

## EMPRESS OF CHINA

AN ARTIST DESCRIBES HER MAJESTY AS CHARMING.

Dresses Exquisitely and Requires Her Court to do Likewise—A Stickler for Grammatical Correctness and Loves Perfumery.

Miss Katharine A. Carl, who during a stay of eleven months within the imperial palace at Peking painted the portrait of the Empress Dowager of China, is the only foreigner who ever painted a portrait of a member of the imperial family of China. She is the only foreigner who ever was entertained within the palace for more than an official audience.

While not exactly a pretty woman, she impresses one as being pretty because her whole personality is so charming.

"What most impresses one about her is her youthfulness," said Miss Carl. "If I had not known she was sixty-nine years old I should have taken her to be between thirty-five and forty. Being a Manchu, she does not bind her feet, and being a widow she does not make up her face much. Powder and rouge are used chiefly by young and unmarried women or women who have husbands, and these use them so lavishly as almost to conceal their features.



EMPRESS OF CHINA.

"The Empress Dowager is petite, with an exquisite figure of perfect proportions. Her hands and feet are beautiful. In coloring she may best be described as a fair brunette. She has very clear, bright black eyes, a smooth skin, a rather large mouth, with full lips closing over regular white teeth and a brilliant smile.

"In dress she is what the French call 'conquette.' She is a great lover of beautiful colors, and gives much attention to getting up new effects in colors. While Chinese fashions were set thousands of years ago, yet each reign modifies them and what the Empress wears is, of course, considered de vogue. Besides herself dressing exquisitely and with great consideration for what is becoming to her, she demands an equal amount of care in dress from those about her, and I have known her to insist on greater elegance where she thought a court lady was dressing too simply for her position.

"Her Majesty has a passion for French perfumes, but also has quantities of perfumery made in the palace under her own eye. She is given to experimenting with perfumes to produce new odors and is very fond of having the subtil of the dried flowers made into sachets.

In China this royal personage is always called the Dowager Empress, or the Old Buddha.

Miss Carl said the Empress had sixteen appellations when she was in China, and has received several more since. Her true official name, that which she will bear in history, although she is not called by it now, is *Tse-Nai*.—New York Tribune.

### FASHION DICTATES.

Strictly tailor made are their broadcloth suits. They come in all the leading colors and shades, in circular and pleated skirts and with three-quarter coats and Eton jackets.

One of the suits has its Eton trimmed with white and gold braid; a cutaway coat shows a black velvet chemise; and one Panama and velvet suit shows a hand made Irish crocheted turnover collar.

White satrakan with silk braid trimming is developed in some very charming coats for children. Closing is effected by silk frogs and white pearl buttons.

Velvet flowers and foliage are to be quite a feature of the new military—American Beauty roses, made entirely of velvet, with stem and leaves of a rich shade of green velvet, will be popular.

The monogram purse is much in demand and frog skin is the favorite leather for the small pocketbook. They watches ornament the bags.

### Women and Farming.

The Countess of Warwick demonstrates her belief in her agricultural school for women by having a woman bean gardener in charge of the magnificent gardens and conservatories of Castle Warwick. Many of the graduates of this school hold influential positions as superintendents of gardens, dairies, poultry farms and the like, and others have done well in the way of poultry farms or in the management of trust prop-

## REVIVAL OF DOOR KNOCKER.

Used Largely in the Country and to Some Extent in the City.

"To be sure in these days," said a dealer in builders' hardware, "electric door bells are found everywhere, but at the same time we are now selling, again, old fashioned door knockers.

"We had always sold a few door knockers, but the revival came about fifteen years ago, with the revival of Colonial architecture. On all such houses the door knocker was appropriate.

"Boston is perhaps the center of the greatest development of this revival, but New England has no monopoly of it. Under like conditions of use you will find door knockers now all through the country; we sell them not only in the East, but in the West and South as well.

"We are making door knockers now in seventy-five or more designs, to which number we occasionally add, and we make others to order from designs of the architect. They are made of bronze, brass and iron, with various styles of finish of the metal.

"The great majority are of Colonial designs, in which we reproduce not only the type but the Colonial periods. They range in price from \$1.50 for some of the simpler but perhaps quaint old forms, such as once were familiar on every door, up to \$30 to \$40 for the larger and more massive and elaborate.

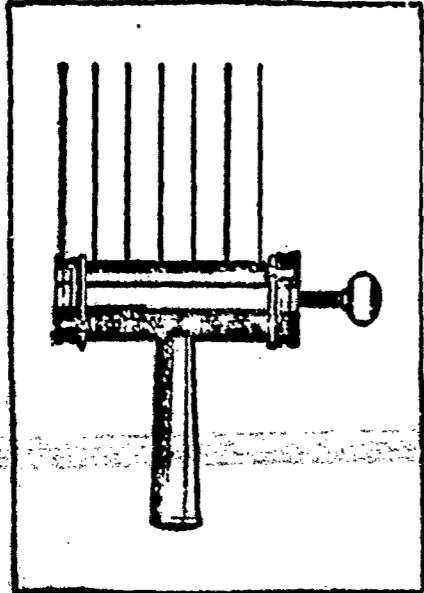
In this modern revival some door knockers have been attached to doors for use or ornament or for purposes of sheer utility. In this last described class would be put the door knocker now to be seen on fire houses in New York.

"This might seem an odd place to put a door knocker, but really it serves here a very useful purpose. In the house are various gongs and bells used for fire alarms, and the addition of another bell might be confusing to horses if not to men. So they put now on the smaller entrance door of the house a knocker.

"A door knocker is now placed in some cases on the smaller door at the front aside from the main entrance of American basement houses, the door for servants and for the delivery of merchandise, and a door knocker is sometimes placed on a port-cochere.

### Ice Cream Cutter.

It is often desirable to cut up large bricks or blocks of ice cream into smaller cakes or blocks of equal thickness. Generally this is accomplished with a knife, of course, each cake being cut separately. In the illustration below is shown an ice cream cutter, which will cut up a block of ice cream into many small cakes at one operation. The body of this device is of cylindrical form and open at both ends, the body having preferably two walls to render it strong. A handle is attached in the center, a vertical opening being formed directly opposite to the handle and extending from end to end of the body. The knives consist of



blades of any desired length, the edges being beveled or otherwise sharpened, each blade having a round head, these heads being of such diameter that they will fit snugly within the body, the blades extending out of the body through the opening. A thumbscrew connected with the head of each blade serves to keep the blades in position. It will be observed that all of the parts, with the exception of the handle, can be separated one from the other, so that each and every part of the device is really accessible for cleaning.

### HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

Dirty marks on wall papers may be removed by rubbing them with stale bread. Cut a thick slice of bread and rub the paper downward as evenly as possible.

After washing and drying black cotton stockings smooth them out well with the hands, for the frequent use of a hot iron makes them fade and become brown in color.

Lamp chimneys should not be washed, as this makes the glass brittle, but if held for a moment over a steaming teakettle and then polished with a soft, dry cloth; the result will be all that could be desired.

Excellent chocolate can be made by boiling four tablespoonfuls of chocolate in a pint of water and a pint of milk.

After the cleaning, rugs should be carefully looked over for breaks in the threads and in corners and mended at once, with linen carpet or wool, if necessary.

### As Consolation.

Egg—I'm getting jolly tired of being in hot water, I can tell you.  
Egg Pan—Oh, cheer up, my boy! You'll get hardened to it.—Exchange.

## HOME LIFE OF THE NEGRO.

Hospitality and Sweet Family Relations Characteristic.

"The negro home," says Mary White Ovington in *Charities*, "is generous and hospitable. Pushed aside by the rest of the community these folk gather the more closely together and while this carries with it the cliques and gossipings of a village life, it also strengthens and develops a willingness to help those who are in need. Considering his poverty very little relief is given to the negro in New York. This is partly because he does not understand how to use the charity that institutions for relief provide, but it is also because he cares for his own. The colored churches do much for their poor, and nearly all the colored people belong to sick benefit societies, but their frequent kindnesses are to another are their most constant charity. They adopt the child that has been deserted, and they feed the next door neighbor though they have little themselves. Their hospitality is sometimes almost too overflowing.

"Five frens' jus' come up 'om de South," one woman said to me in excusing the disorderly appearance of her five rooms. Her regular family consisted of nine.

"The standard of manners among the colored people," Miss Ovington continues, "is high for New York. This may be because the negro is not a New Yorker, but a Southerner. The pleasant voice and courteous ways of his old home remain with him. Neighbors who are friendly with them say that the children are usually well behaved.

"When breakfast or dinner comes on you will always find the table set," says Miss Ovington. "The tenement meal, eaten out of a paper bag without the setting of the table or the gathering together of the family, is unusual in the colored district. In the most modest homes a meal carries with it the air of a social function, the mother uses many dishes, though she must take the time from her laundry work to wash them."

In conclusion Miss Ovington says that the best class of negro homes, which she takes as the measure of the race, is increasing and is an honor to the Commonwealth.

### Selling Qualities of Food.

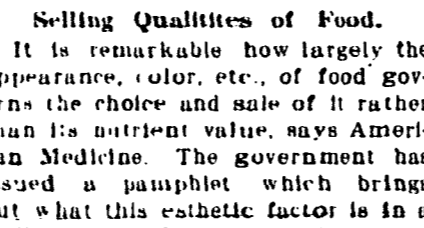
It is remarkable how largely the appearance, color, etc., of food governs the choice and sale of it rather than its nutritive value, says American Medicine. The government has issued a pamphlet which brings out what this esthetic factor is in a striking way. The color of butter, as we all know, has everything to do with its sale, but it seems that a very decided or dark color is demanded in New Orleans, while the pale tint permitted by Chicago would not do in Washington.

New York and San Francisco prefer white eggs, while in Boston brown eggs command the better price. Tomato catsup if artificially uncolored is not of the vivid hue demanded by all housekeepers. Caramel is used to color cider, vinegar and whiskey with the unnatural tint the public thinks is best.

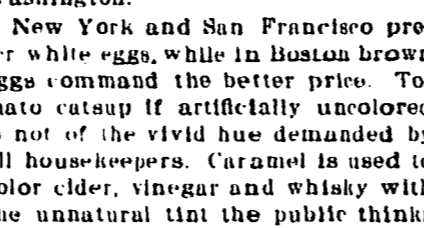
In our city and artificial life we are far removed from the farm and simple observation of agricultural life. Is the appearance becoming everything and the reality and actual qualities minor affairs? Much of the adulteration of food products consists in this use of artificial colorations. If we spent the force of our criticisms upon the adulterations, which really impair the nutritive values of foods, or are really poisonous, we would show better market acumen and get better food.

### Girl's Dress.

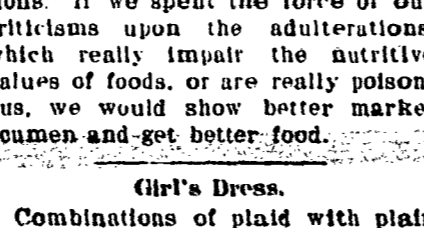
Combinations of plaid with plain material are much to be noted this season, and are always charming and attractive for little girls. Illustrated is a pretty little frock which is, however, rendered dressy by means of the contrast in materials which is exceedingly smart at the same time that it is absolutely simple. In the case of the model the ma-



terial is dark blue cashmere, and the plaid is one of the bright ones of the Scottish clans, but all materials that are used for little girls' dresses are appropriate and color is always a matter of individual preference. Plaids this year are exceptionally varied while also it will be found that the list of plain colors is a long one. Dark blue, always is serviceable, but brown and green in many shades are equally fashionable, and claret and Venetian reds are showing a greater number of shades than ever before.



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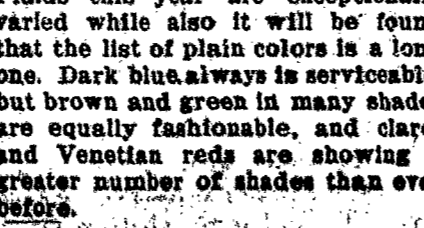
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## CARE OF THE FIGURE

DEPENDS UPON SITTING AND WALKING CORRECTLY.

Weight Badly Poised Develops Muscles and Organs That Spoil Symmetry—Avoid Slouching and Crossing Legs.

More women ruin their figures in later life by sitting badly when they are girls than many would believe. It is so comfortable to slouch and lounge in a chair when one is tired or when formality does not demand erect sitting that girls have a great way of dropping down into any position which suits them best at the moment, regardless of any after effects. Consequently as years go by their figures naturally inclined to lose their symmetry, for such is development under abnormal conditions of corsets and tight bands, are helped along in the wrong way, so that a woman of forty who is well proportioned is the exception, says the New York Telegram.

The most common effect of bad sitting is to develop the abdomen. Unless the pose is such that the spine bears the weight of the upper part of the body it is brought several inches up on the spine, curving that and throwing the front of the lower body out of plumb, thus developing it. An attitude which does this at the same time increases the size of the hips by putting upon them the weight that is intended for the spine. When sitting properly muscles about the hips do not begin to do as much work as when bad pose affects them.

Sitting correctly is a matter of habit more than anything else and one to be cultivated. It consists in being so far back in a chair that the lower part of the spine is supported. But the support ceases there, the rest must be done by the spine itself. If the back at the shoulders rests against the chair back the pose is wrong unless the chair has been specially built to fit the individual. If the spine so high is thrown back it will cause the abdomen to project. The shoulders, of course, are to be well thrown back, but not stiffly. An attitude such as this keeps the body correctly and naturally poised to hold its own weight, and the figure will not then be out of shape.

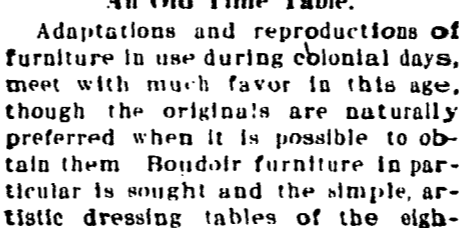
An Old Time Table.

Adaptations and reproductions of furniture in use during colonial days, meet with much favor in this age, though the originals are naturally preferred when it is possible to obtain them. Boudoir furniture in particular is sought and the simple, artistic dressing tables of the eighteenth century are duplicated in many a modern collection of furniture. These tables possess a style of their own and when as in the accompanying illustration they are fashioned from mahogany in a rich golden brown, with a soft dull polish that brings out the fine grain of the wood, they are exceedingly handsome. With dresser and bedstead to match in this beautiful wood, a bedroom cannot fail to be attractively furnished.

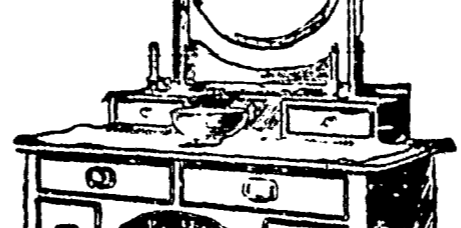
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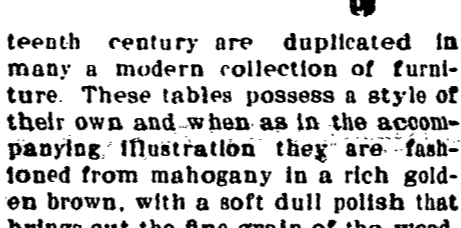
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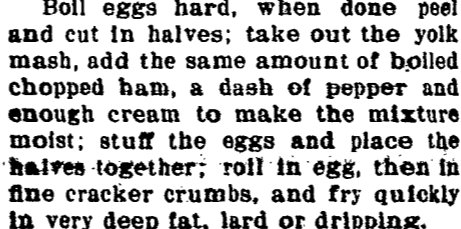
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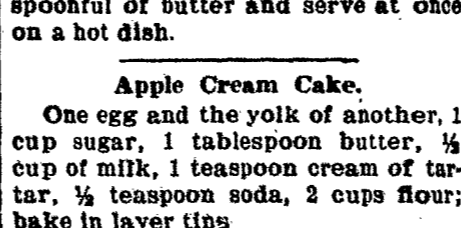
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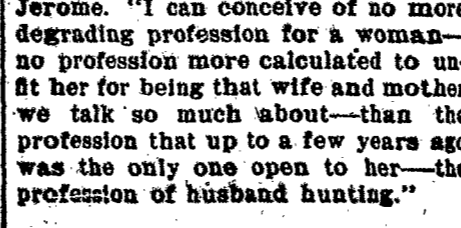
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