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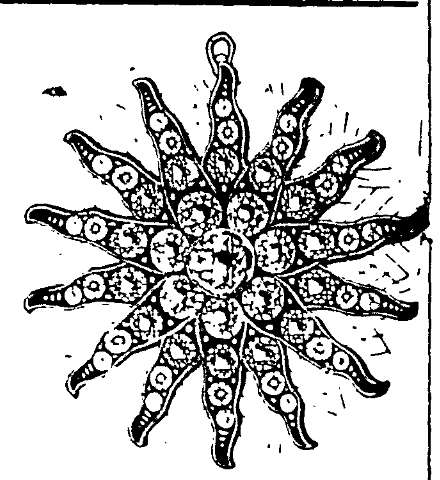

THIS is the day of the natural waisted woman. The **W. B. Erect Form** has changed the American figure. It has supplanted discomfort with ease—it has banished the impossible and exaggerated figure produced by the old corset idea. It removes the strain of lacing from the sensitive parts of the body and throws all pressure upon the hips and the strong back muscles, supporting the stomach within the corset and not forcing it below the garment. The Erect Form is made in more models than ever before. There are forty distinct styles of this popular make, each meant for a distinct type of woman. Dealers in all sized towns and cities the land over, sell the Erect Form. Prices range upward from $1.

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THE COREAN CLOAK.

A Former King Decreed That The Women Wear It as a Mark of Honor.

The dress of the Corean woman is very quaint. Long voluminous white cotton dresses reaching to the ankle show baggy trousers underneath, which, ending in slippers with upturned toes, give them somewhat the appearance of Turkish women. Over the head is thrown a long cloak generally green, fastened under the neck, the sleeves, through which the arms are never passed, hanging down over the shoulders. By this cloak hangs a tale, historical and interesting.

Once upon a time a King of Corea invited the officers of his army to a banquet in the palace of Seoul, in complete ignorance that a military conspiracy aimed at his throne and life, was afoot. The conspirators, who were among the guests, resolved to seize their opportunity to murder the king during the progress of the banquet. On entering the palace the officers deposited their large military cloaks in an ante-chamber and took their places in the hall where the feast was spread, waiting only a signal to fall on and slay their hosts.

But a number of the women of Seoul had become acquainted with the conspiracy. Loyal to their monarch and unable to warn him in time they went in a body to the palace and gained admittance into the ante-chamber. Seizing the officers' cloaks, they entered the banqueting hall unobserved; some stealing noiselessly up behind the officers as they sat at the feast, flung the cloaks over their heads and pinioned them in the folds, while others ran to the bewildered king, hurriedly warned him of the plot, and spirited him safely away before the baffled conspirators could release themselves from the grasp of their brave captors. In token of his gratitude to his loyal female subjects, the king decreed that in future the Corean women should wear the military cloak thrown over their heads as a mark of honor.—Capt. Casserly in Macmillian's Magazine.

A Novelty Dressing Sacque.

A dressing sacque in which one has real comfort is this one made out of a square.

It is very simple and therein lies the secret of its charm.

Made from a Persian scarf of some

soft silk it is very dainty and beautiful.

It is, of course, better to have something with a border around it as that gives a finish and makes it little or no trouble to arrange.

The way to make it is to take a square of whatever material or scarf you wish to use. About a yard on each edge is large enough—fold it so that you find the center and just a little to one side of that cut a hole about the size of your neck.

From here to one corner cut in a straight line.

When this is hemmed and a ribbon or cord run in at the neck the garment is made.

For hot summer days this is a delightfully cool negligee.

Veteran Postwoman of England.

Overton, in Hampshire, England, boasts a character in the person of Mrs. Jane Wort. She has served the local postoffice twenty years of the time as letter carrier, during which period she has possibly created a record for her sex.

The district is somewhat remote and Jane's "round" has been fifteen miles a day, winter and summer alike. When the postoffice verified this fact they granted her a raise. But at the present time Mrs. Wort, who is in her seventy-fifth year, is the recipient of the princely wage of six shilling and six pence a week. There are those who believe that her service will entitle her to a pension on retirement, but the postoffice is reported to think otherwise.

Care of Children's Hair.

Mothers should teach their girls to care for their hair as early as possible. If a girl is coaxed into the habit of giving her locks a hundred strokes with a clean brush every morning and evening and braiding them loosely for bed, the foundation for a future beautiful head of hair will be laid. Too many children are allowed to go to bed with their hair in a tossled condition, only to have it jerked and tangled hastily when school time comes round. Such a practice is disastrous to the nerves of a sensitive child and ruinous to the hair, says Woman's Life. Never allow one child to use the other's hair brush. Diseases of the scalp are most contagious and the brush is the surest germ agent.

HIS WIFE'S LETTER.

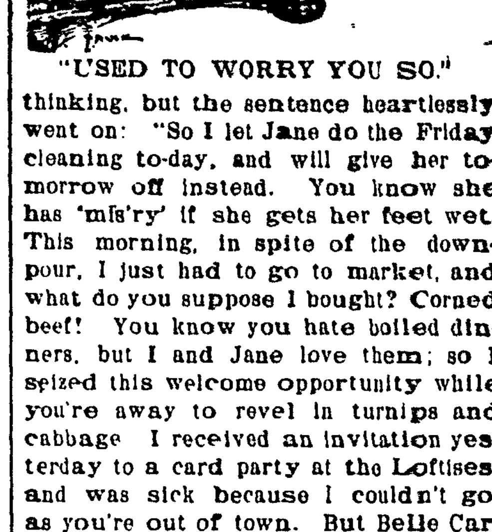
Fate was good to the Simpsons, and they were not separated for more than a day at a time for a whole year after their marriage. Last week, however, fate, in the form of Simpson's firm, sent him east for a fortnight, and Simpson had the pleasure of receiving the first letter from his wife since the wedding.

He found it waiting for him at a Boston hotel, after a long, hard day wrestling with an obstreperous branch house manager, and his heart warmed as he propped it against a water bottle while he settled himself for his dinner.

"My dear John," it began. Simpson slowly lowered his soup spoon while a sensation resembling an icicle slipped along his spine. He distinctly recalled that the last letter he had received from Mary (the day before their wedding) had begun: "Sweetheart."

"My dear John," he read again. "It has rained all day."

"I hope she's going to say she's lonesome," Simpson found himself



"USED TO WORRY YOU SO."

thinking, but the sentence heartlessly went on: "So I let Jane do the Friday cleaning to-day, and will give her tomorrow off instead. You know she has 'mis'ry' if she gets her feet wet. This morning, in spite of the downpour, I just had to go to market, and what do you suppose I bought? Corned beef! You know you hate boiled dinners, but I and Jane love them; so I seized this welcome opportunity while you're away to revel in turnips and cabbage. I received an invitation yesterday to a card party at the Loftises, and was sick because I couldn't go, as you're out of town. But Belle Carter says she and Mr. Carter will be pleased to take me, so you see how well I can get along without you. I'll wear my new white frock—the one which made you shudder so when the bill came home. I'm more than anxious to look well that night, for Teddy Atkins is to be at the party—he's the old Cornell boy, you know, who used to worry you so during our courting days."

Here Simpson petulantly waved his untouched fish and tried to convince himself that his ruffled temper was due to the memory of the dressmaker's bill, not of the Cornell boy. With his roast he resumed:

Your mother called to-day and took me to task for paying so much for our last new rug. It was difficult for me to refrain from telling her that her son—thank goodness!—had married a woman who wouldn't be found dead with such rugs as your mother has in her house. There was a fire in a stable down the square, but nothing burned but the hay. The horses got out with only their tails singed.

"Remember to keep plenty of fresh handkerchiefs in your pockets, and be careful about the barbers you patronize, you look so funny with your face all cut up. If you get short of shirts buy new ones. You need some. And, by the way, I dare say you'll remember that you mustn't wear a blue tie with that lavender shirt. Wear the white and silver one I bought purposely for that shirt.

"The milkman's bill is 13 cents too high. I'm going to write a protest to the company. The gas bill came to-day, and is 20 cents lower than last month. And that horrid old caterer's bill—for the night we had the Hawkinses to dinner, you know—is 75 cents too much.

"Well, I'm sleepy, so shall quit. I hope no burglars will come while you're away. Remember to put your ulster over your bed chilly nights. As ever, "MARY."

Simpson rose dazedly from his half-eaten dinner and wandered dazedly out. "Not exactly 'as ever,'" he mused. "A letter used to have a few more 'dears' and 'I love you's' and even an occasional 'darling'—and fewer 'corned beef and 'lavender shirts' and 'singed horses' tails.' I'm afraid I've unconsciously allowed myself to be swamped in a lot of—of humdrum details, to say the least. And there's a strong suspicion that I'm badly tangled up in apron strings."

Nevertheless, as he strolled lonesomely into the noisy, smoky hotel corridor, he found himself hungering for the Morris chair, and evening lamp and the tender tyranny of the little woman back home.—Chicago News.

Ancient Blunderbuss Exploded.

The other day Archbald Munro, a farmer near London, Ont., was heating an old blunderbuss to utilize in thawing out a pump that was frozen. He had the ancient gun at a white heat when the powder and shot that had been in it for several decades exploded. Mr. Munro, of course, received the full benefit of the explosion, and is now in the hands of the doctors.—Rochester Post-Express.

JAPANESE WEDDINGS.

Strange Array of Gifts, But All Are More or Less Useful.

The Japanese ceremony itself is more legal than religious. The bride's own people take her to her future husband's house, and there in the presence of members of both families they plight their troth, and the bridegroom makes a gift of money to his bride's parents. A Japanese girl receives no wedding portion from her father, but he bestows upon her gifts of clothes, articles useful for housekeeping, and sashes of silk crepe and seven sorts of spices—a curious medley. For the housekeeping gifts two lacquered wooden pillows are de riqueur, bowls, shelves, workbox, rice bucket, ladle, spinning wheel, kitchen utensils, braziers and fire boxes, china kettles, teapots and cups, bamboo switches, cotton quilts, etc. The bride's parents also invariably send a bottle of sake or rice wine for the young couple to start their domestic economy.

For the wedding ceremony the bride, dressed in white silk and covered with a veil, is carried after nightfall in a palanquin to the bridegroom's house. A priest is not necessarily called in. The bridegroom's family sits on one side of the room and the bride's on the other. Bride and bridegroom sit facing each other in the centre of the room. A table stands in front of them, and on it a bottle of sake and cups. On another table are placed images of a fir-tree, a blossoming plum-tree and a stork standing on a tortoise. The first signifies the strength of the bridegroom; the second the beauty of the bride and third the long life desired for both.

Now begins the marriage feast, the first part ending with the drinking of three cups each of sake by bride and bridegroom. Then the bride leaves the party and returns wearing a new ceremonial robe, bows to her parents and drinks another draught of sake, of which, indeed, nine cups have to be quaffed before the feast is over, the last being conveyed from a two-spouted kettle, held by two bridemaids to the lips of the happy pair. With this rite, which signifies that they are to share the sorrows and joys of life together, the service ends. Up to this point only relatives are permitted to enter the room, but now the doors are thrown open, and the wedding guests file in. Silence and formality are enjoined throughout the ceremony, even after the arrival of the guests.—The Gentlewoman.

Cool and Refreshing Dessert.

In our house, milk sherbet is the most popular dessert on the hottest day of summer or the coldest day in winter. To make it, you take one quart or rich milk, three lemons, three-fourths of a pint of graulated sugar, one tablespoonful of granulated white gelatine.

Put the gelatine to soak in half a cupful of the cold milk, putting the remainder of the milk to boil in a farina boiler with half the sugar; stir well. When it boils, add the soaked gelatine, remove from the fire, and stir until all is thoroughly dissolved. Strain into the ice cream can; put away to cool. While it cools prepare the flavoring thus: Wash the lemons well, dry them, grate the rind of one and squeeze the juice of three in a dish, add the remaining half of the sugar, stir and mix thoroughly; stand in a cool place until needed.

Pack the tub in which the freezer is placed in the regular way with very finely broken ice and coarse salt. Pour the lemon and sugar into the prepared milk; cover and freeze in the ordinary way, which will take from fifteen to twenty minutes. Remove the dasher, pack away, and give at least one hour to ripen before using. If these directions are followed exactly, the result will be most satisfactory, producing a delicious and inexpensive dessert for five or six persons.—Table Talk.

Fancy Work in Europe.

There is a perfect craze for fancywork in Paris and London and the fancywork teachers are reaping a rich harvest. Here they give lessons from early in the morning till late at night, going about to rich patrons when not holding classes which every one may attend. Making dainty hand-made articles from handkerchiefs is a vogue; cross-stitching bands for linen dresses and embroidering in the new and smart Mountmellik embroidery for dresses and house decorations are all the fad, to say nothing of other forms of fashionable fancywork.

Modish Hat of White Straw.

This exceedingly stylish hat is of fine white straw, bound with green

velvet ribbon, and a large rosette bow of green satin ribbon is the sole adornment.

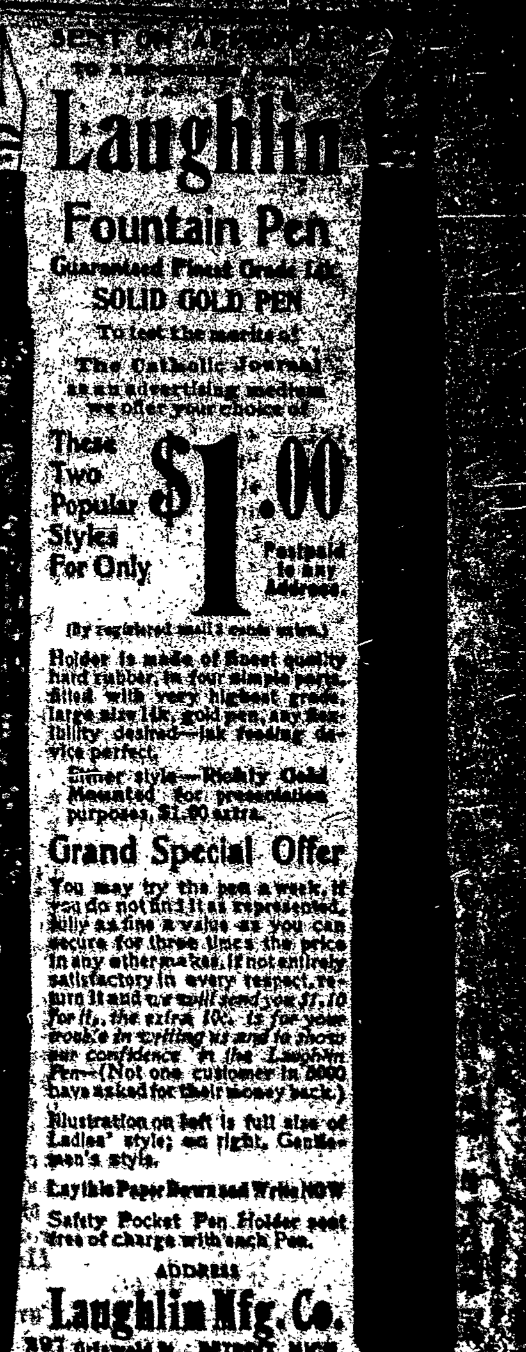


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Illustration on left is full size of Ladies' style; on right, Gentleman's style.

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