

Woman's World

The Pioneer Woman Judge of the National Horse Show.



Photo by American Press Assn. LADY BECK.

In the Wake of Christmas

An aftermath of Christmas which people would fain ignore is the necessity of writing notes of thanks to all who have sent gifts. Just why it should be such a task to spare a few minutes in fulfilling an act of courtesy in return for a favor it is difficult to say, but probably it is the number of such notes to be written which terrifies the would-be polite.

To children the joys of Christmas are absolutely dulled by the prospect of untold letters to be litted to out of town relatives and friends, and one small girl used to devote the entire day on New Year's to this gigantic task. For she invariably enumerated the entire list of the presents she had received in every letter she wrote. Her epistles used to read somewhat as follows:

Dear Aunt Jane—I thank you very much for the beautiful gift you so kindly sent me. I received also eight books, three school companions, a muff, a bracelet, a box of soap, a gold pencil, two pictures and a pair of shoes. Thanking you again for the doll, I am your loving niece.

With slight variations this note was sent to many people every year before the writer grew old enough to know that other people were not so interested in her affairs as she was herself, and as her years increased her discernment grew until, for her own sake, she began to shorten her notes of thanks down to:

Dear Aunt Jane—Your lovely gift received. Accept my thanks. With much love, from your affectionate niece.

It is to be feared that nowadays people are as remiss about acknowledging gifts as they are in answering invitations, about which there is more than a crying need for reform. It is still worse to delay writing a few words in return for a gift which has cost the sender some trouble and thought. Such should be answered verbally or by a letter at the earliest opportunity.

But, oh, it is hard to write when one has to give thanks for some crazy thing one does not want! "I don't mind thinking people for what I did like, but I can't be hypocritical." And forthwith she sits down at the telephone with a list in her hand and calls up in turn all those of her friends and relatives who have telephoned and who have sent her presents.

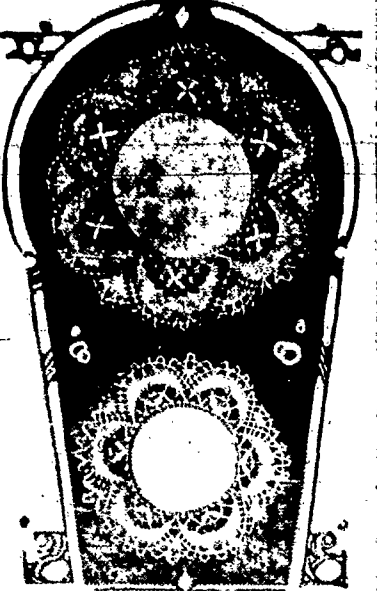
This is a labor-saving device which saves some note paper and stamps, but which does not really save much time. The telephone may have put letter writing out of fashion, but it never was intended to dispense with polite usages in society.

So, unlike the little girl previously quoted, do not postpone your notes of thanks for a New Year's task. Begin the new year with a clean slate as far as debts of courtesy are concerned, as well as in other matters.

A HOLIDAY HINT

A Set of Dollies That Makes Interesting Christmas Cards.

These pretty dollies are easily made, given a perfect circle of linen and a torchon lace. This may be sewed on quite evenly if a strong thread is run along the top edge as a ruffle string. A set of six, with one enlarged as a centerpiece, would make an acceptable present.



TWO OF A KIND.

Those French Hats. Tall, square creases are to the fore, and the material is panne velvet or silk beaver, which, of course, adds much to the smart effect. Beaded flowers are tucked away in small hats common to the entire of fur. Flowers of feathers are so cleverly made that they defy any one versed in this business to tell of what material they are fashioned. Feathers, too, as well as wings and ribbon, are to play a prominent part in the trimming of the hats for winter. Coque heads are considered smart and a change from the popular owl's head. The only case when crowns are low is when the sailor's brim is wide as many brims are. Otherwise it is safe to say that all crowns are high and the higher the smarter. The return of the ostrich feather means that the picture hat will be a thing of beauty. The beret, too, is still to remain in all its adaptations.

Capes for the Traveler. Capes are doubly blessed by the traveler and by fashion, for the need of an auxiliary traveling wrap is great, and the capes supply it. Capes are being interpreted in many and various ways, some of which are charming. Others, speaking frankly, grog must be rated the delightful examples made with an attractive little waistcoat, fastening with large and distinctive buttons.

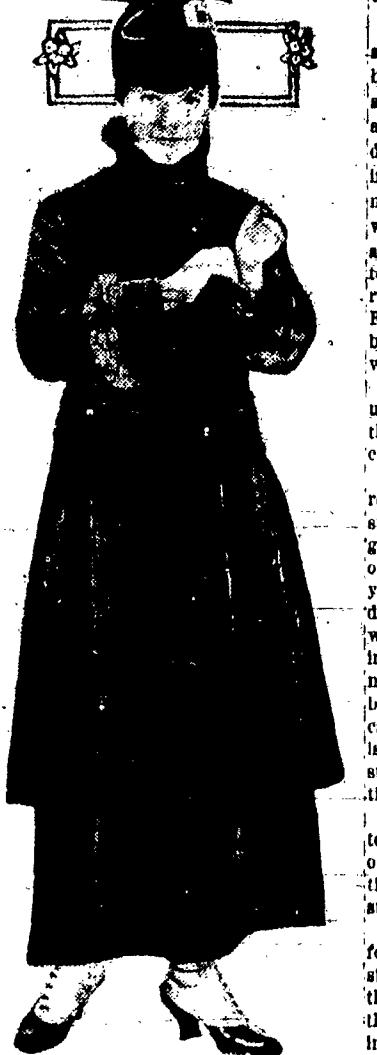
The Polite Mother. There is but one way to teach good manners to children—good manners. But is that worth the practicing and are not mere polish and sham and hypocrisy, but one way, and this is to practice good manners yourself.

All over the land unthinking women are still saying to the casual guest: "How good of you to come!" "Oh, no, you are not late." "Well, it doesn't matter a bit." But to the child it is this old formula: "What did I tell you?" "Don't let me have to speak to you again!" "Thomas, shut that door!" and a hundred other execrable crudities.

Neighbors. Be interested in your neighbor, but not curious. Borrow not and then you may not be asked to lend. Respect your neighbor's line full of clean clothes and do not select hers for the bending of your rug. It is said walls have ears. Therefore speak low if you would keep your affairs private. Don't consider your neighbor's house a stopping-in place to enter without knocking. Don't start a quarrel over your neighbor's children, but preserve friendliness. Make your little girl use the pedal when practicing if there be no one in your neighbor's house. Neighborliness should be more than a steady courtesy.

A PRACTICAL COAT.

This Youthful Effect is One That Still Holds Popular.



FOR ONE PIECE FROCK.

For one piece frock is wide skirted with a modish bit of fur around the high collar and deep cuffs. Fastened with novelty buttons, low bodied and fitted, this garment means "good to go" smart buttoned boots and a dashing turban.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

Four Picked Recipes For Favorite Holiday Candies.

Pinocle—Two and one half cupsful of brown sugar, one half cupful of cream, butter the size of an egg, one half cupful of chopped walnuts, one half cupful of chopped almonds, one teaspoonful of vanilla. Boil the sugar, cream and butter together twenty minutes, add the nuts and vanilla and beat well. When smooth and creamy pour into buttered tin. When cool cut in squares.

Chocolate Squares—One cupful of sugar, one-quarter cake of chocolate, one-half cupful of molasses, one-half cupful of milk, one-half cupful of butter. Mix this all together and boil it twenty minutes, cool it a very little and add one teaspoonful of vanilla. Pour in paper and when cool, mark off in squares.

Nut Creams—Three cupsful of light brown sugar, whites of two eggs, one cupful of boiling water, one cupful of chopped nuts, one teaspoonful of vanilla. Boil the sugar and water, stirring and beating till the sugar is all dissolved, then let it boil without stirring till it spins a thread. Remove from the fire and let it stand on the table for just a moment, to be sure it has stopped boiling; then pour it over the stiff whites of the eggs, beating with a wire beater all the time, put in the vanilla while you are beating. When it is creamy and getting stiff add the nuts, stir well and spread on buttered paper. If you prefer do not use vanilla, but almond flavoring, and add almonds instead of other nuts.

Candied Orange Peel—Peel of three oranges, water and sugar. Cut the orange peel into strips one eighth in wide and of an even length as possible. Put into a saucepan cover with cold water and bring slowly to boiling point. Add fresh water, bring to the boiling point again and repeat the process four times. Now make a syrup using proportionately one pound of sugar to one cupful of water. Place the cooked orange peel in this and simmer slowly until the syrup is almost entirely absorbed. Cool and roll the strips in granulated sugar. The same process can be employed with lemon rind or grapefruit rind. A mixture of all three in a box makes a very acceptable little holiday gift.

Eye Strain and the Movies. The common practice of flashing written letters and printed matter on and off the screen with almost lightning rapidity is condemned as putting the greatest strain of all upon the eyes. The audience, in its eagerness to get an intelligent understanding of the action, makes a strong effort to read the lines, but it is given no opportunity to read all of them in many instances and is left to grasp them at a fleeting glance. Another effect of watching moving pictures worth mentioning in this connection, although it is not injurious to the eyes, is a pronounced hypnotic experience that many people have, particularly when the performance is prolonged to more than one or two hours and is not of a very exciting nature. The drowsiness that comes over some of the audience is so complete as to induce loss of consciousness in sleep for short periods of time, in spite of all efforts to keep awake, even in well ventilated theaters.

As the Twig Is Bent

Temper storms seem to be frequent among the nursery folk. One little boy of about two and a half years of age, with his screams and stamping and flinging himself on the ground, drew the attention of a whole street in pity for his mother. She could do nothing with him, so left him and went on with the other children. At a cry from the bystanders she turned, to see the boy, temporarily demented, rush off the pavement into the street. Fortunately he was rescued in time, but what a life in that home and what a future for that boy!

The incident brought to mind the urgency for a better understanding of the causes and treatment of the young child's furious temper.

It is often forgotten that neither the reasoning powers nor self control is strong enough to restrain a child's aggressive energy. The habit of restraint over the primitive propensities has not yet been set up. Consequently injudicious meat diet, nervous excitement, want of fresh air or the company of irritable, quarrelsome people fosters a mental condition liable to be set ablaze by some slight cause. The will, which can be quite strong even in a baby, is roused to exertion, and then the storm bursts and continues usually until the boy is exhausted.

Apart from the physical aspect of temper and its treatment, there are other methods to be followed. Prevention of an outburst is easier than its stoppage.

The mother or nurse should watch for the immediate cause of these storms and in future should avoid them whenever possible by distracting the attention in time, or so maneuvering that the conditions are changed. Every outburst avoided is a gain to the child. It is essential to dealing with a passionate child that his whole nature is used for this fetching coat character and propensities should be with its modish bit of fur around the understood, so that all that is possible high collar and deep cuffs. Fastened can be done to help him with something with novelty buttons, low bodied and fitted, this garment means "good to go" smart buttoned boots and a dashing turban.

FOR THE WEE GIRL.

A Winter Cozy That Delights the Small Person. This bath robe is made of Shetland wool in an old rose shade, with a rope girdle, held by side straps, that tie around the waist. These charming garments may be bought at reasonable prices in the shops, but many mothers caught by the knitting fad are making them as fancy work.



A Dainty Robe.



A Little Chat About "Information."

Some people regard the Bell telephone "Information" operator as a sort of modern miracle. You'd be amazed to hear some of the question's she's expected to answer. She's asked for everything—from a prophesy on tomorrow's weather to a good recipe for fudge.

It is obvious that the more time "Information" gives to unnecessary and irrelevant questions, the less time she has for legitimate appeals for aid.

"Information" is ready to serve you at all times, but she cannot do so to your best advantage when her time is taken up with unnecessary calls. You should call on her ONLY when you fail to find the information you require in the Telephone Directory.

When you ask for information that you could find in the Directory, you not only spend time unnecessarily yourself, but you probably make someone wait who has a real question to ask.

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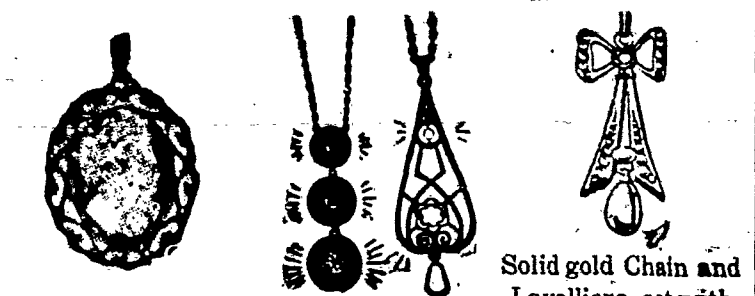
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