the gayeties of life for a humdrum husband. If she marries at this age, she is likely to make a discreet choice.

At twenty-seven, however, comes a period of panic and, as ten years before, the danger is great. It is seen that her contemporaries have nearly all married. The girls who were her schoolmates are settled matrons and boast the virtues of their children. She accordingly begins to feel lonesome. The younger set put her aside or ask her to chaperon their parties. Perhaps a gray hair awful sight, makes its appearance. Is she an old maid. The idea frightens her. She loses her nerve and plunges wildly, taking the first man that offers. Foolish matches being to this period, the superannuated beau or the widower with ten children.

Spinsterhood has its own pleasures which the spinster at thirty-five begins to appreciate. The panic is over and a period of calm and contemplation succeeds. Many marriages of friends have turned out badly and there is consolation in seeing what one has escaped. Love is all right, but she sees that in many cases it was unequal to the trials of matrimony. It is not the only thing to be had in view in marriage, an establishment, with ample income, having in it the promise of a dignified life, if not ecstasy. The subsequent stages are few. At forty the old maid is hopelessly addicted to her latch key and her own pocketbook, and her matrimonial chances are nil. Some few widows who have acquired the habit of having a master, and are lost without one, marry after that, but the spinster rarely does. When she does, however, she throws judgment and reason to the winds and marries to please a sudden fancy.—Baltimore Sun.

## Pretty Handiwork.

Enamel work and the designing of jeweled ornaments have become serious recreations for the artistically minded members of society. One Newport woman produces beautiful specimens of enamel work, as the friends who are the fortunate recipients of specimens of her handicraft can fully testify, and is singularly happy in her combination of colors and metals; while there are not a few other smart women who are prodigiously proud—and rightly so—of the exquisite hat pins and medallions, and quaint chains which their clever fingers have fashioned. Truly a pretty pastime, and a useful one to boot; and in view of the fact that the era of jeweled lace has already dawned, this is a craft which women will do well to cultivate.

## A Few Douts.

Don't use lemon juice too often on the hands. Try white vinegar instead. Lemon juice shrivels and yellows the surface. Don't wear gloves every night, or the hands will become yellow. Occasional use of gloves, however, is advisable.

## THE WOMAN WHO WORKS

Working Women Much Happier Than Those of Leisure.

The woman who had been tolling all day for her daily bread dropped in for a little chat with the woman who did nothing for a living. The latter looked at the business woman a little enviously. "Do you know," she said, "I envy you working women a great deal. You are much happier than the woman of leisure. Your 'daily stint,' which must be done whether you feel like it or not, is a blessing to you. I often wish that I were obliged to rise every morning at a certain hour and work hard at something all day."

"Now, just stop your envy," said the working woman. "Just think of your immense opportunity for self-improvement. That is the one thing I envy you women of leisure. Not many of you grasp that opportunity, however. A working woman cannot acquire all the charming little graces when she must devote her entire day to solid work, work which is often irksome, but which brings in the dollars she cannot live without. How can she gain any knowledge of the arts when her leisure moments must be spent in gaining strength for the toil of the next day?

"The woman of leisure may study music and understand it, although she may not be a musician. She may study enough of art to appreciate the beautiful and wonderful in pictures and architecture. If she have a limited vocabulary she may improve it by reading the proper books. She has time to think about what she reads and to get the best out of literature.

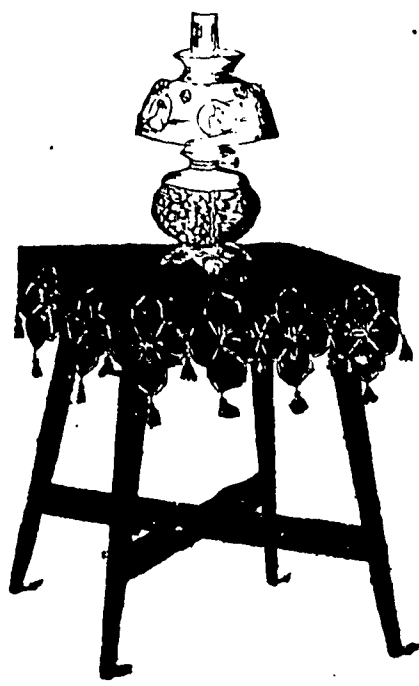
"She may make her housekeeping ideal for she has leisure to study how to make her home most attractive. She may furnish her rooms with care and almost regardless of expense, and she may put the household machinery in such shape that its running will be noiseless and with comparatively little friction. She has time to do all the fine-artistic bits of sewing and embroidery.

"Then there are all those little acts of politeness, the little attentions which gain popularity for her. The many notes which must be written she may write promptly and gracefully, and she has ample opportunity to think of others than herself. It is for these things that the working woman envies the woman of leisure."

And the woman who did nothing for a living resolved to turn over a new leaf and grasp some of the opportunities which her working friend had pointed out to her.—New York Times.

## A Pretty Home-Made Table.

The table shown in the engraving was designed after one purchased at a high art furnishing store. It is so constructed that it can be easily manufactured at home by those who are at all handy with tools. It may be made of pine and stained to imitate cherry or ebony. This stain can be purchased ready for use at any paint



store. The top is covered with dark plush, and a broad band of the same is tacked around the edges. This is ornamented with a pattern worked in the couching stitch. It is done in this manner: the design is first stamped on; then two threads of double zephyr are laid on it a short distance at a time, and caught down at regular intervals with floss of different shades. One or more colors of the zephyr can be used, as the taste suggests. A design of circles interwoven into each other is very pretty; this can be carried out nicely with a tea-cup and white paint. The tassels are made of the zephyr.

## Odds and Ends Fashion.

Velvet fruit such as almonds, black-berries, grapes, peaches, nuts and apples, are all to be employed next season in millinery.

Black enamel swallows with diamond tipped wings are used as ornaments for low bodices, and dragon flies, veined and outlined with diamonds, are worn in the hair.

Some evening shoes have a fancy monogram placed on the left side.

Pompadour gloves to draw on over the hand without fastening at the wrist are returning to favor. Some of them have one button at the wrist to draw them in more closely.

Silk is to have a return to popularity, soft silks being especially in vogue.

The colors of the present day are all undecided. Blue should be nearly green, pink should have a yellowish hue, reds ought to verge on pink, and white should have a grayish tint.

Don't let the hands hang down, or the blood will fill and stretch the veins.

Don't use ammonia in the bath without applying a cold cream afterward.

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