

### SMART SPRING FROCK

#### The Hat Question Less of a Bugbear This Season.

### MORAL OF THE BLOTTER.

#### Things Small in Themselves, but Large in Effect Upon Comfort—A Unique Booth For Fair—Modish Color Made From Scraps.

Dear Ellen—Margaret, you remember started a year ago to give the earliest hat, though, in forty minutes, the our friend Ariel, for she has just arrived the little old New York. Yesterday was one of a large luncheon party, at which Margaret was the guest of honor, and she showed her appreciation of the compliment paid her by wearing her very best spring costume, over which all the others at the party eyed with made mental notes of the creation, to aid me in copying it, a safe and legitimate procedure for Margaret, I mean to Chicago. Probably you would like to hear about this due to its Paris composition? The material was a delicate shade of gray oatmeal cloth. While you must know, is one of the heavily woven fabrics on the market this season. The skirt was plaited in front and at the back had gathered breadths of down the back seam a wide strip of down was brought around halfway up the skirt to the front, where it was



HAT FOR EARLY SPRING.

fold over the left knee, combining the plait and full back in such a way as to give an extremely slim appearance to the wearer. The coat was shorter than usual, ending just below the hips, and was heavily embroidered in silk that exactly matched the pattern of the material. The buttons were of ivory set in silver, and the hat had a narrow brim of mesh, lined with white silk, and a crown of mesh with a smoky gray plume on the side. A velvet bag, embroidered like the coat, hung on oxidized silver chains from her arm.

Winter coming so early this year, we are thinking of spring and summer clothes rather sooner than usual, and many women who like to be in the vanguard of fashion are actually wearing straw hats, but this, of course, is exceptional. Still, the shops are showing all their new millinery, and they are it.

Of these advanced styles in millinery a true study, the season will prove a relief to the women to whom of late the hat question has been a genuine bugbear. While ostriches may always be found—the striped and French cock pheasants and the last this spring—the reign of the fringed and spectacular is no longer supreme. There are a gratifying number of models which are pretty and becoming.

Millinery is the chief for the trimming of one's first spring hat, and cleverly arranged loops and twists of ribbon often take the place of feathers and streamers, invisible wire being used to keep them in place.

Some of the new headgear looks like a flower garden and recalls to one's mind those famous lines from the "Maid" with this variation: "The flowers that bloom on her hat, 'tis in her hair to do with the earth."

The big hats of the season are all faced up somewhere to give a glimpse of the face. This is an excellent plan as it is rather disconcerting to talk to a hat, even though assured that there is a human underneath. Some of the hats have the cavalier sweep on the left side, others, the Napoleonic upturned brim at the very front, while the very newest are tipped up in the back, where all the trimming is piled high.

As ribbons, shot effects are to be much used, and the same vogue extends to feathers and satin crowns. Blue-green and green-brown are evidently favorite combinations, and with them are worn two shaded quills or feathers. For real dressy hats I saw some stunning things in gold and silver, the gold creation having a white straw brim and the silver a black one. But I reckon you have heard enough about hats for awhile, and I do hope you'll like the sketch of the model I am inclosing.

The Moral of the Brown Blotter. For the last few weeks I have been driven almost crazy by having to encounter a glaring white blotter every time I sat down to my desk. The indignation of the thing seemed to leave my mind the instant I got away from the offending object. Today when I began writing to you I found that some one had replaced the white blotter with an admirable brown blotter.

The blotter is a ridiculous small matter, but it is typical of a great many other things, small in themselves, but large in their effect upon comfort.

There are the doors that harass the nerves with their squeaking when a drop of oil would right them and spare the ears and there is the reading light placed too high or too low. It has been so for months, perhaps years. A half hour of work would right it and its place of a little aggravating discomfort would be the satisfaction of a light that was right. Yet who takes the necessary half hour?

There is the same old hunt for a postage stamp when a stamp box in a fixed place would be so easy to arrange. But why continue the list? A Unique Booth.

We are going to have a fair during Lent for a local charity and one of the booths is rather unique. I think outside of the booth is a sign that reads "Blockages darned, it costs a dime. Mothers of families, come to the fair and bring your darling bags." The adult class of the Bible school is to have charge of the booth and the space inside is to be filled with "mother's in target." All of them are to wear "spices" and are to darn the family stockings. A pretty clever idea isn't it? At another booth the girls are to make wash rabbits, serving with the rabbits biscuits, pickles and olives.

A Dutch Collar. I saw a beautiful Dutch collar recently that was made from the vertical scraps of insertion and lace and embroidery. First the collar was cut in paper and then covered with alternating strips of the lace and embroidery, so that not an inch was wasted as would have been had the pieces been joined before the collar was cut. Besides, by the latter plan certainly double the quantity of the material would have been required. The collar was finished with a tiny lace frill all round the outer edge. As low neck frocks are to be as smart as ever this summer, the bit is worth while passing along. You're very devoted.

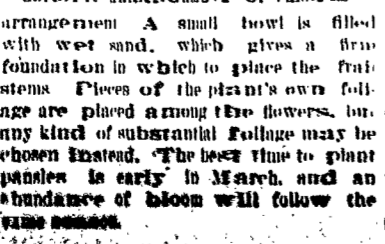
Useful Meat Chopper. The meat chopper will soon save more than its cost by enabling one to use cheaper cuts of meat and to utilize leftover meats. Raw beef run through it is a pleasant change from plain steak. It should be well seasoned with salt and pepper before chopping and should have a little fat mixed with the lean. Drop the little rolls just as they come from the perforated plate of the chopper on a very hot pan, with a little butter. Stir lightly a moment or two and serve quickly on a hot plate. To use remnants of roasts, steaks or any nice cooked meat put them through the chopper and mix with an equal measure of bread crumbs. Season with salt and pepper. Some persons may like herbs. Mashed with gravy or stock you may have or with cream, making a little more moist than you would dream of for poultry. Put in a skillet or thick pan, cover closely with a plate and bake in the oven until well heated. Twenty minutes or half an hour is about right. After a few trials, possibly the first time, you may be surprised in making this very easily. Another favorite way of using meat, especially cooked ham, is to cut it in small pieces, heat lightly and break over it one egg for each person to be served. When the eggs begin to set cut across them and stir carefully so as to preserve the distinct yellow and white of the egg. Serve at once.

To Cook Cereals Perfectly. To cook oatmeal of any kind of cereal as thoroughly as it needs to be cooked requires more time than can usually be given in our hurried breakfast getting, and not all of us are blessed as yet with a pressure cooker to do the work for us.

So the best substitute is to put the cereal on the stove at supper time, let it come to a good boil, then turn the fire out and leave it in that same spot until breakfast time without lifting the lid. The heat already generated will finish cooking the grains so that all that needs to be done in the morning is to stir it from the bottom, add a little water possibly and reheat for serving.

Of course the vessel must be of crockery, enamel (in which there are no breaks or stimulants for the food to be left in it so long), and the lid must be as tight as possible to retain the steam which does so much of the work. But this method is a great time and gas saver, and the cereal is much more digestible than when cooked by quick boiling. It is the pressure cooker idea applied to common utensils.

The Beauty of Pansies. Pansies, as a rule, are difficult flowers to arrange. The stems are short, and the dear little heads of the flowers are apt to twist about in a most provoking fashion. The illustration shows a delightful solution of the trouble of



ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT OF PANSIES.

### LIST OF ANTIDOTES.

Three Directions Should Be Kept Handy—They May Save Life. It makes one shudder to think of the grim signs on the drugstore vials, but the shoulder is worse when one of the family, perhaps a favorite child, has swallowed some deadly dose. What is done then must be done quickly. The following plain directions ought to be kept handy. They may save a life while the doctor is coming.

When the poison is unknown this is the treatment. Provoke repeated vomiting give bland liquids, stimulate if necessary.

For Acids—Sulphuric, nitric, muriatic, oxalic give an alkali provoke vomiting give bland fluids, secure rest, stimulate if necessary.

Alkalies—Barbithone, soda, potash, lye take an acid stimulus, provoke vomiting give bland fluids, secure rest, stimulate if necessary.

For Arsenic—Paris green Scheele's green provoke vomiting give diluted iron and salt (repeat several times) give dose of castor oil secure rest, stimulate if necessary.

For Sugar of Lead—Give epsom salts provoke vomiting (repeat several times) give bland liquids, give dose of castor oil.

For Corrosive Sublimates—Tartar emetic provoke vomiting, give strong tea without milk repeat several times, give raw eggs and milk, give dose of castor oil, stimulate if necessary.

For Phosphorus—Provoke vomiting, give five grains doses of sulphate of copper, give dose of magnesia, but no salt but an inch was wasted as would have been had the pieces been joined before the collar was cut.

Lunar (Castle) nitrate of silver—Give strong tea and water provoke vomiting (repeat many times).

Iodine—Provoke vomiting, give starch and water give bland fluids.

Opium—Morphine, laudanum, paregoric, chloral, etc.—Provoke vomiting repeatedly, give strong coffee without milk, keep up the breathing.

Strychnine—Provoke vomiting once or twice, give a purgative, secure absolute quiet.

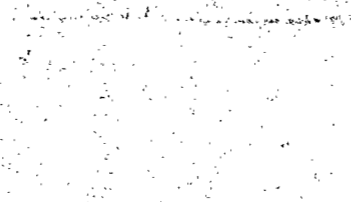
Arcoline—Provoke vomiting, stimulate well.

Jametes wood, hemlock, nightshade, belladonna, toadstools, tobacco; Provoke vomiting, stimulate well.

Alcohol—Provoke vomiting, give barbitone and water.

To provoke vomiting warm water may be used with or without ground mustard in teaspoonful to a pint of water or sperac in teaspoonful of the powder or a tablespoonful or so of the spruce and thrusting a finger down the throat.

A Woefully Dog For the Baby. Every mother is interested in the latest toy suitable for the nursery. She will be delighted with the latest



WOEFLY DOG FOR THE BABY.

### SOME EASTER GIFTS.

#### Suggestions For Charming Presents of the Useful Sort.

### SMART NEW DOLL PINCUSHION.

#### The Hanging Pin Holder an Acceptable Addition to the Dressing Bureau—A French Hairbrush Very Novel and Attractive.

Nowadays presents are being given at Easter almost as universally as at Christmas. And as the religious festival is not far distant it is high time to get busy on these little gifts. The suggestions offered are for reasonable presents of the useful sort that are easily made and not expensive as to materials. The suggestions are acceptable to most women, and the models described are both novel and attractive.



JAPANESE PIN HOLDER.

Blue forget-me-nots are painted upon a heavy white satin surface on the French doll cushion. The heart has been sewed together and filled with white lamb's wool, no hard cushion being necessary. After the doll's puffed cap of white satin was made and sewed on an opening at the top of the cushion was fastened round doll's neck, and blue ribbon rosettes were added as a finish.

The Japanese doll as a pin holder does excellent duty. He is willing and able as well as easy to construct. His separate head, cruel as it may sound may be bought and fastened to the oblong square of ribbon, which has been stuffed with wool. Ribbon sleeves, stiff and bow at the back, complete his Japanese outfit, after which he undilutely receives what ever pins you give him.

When the small complete doll is used as a cushion his legs are removed, which is even worse treatment, and the wool filled bag added as a lower section. The ribbon by which the little creature is hung is first fastened round his neck by way of a stock collar.

The heart shaped cushion has been bored and corded. The box cover receives a box cushion beneath it, and for the benefit of those who do not know let us say that boxing means inserting a strip, wide or narrow, along the edges instead of sewing the back and front immediately together. The process results in a thicker cushion—more shapely. The cords are merely decorative. In color the heart cushion is crimson and white, with crimson cord and white ribbons.

A French Hairbrush. For one of the daintiest bathbrushes you can imagine, select a plain hair



HEART SHAPED CUSHION.

of irreproachable shape and no ornamentation whatever and with good white bristles.

Before covering the wooden back it may be very slightly rubbed with a fine sandpaper to roughen the surface so that the glue will hold.

Now for the French Hairbrush cover. This is made of corded silk of a deep cream, embroidered slightly with ribbon work in an oblong medallion design. The silk is so cut as to entirely cover the wooden back except on the bristle side, and when the paste is applied to the silk care should be taken that it does not touch the part beneath the ribbon medallion or the top of the brush, but only along the edge of the silk. Do not turn in the edge, but after the glue is dry paste over it a narrow gold lace galloon.

### THE COOK AND THE CRITIC.

#### A Problem Worthy the Attention of All Earnest Women.

It always awakens a sort of amused wonderment in me, says Marietta Ladd in Table Talk, when I hear learned men, especially bishops, tell school girls that in order to secure husbands they must learn to be good cooks. Just as though a man ever thinks seriously of cooking when he is really and truly in love! The idea is absurd. Yet it is undeniable that a large proportion of unhappy marriages result from an imperfect knowledge of the sublime art of cooking on the part of the wife. All sensible women know that their power and influence in the home is inseparable from their practical ability to prepare healthful and appetizing foods for those under their charge. The problem of our time is to increase the number of careful and intelligent cooks and so lift the race to a higher plane of life.

It is clear to me that this problem, worthy as it is of the attention of all earnest women, cannot be satisfactorily solved by educating women alone. Man is an important factor in the home, and it is as much the business of a man to know what foods are helpful and what harmful as it is a woman's. In the stress of modern business life it is unreasonable to expect a married man to do actual cooking. If he does it some part of his work outside the home must suffer. But if he cannot do work he can always criticize. He should therefore be taught how to criticize intelligently in such a way as to help his wife and not try her temper to its utmost limits.

Domestic unhappiness usually arises in one of two ways—either the wife is incompetent and as a natural consequence ultra sensitive to criticism of the wife is really a good cook, but her husband has been spoiled and rendered beastly by living at good hotels and restaurants where "many hands make light work."

There is only one remedy for this state of affairs. Boys and girls must learn cookery side by side, as they learn other necessary knowledge. The boy who knows what to eat and how to help, not hinder, digestion in the kitchen will be a kind and helpful critic to his wife. The wife who knows the science and art of cookery will consult her husband's taste and blend it with her own, knowing that the masculine point of view in cookery, as in all else, is a valuable corrective of the feminine.

Make Your Toilet Articles. Any girl can have the very best toilet articles if she will make them herself, and many of them offered for sale at the stores will often do a permanent injury to a delicate skin.

Should a lotion be needed for perspiration stir one ounce of hydrate of chloral in one pint of soft boiled water and keep in a bottle. Apply with soft old linen and allow the lotion to dry on the skin. To keep the hands in good condition keep a preparation of vinegar and cornmeal ready for use and after washing clothes or doing any work that soils the hands wash them in warm soda, rub the hands well with the cornmeal mixture, then dry and rub a few drops of honey and water well into the skin. An excellent and safe face powder is made by sifting half a pound of pure rice powder eight or ten times and then adding a few drops of oil of rose and a little carmine if you want the powder tinted. One of the best cucumber creams is made by cutting up two large cucumbers into half a cupful of water and allowing them to simmer for half an hour then strain, add a cupful of boiling water, ten grains of powdered borax and enough tincture of benzoin to make the water look milky and bottle when cool. The skin may be kept in fine condition by using a little borax in the water every time the face and hands are washed and then rubbing this lotion well into the skin. An excellent fluid for keeping the scalp clean and free from dandruff is made with half a teaspoonful of the borax powder, a small piece of gum camphor and half a pint of soft water, and one of the best and safest washes for the mouth and teeth is made by adding one ounce of the powder to one pint of boiling water and then before it is cold adding half a teaspoonful of spirits of camphor. The hair tonic should be rubbed well into the scalp once a week. About two teaspoonfuls of the mouth wash in half a glass of water is the proper proportion, and the fluid whitens the teeth and keeps the gums in a healthy condition.

Mending With Plaster. In lieu of drawing the torn edge of a dress together with silk thread or even with frayed threads of the material an excellent plan lies in your medicine chest.

That sounds a trifle startling to the needle worker, but listen. A piece of court plaster will form a good working basis upon which a comparatively invisible repairation can be made.

If the tear be on the plain width the skirt should be laid upon a table, the edges pulled together and pinned down and finally the strip of court plaster applied. A hot iron will press the edges together, and the frayed threads should be cut away as a finishing touch.

A Brown Sweater. One of the most fetching examples of the long sweater coat is of leather colored yarn made with cuffs and a turned down collar of rich green and ornamented with brass buttons.

These durable colors should appeal to the knitter whose desire it is to make a garment not so perishable as the delicate white sweater.

### KAFFIRS AS SERVANTS.

#### An American Woman's Housekeeping Experiences In South Africa.

"I never shall forget the names my Kaffir boys took," said a woman who kept house several years in South Africa, where her husband was manager of a mine. "When the Kaffir boys come from the kraals no one ever uses their native names. As soon as they are brought in contact with the whites they take a white name."

"This produces results which are not lacking in humor. Among the house boys Kalfe, Fork and Spoon were common names. Table, Chair, Watch, Carriage and Matchbox were other names that I had in the house at various times. My butter rejoiced in the stately appellation of New One. It was when the slang phrase 'That's a new one on me' was going about."

"One of my house boys took the utilitarian name of Ham and Eggs. The Kaffirs are very fond of rice when they learn to eat it among the whites, and our stable boy thought he had found the richest name in the world in rice. But the Kaffirs have the same difficulty as the Chinese in pronouncing the letter R, so poor Rice always called himself Lake."

"One day the wife of one of the carpenters sent down to the compound for a new kitchen boy. The boy had heard one expression in frequent use at the mine. It struck him as euphonious and pleasing, and when she asked him what his name was he calmly replied, 'Darn Fool.'"

"Why, I can't call you that," said she, horrified. "I'll call you Joseph."

"The boy flew into a rage. He said 'Darn Fool' was a 'mochille gum,' a nice name, and if he could not have that name he would not work for her. He was so stubborn about it that she had either to use the name or to send him back to the compound. Eventually she kept him, and she told me that it was a relief to her feelings sometimes to have a kitchen boy answering to just that name."

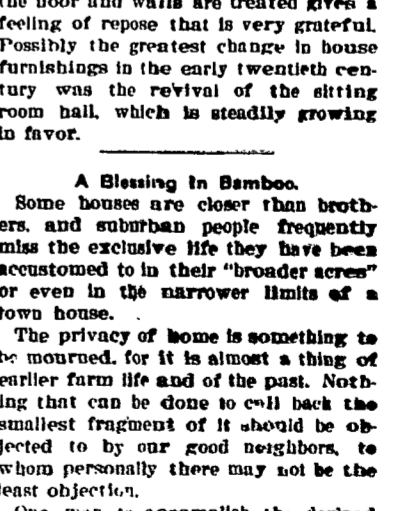
"The Kaffirs are very imitative and will cook a dish exactly as they have been taught. But I never could quite bring myself to eat Kaffir cooking. It is apt to be weird.

"I had an English housekeeper who did the cooking. Once she went down to Johannesburg for a week's vacation, and her head assistant, Candia, was promoted to the position of chef. One night for dinner he brought in a dessert of baked custard. It looked perfectly conventional, but when I tasted it I thought for a moment that I was in the clutches of a nightmarer."

"It seems that Candia had favored the pudding with Worcestershire sauce instead of vanilla. Poor Candia was quite crestfallen at our reception of the dish."

The Sitting Room Hall.

The hall seen in the illustration is a charming example of what may be done in artistic furnishings. There is nothing symmetrical about the arrangement, and this is itself a great



relief. Then the simple way in which the floor and walls are treated gives a feeling of repose that is very grateful. Possibly the greatest change in house furnishings in the early twentieth century was the revival of the sitting room hall, which is steadily growing in favor.

A Blessing In Bamboo. Some houses are closer than brothers, and suburban people frequently miss the exclusive life they have been accustomed to in their "broader acres" or even in the narrower limits of a town house.

The privacy of home is something to be mourned, for it is almost a thing of earlier farm life and of the past. Nothing that can be done to call back the smallest fragment of it should be objected to by our good neighbors, to whom personally there may not be the least objection.

One way to accomplish the desired privacy is the free use of the bamboo screen upon all porches. If it be tactfully rolled at times it may never make itself felt as a too complete barrier to even the sensitive neighbor, and, indeed, it may be welcomed by him also as a merciful protection.

It is a most excellent plan to put up screens before the next and later corner arrives, when that is possible, or to do it "with the flowers" with the early gardening—as if it were a necessary part of all the outdoor work and not a threat at the over-enthusiastic neighbor after the unexpected friendship has given to be a burden.

ROCHESTER