

Woman's World

A DESERVED SUCCESS.

How Anna Steese Richardson Became a Playwright.

"My alma mater is the city room of a daily paper, my sheepskin the soiled and blue penciled copy sheets from the hands of a merciless city editor."

So said Anna Steese Richardson, co-author of "A Man's a Man," the successful new play of American life, in which Mr. Robert Edson is starring. Mrs. Richardson, who had just been asked how she had studied playwriting, should know whereof she speaks, for she has been a practical newspaper woman for fourteen years. Her apprenticeship was served as reporter in the city room of the Nonpareil at Council Bluffs, Ia. At the end of three years she joined the city staff of the Omaha Daily News. Omaha, Neb. Twelve months later, having seen some of her particularly graphic descriptions of a murder trial copied in the New York World, she decided to try her fortunes in the metropolis.

As the price of her tenacity and in experience, she worked newspaper row for weeks and finally found a berth as manuscript reader with the McClure Newspaper syndicate.

By day she read manuscripts submitted by ambitious young writers. By night she haunted the theaters for



ANNA STEESE RICHARDSON

material used to build up feature stories for the Morning Telegraph. Later she edited the woman's page issued by the McClure syndicate, and this led her into magazine work for women. Five years ago she established in the Woman's Home Companion the first regular department for self-supporting girls, a feature which has since been copied by almost every magazine for women in the country. A year later she joined the staff of the Sunday World as a special writer, and she still retains her connection with the last two named periodicals.

But all these years Mrs. Richardson has had her eye on a Broadway production for one of her plays. Several of her vaudeville sketches, notably those produced by Miss Lillian Berkhart, one of the first and daintiest of the vaudeville comedienne, secured a success. Before writing the play for Mr. Edson she studied the personality of the star almost as painstakingly as she worked on the development of the plot. As the result of this method Mr. Edson now has a role which is not only congenial, but sincere and convincing.

Mrs. Richardson's experience disproves the oft repeated assertion that newspaper reporting unites women for more serious and more enduring effort, for just as "A Man's a Man" was being produced one of the leading publishing houses in New York issued a book by Mrs. Richardson entitled "The Girl Who Burns Her Own Living," which is enjoying a large sale. Incidentally this little sketch of a busy woman's life should encourage many a wavering writer to fresh activity and greater determination, for while Mrs. Richardson started her New York career on a salary of \$10 a week, and a fourteen hour day at that, she now commands one of the largest incomes drawn by women writers.

A Popular Toy.

One of the newest and most popular toys of the year is the performing manikin. Into a loose garment are



THE NEW HAND TOY.

stuffed all kinds of quaint heads. The hand of the person using the toy is slipped under this garment. Extreme comical effects are gained by the working of the hand and fingers.



Points For Mothers

Every mother dreads the "awkward age" especially for her girls. Its harmfulness lies in the fact of its moral effect. It is a period of a child who knows no right or wrong and ungraciously sets its own conditions in each work and play.

Games to be used in the obvious remedy for these things is to busy the child in the play which is better than any other. It is a standing and walking the part of their purpose for what we call five minutes of chess positions of the cut goes about the rest of the day with slumping shoulders?

More important than this is to make the exercise a pleasure play instead of work. The child will then turn to them without grudging and forget to be self-conscious in her environment of them. Much to be done the simplest movements will give the greatest and natural dancing will combine sufficient exercise for every part of the body for a "natural dancer" away the arms, head and trunk in addition to the feet work.

To really desire the best for the child, the spontaneity of the little street child, who dances and the birds curdy. But really all it amounts to is a rhythmic combination of the least strenuous of the gymnastic exercises.

If there is no level of dancing to send the daughters to do exercises yourself with her. Twenty minutes a day will be a good fruit for you, both to compose the dances yourself, for there is an indefinite number of combinations.

Plain skipping about as though waiting or running very lightly on the tips of the toes will be sufficient for the feet while swaying with arms and trunk. The easy rule is that the arms flow back gently in the direction from which you are running just as though you had left them behind. Backward bending, side bending, whirling, leaping and bowing are some of the motions that will occur to you.

A rosy swaying motion with the arms above the head may be taken while kneeling on one knee. This allows for chest expansion and strengthening of the waist muscles. The arms should generally be slightly curved in that pain downward position that best conceals a bony elbow.

The head should be held erect by seeming to stretch the muscles of the back of the neck rather than by lifting the chin.

Sentiments For a Mother
When done in illuminated lettering and simply framed and may be given at a stork shower.

THE MOTHER TO HER FIRSTBORN
God keep thee soft warm thing,
Now nestled in my breast
A prayer of three I sing,
That God will bless thy rest.

I kiss thine eyes so dear,
Closed in slumber deep,
I kiss thy lips so near,
God kiss thee in thy sleep.
—Crawford

A partnership with God is motherhood.
What strength, what purity, what self control,
What love, what wisdom, should belong to her
Who helps God fashion an immortal soul.
—Mary Wood Allen.

Pins in the Nursery.
If you do not want your child's beauty marred with scratches, not to speak of his life endangered, see that safety pins are provided in quantity for the nursery. If there are plenty for all sizes ever at hand there will be less danger of substituting the common pin in a hurry.

One of the favorite and most sensible gifts for the new baby is a series of rings suspended by a ribbon and hung with safety pins of all sizes. For a somewhat handsome gift are gold and silver safety pins. These are used not only on baby, but are just the thing to pin the corner of mother's apron bib that there may be no possibility of a brass safety pin being mouthed by the prying youngster.

Keep Spectacles Bright.
If the little ones are obliged to wear glasses see that they are taken off two or three times a day and polished.

For Children's Parties.
An amusing game for children's parties is a zoological hunt. On arrival the little folks receive envelopes containing the head and shoulders of some animal in cardboard and are told that they must find the rest of the creature. It is most fun to hunt over an extended area, upstairs and downstairs and through as many rooms as are available.

NEW BULB GROWING.

A Delightful Floral Decoration For the Home.

A pretty room and table decoration has been included of late by the introduction of the method of growing bulbs in specially prepared fiber. A glance at the illustrations will give some idea of the beauty of this sort of table decoration. As some readers may care to experiment in this direction the following may be of use.

For this system of culture no drainage is necessary and the towels and vases which are especially made for the purpose are not pierced with the usual holes for drainage. The receptacles are nonporous and may be placed on tables and counters or they can be employed in halls and corridors, without the slightest risk of injury.

The fiber is perfectly clean to handle, odorless and remains sweet for an indefinite period. Any receptacle may be used for the purpose provided it is nonporous but the bulbs to be planted in them should be suited to their size. For quite small jardinières crocuses, scilla, snow drops and grape hyacinths are available also the smaller varieties of our crocuses. It is better not to mix different kinds of bulbs in one bowl unless simultaneous flowering can be insured. The specially prepared fiber requires moistening only before use. Having



BULBS GROWN IN FIBER

selected suitable receptacles for the bulbs to be grown, place a few pieces of charcoal at the bottom of the bowl. Then cover the charcoal with one to three inches of moistened fiber according to the depth of the bowl, placing the bulbs in position so that their tips reach to within half an inch of the rim—the spaces between and around the bulbs to be filled with moistened fiber, carefully packed in by hand. The bulbs will require practically no attention for the first few weeks and should be placed in a warm airy place.

If the fiber has been properly moistened there will be no need to give water until the shoots are an inch or so long, but the fiber must not be allowed to dry or the flower buds become "blind." The surface of the fiber should always look moist, but if too much water has been given the bowl may be held carefully on its side so that the surplus water may drain away. As the growth increases more water will be required and as much light as possible to insure sturdy foliage.

HOUSEHOLD DANGERS.

After filling a lamp be careful to wipe the outside dry, for any trickle of oil on the sides might easily catch fire.

Be careful when you light a fire in the kitchen that there is plenty of water in the boiler; otherwise when the cold water rushes into the hot boiler it is likely to crack it.

Don't put clothes round the fire to dry and then go to bed and leave the fire and then go to bed and leave the fire and then go to bed and leave the fire.

Don't try to make a fire draw by holding a newspaper in front of it. If it doesn't set fire to the mantelpiece or to your own clothes it may fly up the chimney and result in a fire.

Never fill an oil lamp while it is alight. It is quite easy for the vapor to catch fire and set the spirit or oil ablaze, and an explosion will most likely follow. Always turn the lamp out before refilling it.

Don't allow the oil to stand in the lamp very long. If it is not burned it should be thrown away. It gathers impurities and increases the risk of an explosion. For the same reason always keep the kerosene can well corked.

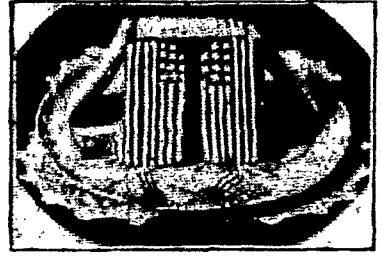
A 22D OF FEBRUARY FEAST.

Luncheon Served in Room Made Gay With Colonial Colors.

Many a hostess would really like to introduce novelty in the way of charitable dishes and table decorations into her entertainments, but is deterred from lack of time to plan these attractions.

When women only are to be entertained no more satisfactory way can be devised than to give a luncheon for this is pre-eminently a woman's function.

The hour for serving a luncheon may be deferred as late as 2 in the afternoon. On the occasion in question have the dining room gay in the colonial colors. If one does not care to incur the expense of bantering the



GEORGE WASHINGTON Cakes

buff and blue paper garlands on sale at this season may be used with equal good effect. If a picture of Washington can be secured hang it in a conspicuous place and drape it with buff and blue.

Instead of the usual luncheon cloth or luncheon set spread the table with a linen cloth homepun lined if possible. Extending the length of the table on each side just inside the plate line have runners made by stitching together two strips of four inch wide buff and blue ribbon or instead of ribbon, crepe paper may be used. Finish each end with a large rosette.

Shape the mesh wire netting to suit into a large cushion and stuff it thickly with tiny colonial flags. Surround the ball with a wreath of laurel. This will be suggestive not only of victory, but the method employed by the father of the Country to gain that victory.

For souvenirs give each guest a small framed picture either of Washington or of some place or event connected with his life. Such souvenirs are really worth while and cost no more than fancy candy boxes by the time they are filled. Cakes in symbolic forms like those illustrated, add an up to the minute appearance to the table.

SHORT COATS ARE HERE.

The Modish Spring Jackets Are in Hip Lengths.

The steadily growing fashion for short coats is not a serious one to the economical woman, for one can always have a long coat cut off without interfering with its lines to a damaging extent.

Every one admits that no renovated garment is as smart as a newly created one, as all lines are designed for certain results. When they are interfered with they become awkward. When they are stopped short or elongated they are not good looking.

Understanding all this, there are women who must make the best of it because financial conditions demand it. And there are other women with whom alteration is an obsession. They

Good Hand Whitener
Cornmeal paste is the best handmade whitener known. To make it you take enough cornmeal to half fill a pint bowl. Into this you put enough oil to moisten it slightly, and add a little oil of jasmine. A hand specialist adds also a little lime juice. To whiten the hands of her patrons she provides herself with a pair of gloves three sizes too large. She splits them down the back and with a dull knife spreads the paste on the inside of the gloves. She then puts them on her patient's hands, sewing up the outside with big stitches. In two hours she rubs the hands with sweet almond oil made into a paste with sheep's fat, which is left on all the afternoon. In the evening they are something to conjure with.

To Make the Hair Curl.
A woman whose hair is slightly wavy has discovered a simple method for increasing its curl without using any artificial curiers.

When taking it down she gives a thorough brushing. In this way all the tangles are removed, and a stroking which will give polish and bring out the natural oil she continues for a couple of minutes. In order that the brushing shall help in the waving the strokes are not laid flat on the head each time, but are drawn away from the scalp—that is, the head is held at an angle, and the brush bristles are laid against the temples or just below and pressed along the scalp for a couple of inches. After that the hair is drawn out into space.

The "Talking" Wrinkles.
The woman who tried to talk with out moving the muscles in her face in order to prevent the acquisition of wrinkles developed into a most stupid uninteresting person. Better wrinkles than no facial expression, if these are the alternative, but a compromise ought to be possible. It is facial habits that make wrinkles one woman rumples her forehead when amazed, another curls down the corners of her mouth, a third furrows her brow when perplexed, and still another purses her lips when she talks. They can conquer these habits with a little determination and persistence, and they should do so if they consider wrinkles disagreeing.

A SMART MODEL IN HOPSTACKING.
would rather change a gown into something worse than leave it as it is. Quality enough, attention is always considered an excellent job for an amateur. The little tailor or the home steamstress is called upon to alter a gown made by a master infrequently the result is excellent, but the proposition is an absurd one.

The suit illustrated contains all the new spring fashion features. The material is of hopstacking, a very fashionable fabric among the new goods.

What would you do to keep well and look well? Cultivate a belief in water it is hard to get too much of it either externally or internally.

Every woman who values her digestion and her complexion should drink at least six glasses of cold water a day. If desired the glass taken before retiring and first thing in the morning may be hot with a pinch of salt in it.

Have appointed hours for this water drinking and take it at those times in the morning just as you leave the bed and the last thing before entering it at night, a half hour before each meal and in the middle of the morning and afternoon will divide the periods nicely.

At first it may seem a great nuisance to drink water by rule, but soon it will become a habit that you will get almost unconsciously without disturbing your routine for more than a minute. If you have trained maids they should be instructed to bring the water at the appointed hours.

Especially important to the water drinking habit is that of taking a cold shower or dashing oneself with cold water after the daily hot bath. This not only prevents taking cold but acts as a tonic to the skin, starts up the circulation and adds color to lips and cheeks and brightness to the eyes. This too, is hard at first but the system soon gets accustomed to the shock and is benefited by it.

Simple Bleaches.
A girl who wishes to keep her throat and chest white should use a simple bleach daily for once a yellow or brownish discoloration appears on the skin a preparation with strength is required to bleach it and to restoring the natural whiteness the skin may become dry, a condition that may be rectified by the application of grease, but should be avoided when possible.



Milady's Mirror

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Such a mixture can be made from a wineglassful of lemon juice, a pint of rain or soft water and three drops of extract of roses and will be effective. Rosewater is better than plain water, but it makes the lotion more expensive. This liquid is to be put on the neck and throat and wiped off gently, but not thoroughly. If the neck is treated with this regularly night and morning there will be little chance for the development of an ugly yellow line.

If the discoloration already shows a strong solution of benzoin may act as a bleach. For this purpose add one ounce of tincture of benzoin to one half pint of alcohol. If this be used night and morning it may obliterate the mark. If the color does not lighten in a week it would be well to stop the use of benzoin and try instead a lotion made from two ounces of lacted oil, one ounce of glycerin and one half ounce of rose water. This is used in the same manner as the other.

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A Kind Hearted Dog.
A lady writes from Cleveland: "I was told a few evenings ago by a gentleman that he had a favorite pointer who on several occasions refused to let him take out the straw in the kennel, which my friend did in order to make it more comfortable. The dog was watched, and a large mouse, with her little one, was seen to feed out of the trough with him. The kennel being examined, it was found that the mouse and her little one had their nest in the kennel."—London Chatte-box.

Bedroom Conundrums.
If thirly in the night, what could you do? Find a spring under the bed. What would you do for a light? Take a feather from the pillow. That is light enough.

In case of fire what would you do? Go to the window and watch the fire escape.

If you felt sad, what would you do? Look on the bed for a comforter.

If hungry in the night, what could you do? Take a roll.

Hopes.
When I was small I hoped for boys And dolls and sweets galore, And then when I was six I wanted Books of fairy lore.

At seven I wanted roller skates, At eight I yearned for wealth, But now that I'm eleven And I really want to health.

—St. Nicholas.

Young Folks

CAT AND MICE.

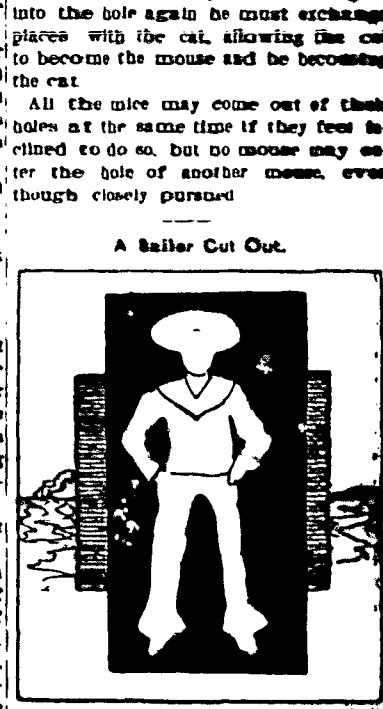
A Jolly Game For Out of Doors or in the House.

If five children are to engage in the game of "cat and mice" one of them must play the cat, while the remaining four represent the mice. If the game is played out of doors the yard must have certain spots designated as "mouse holes." These "mouse holes" may be marked by stones, sticks stuck into the ground or by chairs and should be placed at regular distances about a circle or square of say, twenty feet across or larger if the space permits. Where there are but four mice their corners form a square, but if there are six or more mice they may form a circle, the mice holes being some ten feet apart. The cat is in the center of the square or circle marked by the "mouse holes."

The mice take their places behind the objects representing the holes, thus pretending to be out of sight of the old cat, who lurks in the center. The game begins by one or more mice creeping out of hiding, going into the center of the space to find food. Of course a time to come forth is chosen while the cat's eyes are watching in opposite hole. The cat then must creep quickly and pursue one of the mice that is away from his hole. If the mouse is caught before he gets into the hole again he must exchange places with the cat, allowing the cat to become the mouse and be becoming the cat.

All the mice may come out of their holes at the same time if they feel inclined to do so, but no mouse may enter the hole of another mouse, even though closely pursued.

A Sailor Cut Out.



Cut out this jolly little cat and use in the missing lines.

Who wrote "The Last Rose of Summer"? Thomas Moore.

Who wrote "Annabel Lee"? Edgar Allan Poe.

Who wrote "Woodman, Spare That Tree"? Samuel Morris.

Who wrote "The Bridge"? Henry W. Longfellow.

Who wrote "The Old Oak Tree"? Samuel Wordsworth.

Who wrote "An Old Lang Syne"? Robert Burns.

Who wrote "Ten Bells"? Thomas Donnan English.

Who wrote "Home, Sweet Home"? John Howard Payne.

Who wrote "Old Kentucky Home"? Stephen C. Foster.

Who wrote "Those Evening Bells"? Thomas Moore.

Alphabet Game.
Here is a good game for a rainy day. Each person must write a stanza in twenty-four words, every word to begin with a different letter of the alphabet in regular order. For example: A beautiful creature disappeared every Friday, giving her imprudently joyously. Kind, lovable man saw old perfect, propounding quite rosy several timely unbelted, varied with telephone yearnings. Zounds!

The game may be varied by using the letters backward, from Z to A. For the best story a prize should be given.

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ROXBESTER