# WOMEN'S HAT MAKING

## MANY LANDS DRAWN UPON FOR ITS MATERIAL.

**Varied Braids of Which Women's Hats Are Made and Their Various Sources of Supply—The Hand Woven Braids of Italy—Processes of Hat Manufacture.**

What the making of toys is to the people of certain parts of Germany the platting of braids for hats is to the people dwelling in certain parts of Italy, and as in Germany whole families or all the people in a district may all their lives be engaged in the making of some particular kind of toy peculiar to that district, so in Italy whole families, and it may be succeeding generations, are engaged always in platting the same kind of braid.

The hat braids produced in Italy, which are largely for women's hat's are named after the cities or districts whence they come. Thus there is a Milan braid, a Tuscan braid, a Carpi braid, and so on.

Milan braids may vary in fineness and quality, but they are all alike in their characteristic weave. The art of making Milan braid is taught by a mother to her children; who in turn hand it down to their children; in this family they make always that one kind of braid.

The braids of finer quality are made at home by the older and more experienced workers of the family, those of poorer quality by the children in their odd hours or, it may be, on their way to and from school. Where these braids are made children may be seen walking along the streets or roads platting straw braid as they go, as children might be seen in the streets here knitting through a spool the woven cords which they use, when they have made enough of it, perhaps, for reins to play horse with or which they may make into bracelets or neck chains or fashion into a lamp mat. But while such knitting as is done here is done chiefly for amusement, the hat braid that the children in Italy plat in this way goes to swell the total of the family's production of braid, which in due time, with that of many other families in the region, will be gathered up and taken to one or another of the various Italian cities, which are at once centres of the collection of such braids and markets whence they are distributed throughout the world.

Switzerland and Belgium are the chief producers of various fancy hat braids for women's hats, braids of silk and of other materials, being mostly made by machinery. There are now made also fancy hat braids in this country.

Fancy hat braids are made of a variety of widths and weaves. There are hat braids made of hemp fibre, and hat braids in which silk is used in combination with other materials. There is a woven hat braid made of pyroxylin, a gun cotton material, looking as here used not unlike horsehair; and among the braids of recent years is one that is made of horsehair and that is called Neapolitan, though it is not made in Naples.

The hair for the making of horsehair braids, which are produced in a variety of weaves and colors, is gathered in Austria and Bavaria. It is bleached and dyed, and made up into braid in Switzerland and Belgium. Horsehair is fine and costly braid and lighter than straw.

Women's hats are sometimes made all in one piece, but commonly in two parts, the crown and the brim, separately, which are later sewed together; this because the head size, as the opening in the brim for the top of the head is called, may be smaller than the inside of the crown, or because the base of the crown may be smaller than its top; women's hats are made in many shapes.

With the braid, of whatever kind it may be, on a reel at her side, the operator sits at a power driven sewing machine. For the very center of the top of the crown she draws the braid around for two or three turns and sews it with her own fingers, and then she starts on the machine; and now under her expert guidance and manipulation the top of the crown expands rapidly. On a table in front of her she has a block of the shape of the hat crown she is to make—a crown form of this sort is called a block, and a brim form a flange.

While many hats are thus shaped and ironed by hand on wooden blocks and flanges, some are shaped and pressed in hydraulic presses, in which the blocks and flanges are metallic; and then there are some hat bodies that are not put into their final shapes in either of such ways, but which are sized and finished in the shape of a ball cone, these to be gathered up and fashioned into their final shape by a skilled and artistic designer.

### Piemaking Pointers.

Do not roll the paste out too thin for it will be dry and tasteless when baked.

When preserves are put into pies do not cover with a crust, but make a little effect with strips of dough.

Remember to flour the board and rolling pin well before rolling out the paste.

Unripe fruit should first be cooked and sweetened, or too long baking will make the crust tough.

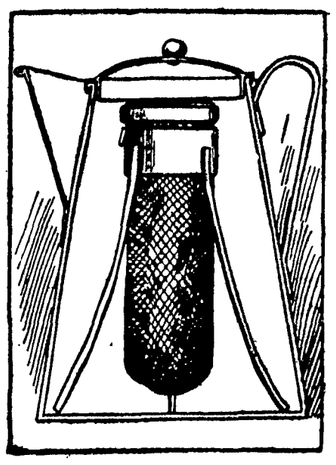
Mix pie dough with cold water, roll the dough on a marble or cold tin slab.

Butter makes a rich pie dough, but the crust is never so nice as when lard is used.

# USEFUL COFFEE POT FILTER.

## Can be Cleaned With Facility and as Readily Replaced.

An improved coffee pot filter, which can be removed and cleaned with facility and as readily replaced, is shown in the accompanying illustration. This filter can be used in conjunction with any coffee pot. It consists of a tubular body, supported in an upright position on wire legs near the top of the pot. Secured to the tube is a cloth bag, which reaches



BAG HOLDS COFFEE.

near the bottom of the coffee pot when fixed in position. The bag is made from a thin textile, it being possible to open the upper end to receive the coffee. By pouring boiling water into the pot or filling the pot to any desired height with cold water and boiling it the water percolates through the bag and extracts the strength from the coffee in the well-known manner.

### GUIDES TO HEALTH.

Application of zinc ointment will take away the scars and red spots left by severe pimples.

To clear and whiten the skin take the juice of a lemon and a dash of salt in a glass of cold water every morning.

Either orange-flower water or rose water will take the place of elderflower water when it is impossible to obtain the latter.

For corns try the milky juice of the common dandelion, a single application of which will probably cause the corn to disappear as if by magic.

It is decidedly worth while to practice certain balancing exercises that will do much toward retaining elasticity of movement and giving the body perfect poise.

### The Unattached Woman.

Nowhere else in the world is the woman who has chosen the single life so thoroughly her own mistress, so wholly the arbiter of her own destiny, so completely at liberty to create the atmosphere that shall make for her happiness as in New York.

In Paris she is declasse—an object of social suspicion—because she has not openly annexed a breadwinner.

In London she becomes the mother, by proxy, of her sister's children, or some distant relative's children.

In the lesser cities of the United States, a writer in Woman believes, some of the old prejudice remains against the woman who has missed or declined matrimony. She is to a degree the superfluous woman, and as such is tolerated or pitied, but never approved.

### NEEDLEWORK NOTES.

The chief things to remember in cutting a dress skirt are not to stretch gored edges and to allow enough length so that it can be lifted in the back without making it short at the sides.

Darning a tear in wool or silk or cotton material should always be done with ravellings, and where two kinds of thread are used in making the material it is well to use them in the same way in darning.

In cutting out, so some tailors say, it is better to cut with the nap up, instead of down, as in cloth. This method is said to prevent rubbed spots, the material retaining its bloom a much longer period.

### Trial of the Russian Bride.

A Russian bride has not to submit to the trying ordeal for her beauty of appearing in white attire in the cold light of day. The wedding takes place by candlelight in the drawing room of the bride's mother. After the ceremony there is a banquet, followed by a ball, and after that there is a supper, after which a new satin slipper is filled with wine and passed round to the bridegroom's friends, who drink from it to the health of the bride.

### How to Mend a Stay.

The nicest way to mend a broken corset or dress stay is to bind the top of the stay or where it is broken with a small piece of chamois skin. The end of the stay, it will be found, will not pierce through the chamois as it frequently does through cloth.

### To Clean Agate Ware.

To clean agate ware that has become stained take 1 tablespoonful of choloride of lime and a small piece of soda, then fill with cold water and let come to a boil. Rinse well.

# WHY WOMEN AGE QUICKLY.

## Fail to rest Systematically—Sleep the Best Medicine.

Lack of repose is a prime factor in the causation of "nerves," says Elizabeth S. Chesser, M. B., in the London Express; the constant rush in the social and business world, the frantic pursuit of pleasure and amusement are frequent precursors of nervous ill-health.

The working woman ages quickly and loses her looks ten years before her domesticated sister, simply because she refuses to rest enough. She comes to her meals in a fagged condition, and is surprised that she has no appetite. A short bodily rest before meals would make all the difference. Then, hard working men and women alike should always have at least half an hour's complete mental and physical rest after meals. Systematic resting at meal times is better than desultory, though longer continued rests, at other times.

A half day in bed occasionally is excellent medicine for the business woman. Novel reading in moderation is not to be despised as a rest remedy while sound refreshing slumber at night is nature's method of nerve repair.

The placid easy going people can afford to curtail their rest, they seldom do, but those of a nervous, energetic disposition require all the sleep they can get. Their wear and tear is excessive, and when the symptoms of irritability and worry appear they should serve as a warning that the brake is required. Unfortunately most people at this stage resort to drugs and strong tea, medicine and alcohol. They feel the need of stimulants or sedatives.

Sleep is the best and cheapest medicine, and it is within the reach of everybody. We require as much sleep as we can procure. We may work at high pressure if we sleep enough, but if we overwork and under sleep irritability, insomnia and neurasthenia are almost certainly in store. One of the prime causes of ill health among men and women who have to work with their brains is neglect of sleep. The woman who curtails her sleep begins to worry.

### Pretty Afternoon Gown.

The liberty foulards are always pretty for afternoon and evening wear, and are shown in a great variety of beautiful colors and design. This one has the lustrous satin surface and shows figures of white on a pale blue ground while it is trimmed

with black velvet ribbin and worn with a chemisette of cream colored lace. The color effect is a very lovely one and the gown is one of exceptional grace and charm. The skirt is made with the hem and two wide tucks that mean such satisfactory weight and such graceful folds as well as effective trimming and which also is laid in two small tucks at each seam, which extend from the belt well over the hips. The waist is made with a prettily shaped chemisette and is exceedingly smart in effect while it is absolutely simple withal. In addition to the foulards the model will be found a very desirable one for all the pretty silks and light weight wools and marquisettes, voiles and the like while it can be utilized for some of the handsomer cotton and silk and cotton fabrics which it is such a misnomer to call washable. The waist is closed invisibly at the back and can be made with the pretty three-quarter or long sleeves.

### FEMININE REFLECTIONS.

It is incorrect to say that one is tired of life. People expressing themselves that way mean they are tired of themselves.

If you look attractive at breakfast you will be more likely to have your husband's company at dinner.

A woman will ofter say no when she means yes; but never yes when she means no.

### Hanging Sash Curtains.

First see that the hem you run on the rod is about one inch wide, then all you have to do is to put your thimble on the end of the rod and shove it through the hem. This does away with the end of the rod catching and tearing the curtain. When laundering leave that part of the hem unironed as they run on etter.

# A WOMAN'S EXERCISE

## DANCING TAKES FIRST PLACE SAYS AN EXPERT.

**Physical Reasons Why Exercises Suited for Men Are Not Adapted to Women—Grace Should Be Woman's Aim in Exercise.**

"Should women be encouraged to take part in competitive athletics and sports?" Dr. Luther H. Gulick, president of the American Physical Education Association and head of the department of physical education in the public schools of New York, repeated the question thoughtfully.

"There is a woman's problem in exercise as there is in many other things," he went on. "Fortunately, with reference to exercise the differences between men and women are more tangable and we know the facts upon which those differences rest better than we know those in connection with political organization, for example.

"Years ago when I was beginning this work I believed that the difference between men and women was caused by the difference in their training. I no longer have any such idea. I know that the physique of men and of women differed in the beginning—man to be the fighter, the protector, woman for motherhood.

"But this is only the beginning of the argument. Women are shaped differently from men. At an equal height and weight, a man's shoulders are broader than a woman's. So that in every form of gymnastics or athletics which depends on leverage and strength of shoulders the man will excel, even if he is not muscularly stronger than the woman.

"A further handicap is placed on woman in the size of her hips. Her trunk also is longer. Therefore in all gymnastic work in which the weight of the body is held by the arms such as work on the parallel and horizontal bars, a woman has to support the bulk of her weight further from the bar than does a man. Her center of gravity is lower.

"These physical facts do not differentiate all men from all women, because there are exceptional men who have shoulders and hips such as are usually seen on women, and vice versa, we occasionally find women who are muscularly stronger than most men, women whose bones have the leverage that belongs to men. But I am speaking of the average.

"When we come to severe tests of endurance we find that woman is not less handicapped. In proportion she has decidedly smaller lungs. The red corpuscles in her blood are also smaller than those of the man, so their carrying capacity of oxygen is less.

"The weight of a woman's body in proportion to her breathing power is much greater than that of a man's. For this reason she cannot compete with him in running, any more than she can compete with him in feats of muscular strength.

"The athletic exercises and games best suited to women are moderate and graceful, not those involving competition and strain all forms of callisthenics and light gymnastics, archery, lawn tennis, swimming, field hockey, lacrosse, bicycling, rowing canoeing, golf, skating fencing, and basketball. In all athletic exercises in which women engage good form should be required rather than records.

"Women may be excused for not being as strong and enduring as men, but they cannot be excused for not being more finished and graceful. Good carriage, perfect poise, self-command and exquisite grace and refinement should enter into women's athletic performances.

"But, as I said before, for physical developement I prefer moderate and graceful exercise without the spirit of competition and strain. Women needs vigorous exercise less than man, and she profits by it less. Woman stands continuous work far better than man, and she profits more than man by mild exercise extended over long periods.

"Walking means more to women than to men. Dancing above all forms of exercise is best suited to women.

### Wives Who Help.

Hundreds of thousands of men have had a lifelong weary struggle, and their brilliant talents have yielded only a tithe of the harvest they were entitled to and many have come to the bankruptcy court because their wives have not been "able to get on," in the place and with the people among whom his business and professional lines are cast.

Happy the man who marries a wife gifted with that large charity which covers up a multitude of her neighbors transgressions!

A kind heart, a tactful tongue, and a determination to play a true partner's part in avoiding cliques, quarrels, and sets—a woman of these qualities is, a "gain" to any man.

### DICTATES OF FASHION.

Filet lace rules this season as Irish lace did two seasons ago. The square mesh is the thing.

The expression of the figure is carried to a fashionable perfection when the waist is small and the shoulders wide, and to obtain that result all smart gowns are fashioned.

Crochet buttons of silk are to be had in all colorings. Buttons of tortoise and other shells, enriched with gold or mock jewels are fetching.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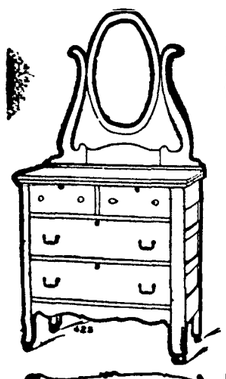

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