

THE AMERICAN WIFE

AS SEEN BY THE FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE STUDIED HER.

Think Her An Utterly Selfish Creature—Indifferent to Her Husbands Needs—Leaves Him to Manage Servants and House.

The American woman has solved a problem of the ages, for as a wife enthroned she proves it is not only possible to get something for nothing, but every day of her life exemplifies what an easy job she finds it. I have passed a dozen years in the United States and a few pictures from my experience may be not uninteresting, says a distinguished foreigner in the Pittsburgh Gazette. My first host on this side of the water was the owner and editor of one of the foremost New England newspapers. Ten years previously he had married a pretty, vivacious little creature, the penitential daughter of one of his own professors. Their establishment was conducted on a lavish, luxurious scale, and in extremely good style. At dinner the first night, I noticed that as the different courses appeared my friend seemed anxious and kept a sharp, organizing eye upon the servant. Madam, on the contrary, was not only a miracle of French modishness, but wore an air of complete serenity, while amusing us with gay, clever talk. Finally, some dish went wrong and there was a muffled explosion from the master.

Thereupon the wife called my attention to her husband, asking if it were possible for any man to feel as worried as he looked. "You know," she remarked, in airy fashion, "Charley takes housekeeping much too seriously. It is often positively annoying the way he frets and fusses over trifles."

I imagined in the innocence of my heart that my friend's message was unique, I studied his workings for one week, all the while in a state of gasping amazement. By seven o'clock every morning the good soul was up and hard at it. He wrote out menus for the day, then went marketing for food to supply them. He audited and paid bills, engaged and dismissed servants, adjusted domestic difficulties, looked for dust, and all but counted the silver. It was monstrous. The poor fellow confided in me once, that the control of his great newspaper was child's play compared to trying to please "Pussy" in the housekeeping. When I asked him why in heaven's name they did not engage a woman to relieve him of such confounding responsibility, he told me his wife had tried half a dozen paid housekeepers, but none of them gave satisfaction, and she always fell back on him.

I know a wealthy, influential New York banker, who at Enster every year runs down to his Tuxedo house to prepare for the summer, and in October makes his town residence ready for the new season. He goes carefully through linen and china cupboards, examines paint and paper, furniture and store rooms and so forth, noting and carefully supplying any detail that may be needed. And then only after the establishment is perfectly equipped and in faultless running order even to cut flowers in the vases, does he permit his wife to come and approve of his labors. In fact, as a rule, he persuades the dear thing to take a little trip to the Virginia Hot Springs to brace up her health.

You must understand her overwrought nerves are apt to give way with a crash under the responsibility of irritation, and that hawk-eyed Wall Street operator, who holds the back flag of piracy in business, is an abject slave to the wife of his bosom. He plans surprise gifts to win her smiles, takes an absorbing interest in her clothes and doings, and swears by her beauty. Nor is her ingratitude surprising. With such exorbitant indulgences, the woman naturally become capricious and hard to please. The American man is more consistently considerate of, and generous to women, than any fellow on earth, and in no country does he get sharper snubbing for his pains.

I remember one very enlightening experience that gave me a look in upon the cool calculating way ladies in the United States manage their lords. I was at a country house one morning, when the hostess treated us to a deplorable scene of alternate temper and tears because a tradesman failed to deliver a saddle she fancied. As a matter of course the husband was accused of both negligence and cruelty. He had done all mortal man could to gratify her whim, but because someone blundered there were reproaches, even a threat of hysteria. Naturally our riding party was dished, and my fingers fairly itched to take that spoiled piece of baggage by the shoulders and while shaking her, soundly deal out a few stimulating truths. Would you believe it, the man who should have put the lady in her place was reduced to a state of agitation and despair by his wife's antics. With his arms about her shoulders he led her away, and I have no doubt in my own mind promised jewels by the peck to restore her to good humor.

Now the most remarkable part of the story is that after dinner the same evening my hostess calmly referred to the undignified incident and remarked that Gilbert had long been in need of a sound pulling up

THE DEBUTANTE'S CATECHISM

To be Carefully Committed to Memory By the Society Bad.

Q. Who are you?
A. A Society Debutante.

Q. What is a Society Debutante?
A. A girl of eighteen who is going through the important process of being brought out.

Q. Who brings you out?
A. My mother.

Q. For what purpose?
A. For the purpose of what is technically termed "getting me off."

Q. Explain the meaning of this technical term "getting you off."
A. It means to convey me bodily, with all my contingent advantages, drawbacks, and expenses of maintenance, to the first eligible man who is willing to take an assignment of the property.

Q. What is an eligible man?
A. A man begins to be eligible at 110,000 a year, and his eligibility increases upward in arithmetical progression.

Q. Of what age is the eligible man?
A. He may be of any age from twenty to eighty.

Q. Of what appearance is he?
A. He may be of any appearance from a Belvedere Apollo to an Oring-Outang. But he more often inclines toward the latter appearance.

Q. Of what character is he?
A. He may be of good character, or, as is more frequently the case, of no character.

Q. Of what nationality is he?
A. The eligible man may be of any nationality, or (which is more usual) a conglomeration of all the nationalities from Palestine westward.

Q. What is a society wedding?
A. A ceremony in the course of which amid the most sacred surroundings and the most solemn formulas, the greatest possible amount of lies and perjury is compressed into the smallest possible compass of words.

Q. Where are these perjuries committed?
A. At the altar of a smart church.

Q. By whom are they committed?
A. Both by the Bridegroom and the Bride, who in the name of God make all sorts of solemn promises that they have no intention whatever of carrying out.

Q. Is there any sin in committing perjury under such conditions?
A. There is no sin but rather a virtue in so doing.

Q. By what proofs can you support this?
A. By the presence and approval of my dear father and mother, and by the benediction of the Bishop, or other high ecclesiastical dignitary, who performs the ceremony.

Q. What is a detrimental?
A. A good-looking, but impecunious young man whose attentions I have repelled coldly before marriage and shall encourage warmly afterward.

Q. What are children?
A. The plague of married life, from which it is my most earnest and pious wish that I may be exempted.

Q. What is the maternal instinct?
A. A fashionable sentiment among our ancestors which went out with bonnets, chaperons and table-centres.

Q. What is a heart?
A. An internal organ connected with the circulation of the blood.

Q. What is love?
A. A form of mental disease described by poets and writers of fiction but only prevalent in the present day among the lower orders.—London Truth.

Q. What is a detrimental?
A. A good-looking, but impecunious young man whose attentions I have repelled coldly before marriage and shall encourage warmly afterward.

Q. What is a heart?
A. An internal organ connected with the circulation of the blood.

Q. What is love?
A. A form of mental disease described by poets and writers of fiction but only prevalent in the present day among the lower orders.—London Truth.

Q. What is a detrimental?
A. A good-looking, but impecunious young man whose attentions I have repelled coldly before marriage and shall encourage warmly afterward.

Q. What is a heart?
A. An internal organ connected with the circulation of the blood.

Q. What is love?
A. A form of mental disease described by poets and writers of fiction but only prevalent in the present day among the lower orders.—London Truth.

Q. What is a detrimental?
A. A good-looking, but impecunious young man whose attentions I have repelled coldly before marriage and shall encourage warmly afterward.

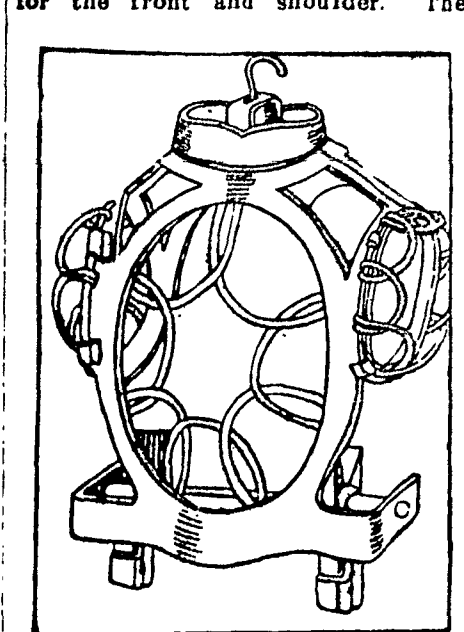
Q. What is a heart?
A. An internal organ connected with the circulation of the blood.

Q. What is love?
A. A form of mental disease described by poets and writers of fiction but only prevalent in the present day among the lower orders.—London Truth.

NOVEL GARMENT HOLDER

Device to Prevent Waists From Soiling When Not in Use.

Suitable coat and trousers hangers have now become a permanent fixture in every man's wardrobe; but up to the present time only one attempt has been made to provide similar accessories for lady's wardrobe. This woman's garment-hanger is shown here, the invention of an Ohio man. It consists of a bust-like body frame, with adjustable forms for the front and shoulder. The



HOLDS THE WAIST.

Device is made expandable and contractible, being easily adjustable to suit any figure. At the top is a hook whereby the garment can be suspended on the hanger in the closet. This garment-holder would prove profitable to every woman who endeavors to carefully preserve her garments, preventing them from becoming soiled and wrinkled when not being worn.

Rose Color and White.

Colored pongees are very lovely this season, and being exceedingly youthful in effect, make most satisfactory dresses for the younger girls. The model illustrated shows a very pretty shade of rose with embroidery of white executed on the material and the little chemisette of inserted tucking, the combination being a very dainty and charming one which is practical as well as the frock and can be laundered with ease and with success. The design is both simple



and graceful and can be made as illustrated with the chemisette, or without it, the neck being slightly open, as preferred. All the pretty lines and soft finished piques are eminently appropriate and also thin materials such as India linen and the like can be utilized for the washable frock while for the still more dressy ones the pretty rose color, pale blue and similar pongees would be charming so made.

Man's Definition of Economy.

In nothing is the radical difference between the two sexes more fully illustrated than in their attitude toward this question. A man's definition of economy is to get the thing he wants for the least possible expenditure of time, money and effort.

A woman's definition of economy is to do without the thing she wants in order that later on she may buy the things she does not want.

When a man goes to buy an article, if the first thing that is shown him suits him and is of a reasonable price, he buys it. To a woman this seems such mad extravagance that it strikes terror to her soul, and every wife, seeing her husband doing things like this, secretly wonders how he ever happened to keep out of the poorhouse before he got her to take care of his pocketbook.

Now, considering that the subject of economy is a most important one in almost every household in the land and that economy is a topic upon which the average husband and father preaches daily to his women-kind, and that woman do honestly give a great deal of thought and attention to its consideration, and are perfectly sincere in their admiration of their own achievements as economists, it is worth while to call attention to how the mind of woman works its wonders to perform along this line.

FEMININE ATTIRE

IMPORTANCE TO A WOMAN OF TASTE IN DRESS.

Where Economy Means Misery—How to Spend and Where to Buy—Things That Last Too Long—Expensive Materials.

It is a well established fact that a man's or a woman's career is largely a matter of character. The determined, face set to the front individual will succeed under circumstances and conditions where the indolent, not quite sure of himself or anything else person will go to the wall.

Now it is quite remarkable how character shows in clothes writes M. Stanley Clark in the London Chronicle, and this applies most particularly to the weaker sex. A man, provided he employs a good tailor and possesses a trousers press, can hardly fail to be well turned out. There are certain well defined lines from which nothing will permit him to stray.

We all know it—we all meet daily instances of it. Two sisters, perhaps, who with identically the same money and opportunities are one well, the other poorly, turned out. A woman is always judged by appearance, so the badly and unattractively dressed girl starts heavily handicapped in the race of life. No matter what stake she is entering for there are long odds against her passing the winning post before her smarter sister.

This being so, and who will deny it—it seems a pity the ill dressed woman should not realize her plight put her pride in her pocket and determine to mend her ways.

Four glaring instances in which economy always spells misery spring to my mind. The first two, as every one will guess, are gloves and boots and shoes. It is hard to say whether a cheap glove or a cheap shoe is the most hateful, and mark you, in the long run the most extravagant. But ill cut, ill fitting gloves cannot hurt and harm a hand as a shoe can a foot. Happy comfortable feet have a lot to say to health, and they are quite attainable without having resort to broad toes and no heels. Another false economy is cheap corsets. Let some experienced corsetier study your figure and carefully fit you—don't pin your faith on what fits other people.

And the fourth false economy is—your tailor made gowns. Don't, don't get the little dressmaker who made your chiffon blouse so prettily to contrive you a tailor made golfing suit out of that length of tweed you picked up at a sale. If you can't go to a good man then buy your coat and skirt ready made at some reliable house where you will be sure of a good cut and good material and where the necessary alterations will be carried out by one of their tailors.

These are four of the most glaring false economies. Now for the reverse and less pleasant side of the shield—where to cut down.

First of all, start with a clear idea and realization of what you have to spend on your dress annually. Apportion it quarterly, and as each quarter comes around decide what you will need and what you must do without during the next three months.

An important economy is not to get too many clothes. Get what you want and wear it out at once, especially in these days when fashion is so fickle. Again, on the other hand, don't expect one garment to cover as many needs as charity is supposed to cover sins. Sometimes one's dress can fulfil two purposes—supply two needs. But not very often. If it meets one crying want really adequately it's all you can expect of it. How often women say, "Yes, I seem to have heaps of clothes, but nothing that is really right." This purgatorial state of existence is the outcome of not knowing what you really want and will really have need of, and of trying to make one frock fill two functions with the result that it is not really right for either.

An important economy, and not such a small one either, is not to buy too expensive materials. I do not for a moment counsel patronizing shoddy stuffs, but we do not wear out our gowns as our grandmothers did. The polite salesman's plea that it will "last forever" does not apply to our needs as it did to theirs. In fact, it is rather a drawback. The knowledge that the material of an out of date garment is "as good as new" is apt to tempt one down the downward path of pitching and patching.

On the other hand all sorts of economies can be made and time saved by buying things in quantity instead of singly. Always buy in the cheap market when you can, and people know that at sale times extraordinary economies can be effected by judicious and restrained marketing. Notice too, the relative prices in shops. Sometimes a shop starts by being cheap and raises its prices gradually as custom increases. But many women go on blindly buying there because "their things are so wonderfully cheap, you know." Open your eyes, my dear lady, and you will see your remark ought to be in the past tense.

Character in clothes! Take heart of grace—and these few hints. Start afresh and determine that your clothes shall give you a good character.

Why should a man make a fool of himself when he can save so much time by getting a woman to do it for him?

ARTIFICIAL BEAUTY A FAD.

Excesses to Which It is Carried—Seen on Paris Boulevard.

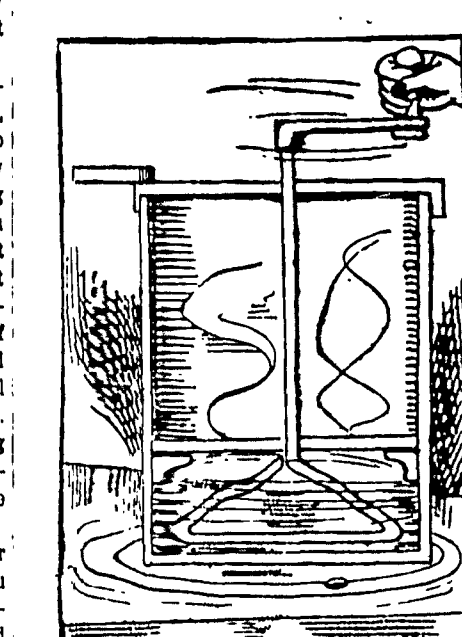
Included, so far as the egotism and ignorance of the twentieth century luxurious woman gone, so remote is she from the big, tumultuous, yibbling thing known as humanity; that mere beauty, the beauty that Nature gives, no longer satisfies her. Anyone may have this beauty, her maid, the woman who serves her in the shops, and so her life study is not the great lovely radiance of beauty that is in color and line and expression and esprit; she seeks the unusual, the eccentric, the trick that may differentiate her. She cultivates pallor with morbidly red lips. She stamps her ears red or tints her eyelids and upper face a strange yellow that is esoteric and bewildering. Her hair is just a part of the color scheme, she desires in her make-up red or gold or dead black or straw or white.

She calls this strange confusion of nature her temperament. I have seen in Paris on the Boulevard des Italiens in a single afternoon a dozen women with their faces painted a queer mauve, their lips purple and all draped in pale red or purple veils. I have not yet found out what phase of mysterious charm it was intended to express. But the Frenchmen at the cafes know. They peered up over the pale green drink and wagged studio beards appreciatively.

In America the purple complexion has not yet arrived, but among the newly rich insolence has taken possession of the younger generation, and egotism with it, and the morbid desire for a personal picturesque eccentricity, and the need to express a full understanding that the world is largely peopled with "mere masses"—and above all there is the desire to seem artificial.

Simple Cooking Utensils.

Egg and cake beaters of numerous styles and shapes have been invented to take the place of the tedious beating by hand. An equal number of devices for stirring food cooking on the fire have also been introduced. The fault of the majority is in the construction of the beater, the latter not being of the proper shape. In most cases the beater fails to reach the corners of the receptacle. An Illinois inventor, recognizing the disadvantage,



REACHES ALL CORNERS

has constructed a cooking utensil in which the stirrer or beater is of an entirely different form from those generally in use. As shown in the illustration, the stirrer has a perfectly flat lower portion, instead of the usually accepted one of cylindrical shape. This device would be found especially valuable where it is necessary to continually stir liquids on the fire to prevent burning. On account of its peculiar shape, the stirrer reaches all the corners of the cooking pot.

Memorial to Longfellow.

The daughters of the poet Longfellow—Miss Longfellow, Mrs. Dana and Mrs. Thorpe—have given Bowdoin College an endowment of \$10,000 to establish a scholarship in literature in memory of their father. This scholarship is for the benefit of graduate students who, having shown proficiency and promise in the direction of belles-lettres, wish to pursue the study of English literature in some university at home or abroad. The fact of the scholarship was announced at the pleasing commencement exercises at Bowdoin in the historic First Congregational church, where the poet delivered his famous "Mortuis Salutamus" and where Mrs. Stowe conceived the idea of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Mysterious Green.

To those who believe in the influence of color the shades of green afford an interesting study not only green things found in nature, but the scale of greens is so varied.

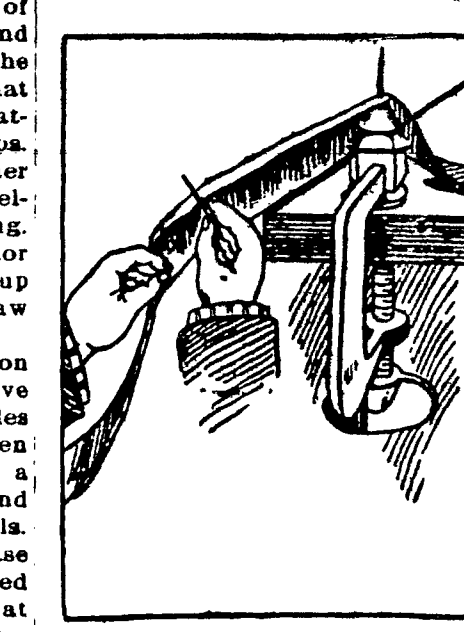
Green is, or was, the chosen color of Venus or the Scandinavian goddess Freya and should be worn upon Friday, her name day.

The color has always been considered mysterious in its influence. All green creatures, such as snakes or birds, are weird, and people with what are known as green hazel eyes need to be carefully considered, and among clairvoyants green stands for intellectual power. Just as they speak of the "blue of peace, rose of love and scarlet of anger."

AIDS THE DRESSMAKER.

Goods Supported on a Holder Clamped to Table.

A very simple and practical aid to the dressmaker is a device called a "work-holder." The invention of an Indiana woman. It was designed especially to assist the sewer in basting and similar work. As shown in the illustration, it consists of a holder, which can be instantly clamped to the work-table or other nearby object. At the top of the clamp is



HOLDS GOODS WHILE SEWING.

a large needle, which is supported rigidly upright in the holder. In use one end of the piece of goods to be sewed is slipped on the needle and the goods stretched with the left hand. The operator is thus able to sew freely and quickly with the right hand. As one part of the piece of goods is sewed it is slipped off the needle and advanced to the next point.

Perfect Fitting Shirt Waists.

By using the following suggestion anyone who makes her own shirt waists may have a perfect fit without the trouble of standing before a glass to try on.

Have a strong lining made, fitting you as perfectly as a princess gown with long, tight sleeves, sewed in without gathers and fitting the arms smoothly from shoulder to wrist.

Have the waist fitted snugly over the hips fully six inches below the waist line, and even all around. A straight, high collar just the size of the neck is sewed to the waist.

After stitching up the opening, whether back or front, from neck to bottom, tack the bottom to a round piece of board that just fits it, or sew to thick cardboard.

Now commence and stuff it firmly, just as you would a rag doll, filling and rounding out all parts, sleeves and all, up to the collar, placing a stiff piece of cardboard inside to make the neck firm, and sewing a round circle of cardboard at the neck where the head should be.

Now you have a perfect figure of your own measurements to stand before you on your sewing table to fit your waists on. It is far more satisfactory than a form bought that very seldom corresponds in all parts with anybody's figure, and has the advantage of costing nothing.—Boston Post.

HOME COOKING.

Bolled Mutton.

Wipe the leg of mutton with a wet cloth, put into a kettle, cover with cold water and bring slowly to the boil. Simmer all the way through, as hard boiling toughens the meat. Allow fifteen minutes to each pound of mutton. Fifteen minutes before removing from the water, add salt to taste. Take from the liquor, drain very dry and serve with caper sauce.

Baked Tomatoes.

Wipe firm tomatoes, cut a little piece from the top of each, fit into this a round of American cheese and lay a bit of butter on top. Dust with salt and pepper, set side by side in a roasting pan, pour a little salted water or weak stock about the base of the tomatoes and bake until tender, then transfer carefully to a hot dish.

Canned Lima Beans.

Shell the beans, lay in cold water for an hour, drain, cover with salted boiling water and cook until tender. Drain the beans, pack in glass jars boil up the liquor in which they were cooked and fill the jars to overflowing with this, then seal at once.

FASHION'S MANDATE.

Colored valencinnes all over is quite a novelty in blouses. Dyed naturally, but none the less lovely for that.

Many of the hand-embroidered batistes have inserted bands and patterns of pale-colored batiste laid in tucks.

Of great height are the combs and one of the most striking, of amber, has a butterfly of brilliants inserted in the top.

Wool and silk volles are to be worn again and are trimmed with quillings of ribbon or embroideries and lace insertions.

Princess frocks of black velvet, each seam outlined with jet, worn by the young contingent, assume a Gibson girl air. Such a gown is usually accompanied by a big black picture hat and a white feather boa.