

Notes and Comment

Of Interest to Women Readers

AID FOR DISH WASHING.

Combined Dishpan and Drain Greatly Facilitates Drying.

The humble but important operation of dishwashing has been greatly facilitated through the genius of a Kansan. This man has designed a combined dishpan and drain that will save both time and towels, as it permits the water to drip off the dishes before they are dried. The utensil is made for use only in its usual capacity. The dishpan is cut away to allow one end of the drain through to enter it. This trough rests on legs which give it a downward slant toward the pan, and in the bottom is a rack on which



Water Flows Back into Pan.

the dishes are stood. This rack is raised slightly, so that the water which drips from the china, glass, etc., runs back into the pan. In this way the dishes are rendered comparatively dry before the towel is applied to them, with the result that they can be completely dried much more speedily than when taken directly from the rinse water, and the towel does not become hopelessly saturated, as by the old-fashioned method.

Woman Judge Sought for Weddings.

Judge Mary H. Cooper of Mitchell, Kan., is probably the only woman in the world on the Probate bench, and she enjoys another distinction in being the most popular "marring judge" in Kansas. In fact, she has become known as the "Marring Judge," and in Mitchell it is the favorite term by which she is identified. There's a reason for her popularity, and it is a strictly feminine one at that. She has stricken the word "obey" out of the marriage ceremony, and this is a concession which appeals to the average Kansas bride. "Marriages are increasing in my office," says Judge Cooper. "Young women are pleased because I have dropped the vow of obedience, and then I have made an effort to get away from the hackneyed, machine-like way in which civil marriages generally are performed. I make a little fuss over each couple that comes to me, and I send away feeling that the business of becoming man and wife is not dull routine. As a result young women like to get married by me, and then I always make it a point to kiss the bride-room."

Household and White Hands.

Do not be afraid to give a lift with the family work for fear your lily white hands will suffer. The secret of smooth hands is not idleness and never putting them in dish water. One can be almost a household drudge and yet not be ashamed to deal a deck of cards or let your best young man hold your hand.

The secret of good looking hands is thorough washing, pure soap, careful drying, and frequent anointing with soothing lotions and oils. If you must wash dishes insist upon having a toilet soap rather than the kitchen variety and your skin will not suffer. Scrubbing is the worst feature of housekeeping in its action on the hands, and loose rubber gloves should be used as often as possible. The girl who must do rough work should never forget the value of a lemon in keeping the skin smooth. A piece kept on the sink will do wonders in overcoming the bad effect of household work.

Family of Nine Weighs a Ton.

Mrs. A. T. Smith and her four daughters of Friendly, W. Va., weigh a trifle of 1,019 pounds, or an average of 203 4/5 pounds each. The mother is 45 years old and tips the beam at 240 pounds. Her oldest daughter is 23 and weighs 294 pounds. The second daughter is 21 and her weight is 198 pounds. The third daughter, 14, also is 192 pounds, while the baby of the family, 11 years old, has only 89 pounds to her credit. This Smith family holds still another record. The four men in it weigh 1,057 pounds. This gives a grand total of 2,076 pounds, or an average for the nine members of 230 1/3 pounds.

A Shelf on Hinges.

An extra shelf, fixed on hinges, in the passageway near the dining room, will be found very useful. It should be screwed on hinges to a backboard set firmly to the wall. An oak board is the best thing, as it will not warp. A chain at each end of the shelf is attached to a hook in the backboard to hold up the shelf when in use. When the shelf is not any longer needed the chains are loosened from the hooks and the board folds down on the hinges flat against the wall.

Of Interest to Women

Women in Journalism—An Exposition on the Free, A Moderate Education Coupled With Common Sense and the Saving Grace of Humor, Suffices for a Beginning.

A woman can enter on journalism more easily than on any other intellectual work. She needs not a college degree. A moderate education suffices for a beginning if she has as its fruit readiness in making a plain statement of fact, common sense, insight, adaptability and the saving grace of humor.

Not only can she do some newspaper work as well as a man, but she has created lines of work in which she can have no masculine competitors. Still more, the occupation by which she lives enables her often to be a powerful factor in the social uplift. But to the "good end" she must respect herself and her calling.

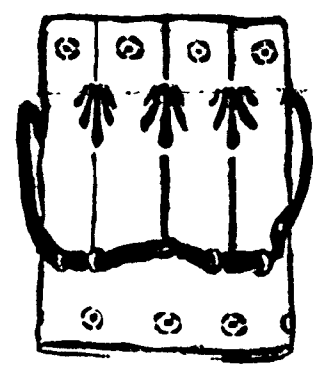
We are on the eve of perhaps the most thrilling epoch of our country's history, for now true liberty is menaced by liberty's worst foe—licentiousness. The anarchist has attacked the officer of the law on his hearthstone and has murdered the spokesman of religion at his altar. All the evil things which resent law and order are coming to the light, ready to turn our whole land into a huge Paris of '83. Believe me, the space heretofore accorded in too many papers to the pleasures and scandals of multimillionaire freedom will soon be strictly limited in the interest of matters of more urgent import.

And here the conservatism of women in private life and as exponents on the press of all life will be potent in conserving the home and the nation.—Katherine E. Conway.

Hard to Be a Bride.

La Fonde, the first woman's newspaper published in France, has taken up an energetic campaign for equal suffrage. Mme. Marguerite, editor of the paper, points out that French women stand in more need of the ballot than the women of any other civilized country. She says that in France women are in the light of inferior mortals in the eyes of the law, and she attributes to the unequal conditions the complaisant attitude of Paris and other large cities to the social evil. She also protests against the French policy which leaves a girl without chance of marriage unless she has a substantial "dot." She paints a sorrowful picture of the girls in the rural districts working in the fields to earn their "dot," and thereby win their chance of a husband. Such a method she describes as barbaric, and she holds these are only a few of the many grievances which Frenchwomen must move against when they set the ballot.

NEWEST STENCIL DESIGN.



Laundry Bag.

Needlework Notes.

Cretone with small figures is much used to make covers for books and magazines.

Use tube muslin for pillow cases. It is only necessary to sew one end and hem the other, and the deed is done.

A little tin ruler is much easier to use than the tape measure for the measuring of little things, such as bands, hems and tucks.

If you sew a whalebone up the back of a tape measure for the first ten inches you will have a means at hand to rapidly measure skirt lengths and lines for the trimming.

To prevent the thread from knotting when doing hand sewing always make a knot in the end last broken from the spool. This done, stretch the thread by taking the ends and giving several quick pulls.

As Spanish Women Live.

An American woman has returned from a trip through Spain, and she is the reverse of enthusiastic. She says the women there have a hard dull life, which makes them prematurely old. With the exception of the higher classes, the women do not exchange visits, but live practically isolated in their homes. They do not read books or magazines, and their home life is spoiled by the jealousy of their husbands. Finally, the disillusioned traveler says that the Spanish woman simply drops her household work to go to church, and comes home from church to take up the drudgery again.

Art of Bed Making.

If all but the lower sheet of a bed is not tucked under, except at the foot and is then folded neatly over onto the top of the bed, the edges of the covering are spared the usually unavoidable soiling resulting from contact with the springs. When the bed is opened in the evening the lower sheet will not pull out, but will remain as tight as when first tucked in.

HOW ARROWS WERE POISONED.

Indians Say They Used to Rub Rat Head on the Arrows.

An old Cherokee Indian recently told how the Indians of olden times used to poison their arrows for war purposes or for killing bears. According to the Denver Field and Farm, they took a fresh deer liver, fastened it to a long pole, and then went to certain places where they knew they would find rattlesnakes in abundance.

About midday the rattlers are all out of their dens, coiled up in the sunshine. The hunter would poke the first rattler with the liver on the long pole. A rattler, unlike common snakes, always shows fight in preference to escaping.

The snake would then repeatedly strike at the liver with its fangs until its poison was all used up, whereupon it would quit striking and try slowly to move on. The hunter would then hunt up another rattler and repeat the performance, keeping up the work until the liver was well soaked with snake poison.

Then the pole was carried home and fastened somewhere in an upright position until the liver became as dry as a bone. The liver was pounded to a fine powder and placed in a buckskin bag of goat's hair. The powder was then used to coat the shaft of the arrows. This powder would stick like glue to any moistened surface.

Monkey and Goat.

Monkeys are more renowned for mischief than for kindness, but even monkeys can be benevolent. M. Montou records the doings of one in Guadeloupe that surely seemed to merit that reputation. The monkey had a friend in a goat that went daily to the pasture. Every night the monkey would pick out the burrs and thorns, sometimes to the number of 2,000 or 3,000, from the goat's fleece in order that the animal might lie down in peace. On coming in from the pasture the goat regularly went in search of his light-headed friend and submitted himself to the operation. Strange to say, the tricky instincts of the monkey reassured themselves after the burrs were removed. He would tease the poor goat unmercifully, picking his beard, poking his eye and pulling out his hair. The goat bore it all with patience, perhaps regarding it as only a fair price to be paid for the removal of the thorns.—London Standard.

Where Wasps Protect Birds.

There are birds in the straits of Venezuela, known as cuckoos, that build their nests in close proximity to a dangerous species of wasp in order to avail themselves of the insect's protection from the constant menace of the jungle. C. WILLIAM Beebe explored this region, and with his wife, has written his account of it for the May number of Harper's Magazine. He discovered the nests of the cuckoos close to the formidable wasp's nests, the two creatures living in harmony. One sting from these wasps would kill a bird, and several stings throw a man into a comatose state. Hence the insects are dreaded by man and beast, and the cuckoos find their neighborhood a safe one. Whether the wasps cannot or will not sting their neighbor-birds is not known.

When the Post Was Happy.

Bjornson, the poet, who is now lying seriously ill at Christiania, was once asked on what occasion he got the greatest pleasure from his fame as a poet. His answer was: "It was when a delegation from the right came to my house in Christiania and smashed all the windows, because when they had thus attacked me and were starting for home again they felt that they ought to sing something, and so they began to sing 'Yes, we love this land of ours.' They could do nothing else! They had to sing the song at the man they had attacked."

Europe's Record-Snowfall.

The snowfall in central Europe last winter broke all records for many years. Germany probably receiving the worst of it. For days at a time, following each big storm, the streets of Berlin were blocked to such an extent that the street department of the German capital was taxed to the limit. One snowstorm cost the city \$5,000 to clear away, automobile snow plows and vans being used to a great extent in the work.

Plan for Open Fireplaces.

"If people would only learn to have open fire in their rooms, instead of converting them into hot-air-ovens by means of furnaces, there would be fewer colds," said a physician. "Fireplaces and their chimneys are ventilators. To me the beauty of an open fire makes it worth having, but when you consider that it's a sanitary of floor, constantly changing the air and driving out germs, it is hard to see how any one can prefer a furnace."

Australian Fish.

There are many varieties of Australian fish which are entirely unknown on this side of the world. Some of them are the snapper, the kingfish, the trumpet, the blue cod, the giant shute, and the yellow bream. The Sydney press says the biggest, finest and pluckiest (when cooked) in the world; they run to a length of ten inches, and are proportionately fat.

Water Meter Hammer.

There is an enormous factory, with the blessing of suffering humanity, waiting for the man who invents a water meter that will not hammer through the pipes of a house when a bathtub faucet is running.—New York Press.

Thoughtful Photographer.

German photographer, Kunwald, when taking a picture of a woman of doubtful age places sheets of celluloid between the negative and the printing paper, thus producing a very softening effect, which hides the marks of age.

TOWNS WITHOUT NO. 12.

"12/2" or "12A" Has to Be Duly in "Seed and Fertilizer."

So superstitious are the inhabitants of the Swiss town of Bern that the number 12 is strictly prohibited by the municipal authorities. It does not appear as a number on houses, and a builder who recently braved public opinion by affixing a 12 to a new house had no offer for it for four months. He changed the number, and a week afterward a tenant moved in.

The police or soldiers do not display the fateful number. Even on official documents this combination of figures is replaced by 14A or 14B.

"It is a curious fact that the number 12 is not found on any of the houses of Paris," said a traveler who has just returned from that city.

"On a visit to the French metropolis I put up at a house numbered 12A, and when I observed that the house on the left was numbered 11 and the one on the right 14 I started me out investigating."

"At first I thought perhaps it was merely a case of the authorities bowing to purely neighborhood superstition, but in the investigation that I made subsequently—and it was quite as full as circumstances would permit—I found that the superstition appeared to extend all over the city, for nowhere could I find trace of a number 12 on a residence."

"There were 12A's in plenty. There may be some number 12s, but I could not find them."—New York Sun.

Longhorns Steers Gene.

There was a time when the "Texas steer" breed of cattle covered the grazing grounds of the Southwest. They were the "descendants" of the long-horned cattle which the early Spanish explorers and adventurers brought from their homes across the seas. Hundreds of thousands of them ranged the unfenced pastures, rendering little more than a small tribute of hide and tallow to the Mexicans or beef to the Indian. Finally, the cowboy came into existence, and these wild denizens of the plains were dragged from their high estate and became the subjects of sordid commerce.

These cattle were rough in appearance and usually brown, dusky and black in color, there being no deep reds and roans. Their horns, however, were their really distinguishing features. These were certainly immense, often from four to five feet across from tip to tip. They were naturally wild brutes. Some of them could never be rounded up, but had to be shot in order that the others might be got under control. There were in every herd a few fighters which the cowboys called "mooseheads." They would fight viciously among themselves or with the other cattle and would frequently gore the horses of the cowboys to death.

The longhorns have now practically all disappeared. Their place has been taken by graded and thoroughbred cattle of a much larger size and value.—Kansas City Journal.

New Courage in Old Age.

There comes a time in the life of nearly every man when he realizes that he is growing old. Perhaps it is in the very prime of life, about the fortieth year, that this recognition of his mortality strikes the most alienated, and he is disposed to doubt whether it is feasible for him to accomplish anything worth while. In the face of such evidence to the contrary it has been affirmed that a man who has done nothing great before that age will never do it; that life after forty consists mainly in tending on previous acquisitions. However, as time goes on many a man develops a new courage, and especially he resolves to live thoroughly and heartily to the last moment. As a French philosopher urged, a man should keep at his work as though immortal, even though he should know that death would come tomorrow. Another moralist asserts that a man who, on a sinking ship, should not take his pill at the prescribed moment, and wind up his watch late, is mainly qually. Anyhow, the man who at eighty, or any other age at which he retains a healthy mind, does not shrink from an undertaking merely because death is near gets the best out of life.—Philadelphia Record.

Profits in Kerosene.

The account given by H. A. Crafts in the Scientific American of the quantity of petroleum in storage in California is likely to impress the reader with the fact of how easy it is to get rich if one only enjoys a monopoly of the natural resources of the earth. The Standard Oil Company, which is the chief concern to barrel up the wealth of California, has 6,000,000 barrels in storage and the largest of its reservoirs has a capacity of 500,000 barrels.

Of course, there is an element of labor present in the buying, refining and shipping of the crude article. The regular price quoted at some of the oil fields is 20 cents a barrel, and some sales have been made as cheap as 14 cents a gallon. Those who pay 14 cents a gallon in the stores for refined oil can see the amount of profit extracted from crude petroleum.

But manufacture has been stimulated by the cheapness and the employment of oil as fuel has increased to such an extent that it is now equivalent in cheapness to coal at 70 cents a ton.

A Soda Cracker is Known by the Company it Keeps

It is the most natural thing in the world for exposed crackers to partake of the flavor of goods ranged alongside. In other words, a soda cracker is known by the company it has kept. On the other hand

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