

Woman's World

No American Girl Type, Says a Famous Swedish Artist.



Photo by American Press Association.
MISS MAUDIE RASMUSSEN, THE REAL "FISHBOWL" GIRL.

"There is positively no such thing as the American girl."

Mr. Bror Kronstrand settled back in his easy chair and, placing the tips of his artist's fingers together, looked as bland as a May morning and utterly unconscious of the disconcerting glow he had dealt.

Mr. Kronstrand is a Swedish portrait painter of international reputation, and after pretty thoroughly painting the crowd and heads of Europe has come to America to paint the portraits of women in social and diplomatic circles. He has already painted a beautiful portrait of the first lady in the land, Mrs. Taft.

"I am absolutely firm in my opinion that there is no such thing as the much talked of American girl," he continued. "If there is she has been kept in the dark since I have been here and I have not had one peep at her."

"The American girl is always a woman; that is why I make the statement that seems shocking. As far as I have observed, from her days in the nursery until she is a mother she is a woman by instinct and in manner."

"Why, I have seen small children in this country older in manner and expression than young women of eighteen and twenty in some other countries. They have a sophisticated expression of eyes and face that comes to them long before they know really anything about the world, and this expression stays with them through life."

"I can't say that I dislike this child woman of yours at all—in fact, she is very lovable and charming—but why call her an American girl? Call her a woman always and you will be paying her intelligence a great compliment."

"You see, here the children are brought up in such close association with their elders that they lose their baby manners before they leave the nursery. They have their teas and afternoon parties, their fads and games. They are permitted to exercise their faculties on the selection of clothes and are consulted regarding their food. The very first of their early days are spent with a knowledge of business and social affairs because such things are talked before them, and I am at least surrounded to hear the wise remarks of very young girls on matters concerning state and business."

In spite of Mr. Kronstrand's asser- tion, Harrison Fisher has recently evolved a new "Fisher" girl. She is Miss Maudie Rasmussen of Chicago who this year is studying art in New York city.

A New Game.

Games which have for a long time been taboo as a mode of entertainment for people in society are beginning to be revived. Some are most amusing and can be successfully used.

One of the best of these is the Japanese fan fight. Let your players divide into two sides. Each side must have a den. These dens are made by curving over a large sheet of cardboard at each end of the room. Stretch a tape across the middle of the room, and on it place one feather for every two people. Have feathers of different colors and give each player a Japanese fan, with the word that each is to be ready for the fight.

Let the two sides now face one another at either side of the tape, two opposing players being opposite each other. At a given signal the fan begins. The object is to waft the feathers into their opponents' dens. When a feather is blown into a den he who loses it pays a forfeit, and he and his conqueror are onlookers until the end.

Denkeepers are appointed and have a lively time keeping the dens from being invaded. If Japanese fans are not available, pieces of colored tissue paper may be substituted for the feathers and folded newspapers for the fans.

Saving Tablecloths.

It is well to have your tablecloth and sheets folded widthwise occasionally. Instead of lengthwise, as this prevents the fold from always coming in the same place and thus causing that place to wear out first.

Good Form



Let Him Play Most.

Grant the boy the privilege of having his friends to meals as often as you can conveniently arrange for it. Perhaps you are among those fortunate ones who have a large family with a big table where the addition of an extra plate counts for little. If such is the case your way is simple. Should there be several sons to plan for consider a system of rotation that each may have his guests in a fair ratio. If your family is small, so that it is desirable to have a little notice in advance before adding another hearty boy's appetite to those you have reckoned for, fix on a certain time when your boy may ask a friend in to dinner or supper. Boys are delightfully unceremonious creatures, bless their hearts. Give them a cordial welcome and plenty of food and they will never miss a bit of serving.

Study other compensations for the absence from natural racketing you are obliged to demand from your boy while he is at home. Provide him chances to let off steam elsewhere, in places intended for just such relaxations. Send him out into the open on holidays and give him the means of pursuing any athletic sport which attracts him. Be sure that there is a good playground connected with the school he attends. Encourage him to work in the gymnasium.

All the compensation you offer the boy need not be limited to the possession of a pleasant room and the other privileges I have mentioned. Don't forget that when he displays the consideration demanded of him in a well-regulated family he is putting a restraint upon himself you can hardly understand, no matter how close your sympathy with him. Many comments have been made upon the wonderful self-control displayed by the child who submits without protest to a prohibition or grants prompt obedience to a command beyond his comprehension. Largely a matter of habit possibly, but there is a great deal of thought going on inside that small head, and often that we imagine we parents are being hated before a child's mental judgment seat and condemned to mercy.

"How Do You Do?" Merely a Greeting.

It is a wise person, man as well as woman, who when asked "How do you do?" responds by saying he or she is well.

"How do you do?" is really, generally speaking, a casual greeting, accepted by custom as being the simplest form of addressing a person. If either individual takes the greeting seriously and answers that she is not well, or the other person frequently is much astonished and almost without exception is bored. With close friends a woman or man, either may be frank, but with acquaintances it is better to be casual and answer, "Very well" to the salutation "How do you do?"

A fact persons learn with advancing years is that each individual, as a rule, prefers to talk about himself or herself rather than hear others talk.

Nor is the dislike to listening to such topics strange. We feel sympathy only toward those of whom we are fond; to others it is necessary to appear sympathetic, and this is not an easy matter when we would rather be talking on any topics to which we are really interested.

The person who is most popular is she who amuses others generally, who goes about with something lively rather than something doleful to tell in nine cases out of ten a doleful person will be avoided, while the gay one will be sought.

Postcard Etiquette.

As a general rule a postal card should not be used except for business purposes. Socially it is only to be employed for rather impersonal communications, such as announcing the meetings of a committee or society or forwarding an address. If it is an absolute necessity to send one to a friend or a member of one's family, do so when stopping for a moment at a railroad station, one wishes to send a line home, the sentences should be short and to the point, with an apologetic word for its use. The communication it bears should not be prefaced by an affectionate salutation. All personal messages should be omitted as well as the intimate termination that is proper in a sealed letter. The signature should be simply the initials or the Christian name and the full surname.

Etiquette Books Popular.

The fact that the old-fashioned etiquette manual on "How to Act in Society," etc., is still popular, even in the big cities, was shown by the recent distribution by a New York Sunday paper of a book on good form. This pamphlet told the reader how to act on every conceivable social occasion what to say when spoken to, what not to say, how to say what was to be said, what to do with the hands and the feet under certain circumstances, how to address letters of invitation or declination or acceptance, and a host of other things. Persons were seen diligently reading these etiquette manuals in elevated and subway trains for days after their distribution.

STUNNING FOULARD FROCK

Just What the Girls Will Consider a "Dear" Little Dress.



OF BLUE AND WHITE FOULARD

Custom cannot stifle the infinite variety of the blue and white fouldard frock which as regularly as the spring season comes around bores up prettier and smarter than ever. Such a rejuvenation has taken place in the frock pictured. The design is neat and attractive, and the blue is the new "king's blue," which is bright and coming to tone.

The skirt is very like the plaited jupes of several years ago, but the blouse waist is extremely up to date, with its natty sailor collar and black satin tie.

The American Woman.

The most spoiled women in the world are the American women. No one disputes this, not even the American woman herself. She accepts it with complacency.

But are the grounds for her complacency justifiable? Is it her credit that the man spends his last dollar that she may be indulged; that she occupies the position of a spoiled darling rather than an helpmeet and companion; that her days vacillate between rest cures and a mad search for excitement?

Are not the American men responsible for this helpless attitude of the American woman? Have they met their desire to guard women from every pin prick really crippled them and spoiled their efficiency as assistant burden bearers?

The attitude of the American woman has become definitely frivolous. She wastes her abundant vitality on things not worth while; she bends her keen mentality upon the attainment of so-called prestige, with its endless and life-destroying competition; she recklessly saps her strength in a hundred trifling facts.

But her ambition is frivolous, her energy spasmodic, and the expression of both is futile, because the objects upon which they are spent are not worth while. Why not give her insight and her vitality to the men of her family in their struggle for success? And let her make of society a relaxation, not an object; let her use it as a graceful ornamentation, but not as a foundation.

Who is to blame for so unjust a situation? Both. The American man because he foolishly shields the woman from every wind that blows, making of her a fragile orchid of both sexes' beauty when she should be a hardy garden rose. And the woman is to blame for shutting her eyes to life's serious aspect for chasing butterflies in the fair gardens of convention day in and day out when she might be climbing side by side with the man to the high mountain tops in the land of fine achievement.

Good Things to Know.

In preparing grapefruit for the table if you will roll the fruit before cutting you will find that it is improved. It not only makes the fruit more juicy but loosens the pulp and gives it a far better flavor.

A convenient broom holder is made in this way. Take a square of cloth a little larger than will cover the brush of the broom. Put a hem an inch wide in each end and run a tape or string in each hem then all that is needed to have a broom cover is to lay cloth over the broom, draw the string at each end and tie.

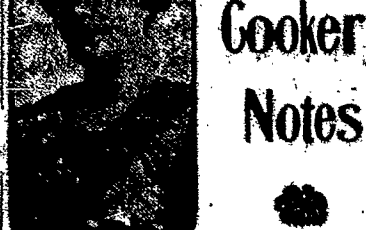
If all the reserve cords are too large for the bottle try sinking one in hot water. It will go easily into the bottle and leave no space for air to get in. Before hemming heavy table linen, rub hem with dry white soap and needle will go through more readily.

Try putting lemon juice on rust spots and then applying a hot iron. If rust does not disappear try again.

Good to Live By.

There is only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life and live it as bravely and faithfully and cheerfully as we can.—Henry van Dyke.

Cookery Notes



Fried Oysters.

For these favorites use casseroles or cocottes a little deeper than those sold for shirring eggs. The squat little brown ones with handles are best for this purpose. Butter them lightly and lay in each a round of toast cut to fit the bottom of the dish. This may be stamped out of bread with the cooky cutter or empty baking powder can, discarding the crusts and toasting the rounds. Moisten with a little oyster liquor, lay six or seven good sized oysters on the toast, sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper, dot with bits of butter; add if you like a tablespoonful of cream, though this is not an essential; set in an oven of steady heat and bake about ten minutes or until the oysters ruffe and crisp. Then serve at once in the pans in which they are cooked setting them, of course, on a plate on which not to injure the table. Pass lemon with them and serve more toast as an accompaniment or thin slices of buttered brown bread.

Chocolate Layer Cake.

For a layer cake with a filling of chocolate cream mix half a cupful of butter with a cupful of sugar. After creaming add two beaten eggs and half a cupful of milk. Lift two tea-spoonfuls of baking powder with one cupful and a half of flour and stir the moist ingredients into it. Let the mixture bake in two or three layers and when cold spread them with the following filling: Grate a quarter of a pound of chocolate. Melt it and add a quarter of a cupful of sugar and a tea-spoonful of cornstarch. Measure out one cupful and a half of milk, add a little to the mixture and put the rest over the stove to boil. When it boils add the mixture and continue to cook till it thickens, being careful to stir it constantly to prevent lumps from forming.

For Lettuce.

The squash leftover from dinner may be used up in pancakes. Have ready about a pint of cold mashed squash and add a tablespoonful of butter, a little salt, half a cupful of milk, an egg and half a cupful of flour stirred with a tea-spoonful of baking powder. If the batter is too thin add more flour or if too stiff more milk. Drop the batter by tablespoonfuls on to a hot buttered griddle or a non-stick pan and bake like other cakes of the kind. Serve the cakes directly from the griddle with butter. If there are leftover corn and stewed tomatoes in the garden mix them, and when they begin to boil flavor with a little onion, juice half a tea-spoonful of sugar and serve very hot.

Spiced Sweet Potatoes.

For this dish the potatoes must be perfectly sound and of the flavor. In different ones are cut for the special occasion. Select those of uniform size, wash clean, boil tender, skin and stand aside to become cold. Cut into quarter inch rounds, place a layer on the bottom of a buttered dish, dot with bits of butter and sprinkle with a mixture of brown sugar and cinnamon. Alternate layers of potato and seasoning until the dish is filled, finishing with plenty of butter. Cover and stand in the oven until thoroughly heated through, then uncover and brown. Serve at once without reheating.

Cream Puffs.

One cup boiling water poured on one half cup butter and put in saucepan on stove. When boiling add one cup of flour beating all the time. Let boil five minutes. When cold add three eggs well beaten, drop on buttered pans and bake thirty minutes.

Cream Filling. One-half cup of sugar, three great spoonfuls of cream, one egg poured into one pint of boiling milk; flavor. Make a small hole in the side of the puffs with a knife and fill with the cream. This makes twelve.

Care of Earthenware Casseroles.

A point emphasized by the manufacturers of the best earthenware casseroles is that before using at all they should be placed in a pan or kettle and completely covered with cold water. Bring slowly to a boil and then remove the pan from the fire, letting the ware cool in the water before taking out.

Avoid changing the temperature from hot to cold or cold to hot too rapidly, lest the ware be cracked.

A Fig Dessert.

How about molasses for pudding? Do you know it? If not you might try it out on the family.

Mince very fine one half pound of figs and mix them with one-half pound of finely grated bread-crumbs, six ounces of soft butter and enough molasses of best brand to make into a mass. Butter a mold and fill it with the mixture—the hot or steam for one and one-half hours. Serve with cream, either plain or whipped.

Ginger Puffs.

One cup molasses, one cup sugar, one cup sweet milk, three-fourths cup but-ter or part butter and one egg one tablespoon soda, one tablespoon ginger, one tablespoon bicarbonate of soda and one-half cup flour. Mix in spoonful in a greased pan. You may think there is too much soda but there is not.

SPRING MILLINERY

Shades Are Going to Be Suitable and Seemingly



ONE OF THE MODERN HAT SHAPES.

Small and medium sized hats are to be the approved shapes in the spring, and the model illustrated is a smart representation of the prevailing type of millinery.

The hat is of light blue-brim straw covered with white-dotted milline. Tiny pink gardenias with their foliage are wreathed about the hat.

Business Women's Dents.

When starting out to save your own living, don't think you know more than a few who know very nearly as much as you do.

If your employer tells you a secret keep that secret; store it away in a little recess of your mind and let it be there until he asks you about it. If he doesn't ask you, it won't matter. When you enter an office or business house for the first time do exactly as you are told; don't ask too many questions; use your eyes and see what is to be done.

Don't visit with your employer; he doesn't like you to chatter about him; his wife can do that.

Be on time—if you lose an arm to the lot get to business on time; arrive all else and don't be two minutes late.

Don't have friends coming to call on you on the telephone; the telephone was put into an office for business, not for visiting.

Don't think because you have read somewhere that a man has married his secretary that your employer is going to marry you; sometimes he is married before you enter his employ.

Don't think that because your employer is sitting at his desk and is presently going to be away that you can talk to him; sometimes he is in as a "weighty" problem and he doesn't need your help in planning it over.

Be pleasant as soon as you step in side the office; nobody wants to know about your own troubles; your time is not your own; you'll be asked to do odd jobs and be down all the time to look gloomy.

Be loyal to the man or woman who employs you; if you know he is doing wrong don't accuse him; make of it good an impression on him as soon as you can; a human being cannot judge another.

The New Fashionable Water.

Very odd and new is the water treated of soft finished children in a rich shade of green, pink, a fashionable color of the spring. It is made in



IN CRISP ORNATE TARIFF.

PEASANT LINE, WITH THE BUTTONS SET IN rows on front and sleeves. The arrangement of pin tucks in front gives fullness over the bust and a good fit.

Crocheted Purse.

Here are simple directions for crocheting a purse with wool or silk. Commence with thirty-seven chains, always taking three chains to form a turn and work one turn in each chain, turn and continue the same till you have the required length. Remember that the work has to be doubled from beginning to end to form two sides.

When you have the length desired start decreasing one stitch on each side until all the stitches are done. This point forms the firm top of the purse. Double the work and sew neatly on the wrong side, turn back and sew the pattern fastener to the inside side of the flap, which fastens to the purse itself.

If you wish to fasten the purse around your neck, insert two threads at one end of the purse and work eighty chains and attach the opposite side. Buy a brass ring and double crochet around it, catching it into the eighty chain in the center. Pass the cord to go around the neck through the ring and the purse is completed.

For the Children

A Little Nuts and Bolts



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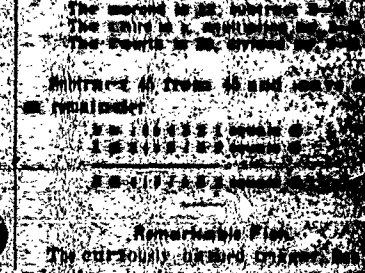
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