Woman's World

An American Novelist Founds a Paying Workroom in Paris.

EDITH WHARTON.

Mrs. Wharton, author of "The House of Mirth," tells how a paying work room for war sufferers is founded

When the war broke out an immense number of benevolent and unoccupied women in Paris felt a violent but vague impulse to "help." This impulse found its chief expression in the traditional pursuits of making lint, hemming towels and crocheting baby jackets. Such activities are harmless in days of peace, but in wartime any unpaid industry encroaches on the rights of the unemployed, and this fact was so promptly understood in France that I can claim only by a few weeks' priority the honor of having founded the first paying workroom in Paris.

My ouvroir, which started tentatively and on a small scale, was at first meant only to supply work for a few seamstresses of my own quarter, but with the temporary paralysis of trade such a wave of misery swept over Paris that the most prudently circumscribed charities had to enlarge their borders and take their chance of finding the means to exist. It was impossible to confine my aid to seamstresses when typists and accountants, nursery governesses and dramatic artists, cooks and concert singers were all pleading for help, but I kept and have continued to keep to one of my original rules—that no one I employed should be in receipt of what is called the "military allowance." All over Paris in these early days workrooms were being opened to help the wives and mothers of soldiers. Wives, widows and young girls without near relatives in the army were not unnaturally overlooked, and it was for their benefit that my workroom was started

My first step was to appeal for help to my compatriots in Paris. I collected over $2,000 within a week or two, and with that sum the foundations of the work were laid. I bought a large supply of materials, made arrangements to have my women fed in a neighboring restaurant and put over my door the sign of the Red Cross, under whose auspices the work was begun. The women receive 20 cents a day and a good midday meal in return for six hours' work. On Thursdays they have a half holiday with full pay, but whenever there is a sudden call for hospital supplies or any urgent order they cheerfully give up their Thursday afternoon.

When a woman applies for work she shows her papers, gives references and is asked to prove that she is not receiving either the "military allowance" or what is called the "assistance to the unemployed." Her statements are verified by inquiries at her mairie, and if the report is favorable she is engaged for two months.

The two months over, she has to leave, but if she chooses we give her piecework at home for a month. At the end of the month, if there is a vacancy, she can return to the workroom for another two months, and so on. This system of rotation was established as soon as it became evident that the war was to last a long time, and the result has been satisfactory.

So Transparent!

The transparent hat has been such a welcome comer that its popularity has extended for more than the usual one season run. This is also true of the transparent hem which has had such a vogue during the fall and winter, while the transparent frock that reveals the silken trousers beneath is a creation of this season. Transparent scarfs, too, of white or flesh colored tulle, so wrapped that they cover the chin, are also receiving a great deal of attention by this year's debutante. So it will be understood that the advent of a coat which reveals the frock beneath and such a coat trimmed with fur to add to the luxurious effect will not be such a startling idea as it sounds on first hearing.

O'Brien Potatoes.

Boil potatoes with the skins on till tender, then cool and cut into dice. Make a white sauce according to usual manner and add to it a teaspoonful of onion juice and a large tablespoonful of chopped green pepper. Pour over the potatoes and simmer for five minutes.

Retouching the Ready Made

It is not every woman's good fortune to be able to cut and fit and make her own clothes. Some have not the time, while others have not the ability, and many have neither. The busy woman especially hates to give her precious minutes to long hours with the dressmaker, and it is for such that the shops put on their racks and counters such a number of stylish ready made garments. For the fastidious woman, however, it is something of a shock to see herself, so to speak, coming down the street in the identical frock or suit she is wearing. For her there is nothing to do but to invest in the cheaper ready made garments and put the remainder of the allowance into fixings that will make the frock, suit or blouse partake of her own personality. After all, one's clothes should reflect one's personality.

For sheer tailored blouses there is a happy expedient that any woman can resort to with a few stitches, and that is to apply under the sheer material a length of figured or contrasting colored ribbon. This will dress up the blouse with the smallest possible expenditure of time and money.

The styles are so accommodating at present that a frock may be completely changed with very little trouble. An imported gown in a smart shop suggests a way of putting the punch into a cheap taffeta dance frock. The imported model had a very straight gathered skirt, which was turned under at each side for a distance of four or five inches at the hem to reveal a lace petticoat. This gave a bouffant appearance without interfering with the cut of the skirt. A girdle of old blue velvet contrasted beautifully with the flesh tint of the frock. A tulle scarf was suggested for softening the corsage. A cheap drop skirt on an otherwise good looking dance frock may be omitted entirely, the lace petticoat sufficing to give the fluffy appearance at the foot.

Leather collars and cuffs, from new leather to be bought at a leather house or from the arms of a good pair of kid gloves where the hands are worn out, will make a bought suit take on a different air. A leather belt added in place of the fabric belt will give tone to a Russian blouse coat. New lining will make a cheaper plush coat look much more expensive and dressy, as often the lining is where the manufacturer has saved his pennies to make his profit on the coat.

A large suit skirt may be shirred into fitting at the waist line, and a belt of material which comes from the piece taken off the hem added for style.

Braiding on pockets will dress up a plain suit, or the addition of new fur will often help out.

A-SAILOR, HO!

The Ever Popular Middy Suit For the Small Lad.

This correct lad is all set up in blue broadcloth and white linen neatly braided and chevroned. The black silk

THE BOY BLUE.

tie is knotted of a memento from the battleship Connecticut. These middy suits are especially serviceable during winter months, as they take the place of leggings.

Rice Snowballs.

Wash two teaspoonfuls of rice and boil it in one teacupful of water and one of milk, with a little salt. If the rice is not tender when the milk and water are absorbed add a little more milk and water; when the rice is tender flavor with vanilla, form it into balls or mold into a compact form with little cups; place these rice balls around the inside of a deep dish, fill the dish with a rich, soft custard and serve either hot or cold. The custard and balls should be flavored alike.

OFF FOR PALM BEACH.

One of the First Frocks For Her Going South.

SO SPRINGLIKE.

White pussy willow taffeta simply set up gives this charming gown with its shoulder cape effect. A georgette crape gulimpe is worn under the basque like bodice, while a bouffant drape over one hip, the other side falling straight, gives a piquant skirt. The flyaway bow on the straw poke bonnet, with its rosebud, deserves especial notice.

A BEAUTIFUL NECK.

How to Improve Your Throat Without Slavery to Routine.

We all know that the neck should not be too short, should be smaller at the top than where it joins the chest and shoulders, that the shoulders should be neither too broad and well developed nor too narrow, that the bones of the chest and back should not be buried with flesh.

It is not given to every woman to have a beautiful neck and shoulders and chest. But she can make the most of the trio, as nature gave them to her, by massage and exercise. And she can do more.

She can care for the skin so carefully perfecting the texture and coloring that the form of the neck and chest and shoulders becomes secondary.

Often the skin of the back and chest and shoulders will have small eruptions when the face of the person is clear and free from any such disorder. This is because the clothes cover the body so tightly that the air and sun have no chance to purify the skin beneath as they do the skin of the face.

Frequent baths of sea salt also tend to clear the skin of the neck and bring the blood to the surface, giving it the glow of health. Olive oil or some good cold cream applied to this part of the body keeps the pores open and helps the skin to throw off any secretions which are clogging the pores.

Exercises which stretch the muscles of the back, chest and neck will keep away any superfluous flesh and make the flesh hard and firm.

The neck sometimes gets dark from high and tight collars. For a bleach use the magic of lemon juice diluted one-third with water. Sponge with it and allow to dry on.

Oatmeal is splendid for whitening the skin and may be used freely.

Consider the Stomach.

The evil habit of going too long without food is one from which many people suffer in this present age. Men sit in their offices, women rush about shopping, and both become so absorbed in their respective interests that the period of hunger is allowed to pass and that of fatigue and depression to set in. The worst feature of such cases is that once the second stage is reached the desire for food is gone, and after this treatment of oneself the stomach is too exhausted to digest a meal when taken. This extreme should be avoided. It is only necessary to take a light diet. A glass of milk, a biscuit, will do to prevent after loss of appetite. And yet those who call themselves sensible prefer to ruin their health rather than take the time and trouble to turn into a restaurant and drink a glass of milk.

"What fools these mortals be!"

Southern Rice Bread.

Two cupfuls of white cornmeal, three eggs, one and one-quarter pints of milk, one cupful boiled rice, two tablespoonfuls of butter, four teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Beat eggs. Add milk, meal, salt and butter. Beat. Add baking powder. Beat again. Bake in three greased pie dishes thirty minutes.

A CHERUIT MODEL.

A Graceful Frock For Matinee Wear This Winter.

DIRECT FROM PARIS.

This handsome gown, so Frenchy in its design, is developed with winey broadcloth and georgette crape, which makes a foundation for the sleeves and bodice. Please notice how cleverly novelty plaid ribbon has been used as a girdle and tie, while a pointed fox scarf gives the right finish around the shoulders.

WINTER NECKWEAR.

Newest Notes About Attractive Ways to Dress Your Throat.

Windsor ties of silk taffeta and crape are in plain ombre, striped and plaid effects. Ribbon ties are in velvet, satin, grosgrain and belting designs. These are more in cross stripes than in one color. The ends are tasseled with jet or steel; have large silk balls, plaited fans of silk or Chinese looking pendants of jade. The very newest have a buckle of the ribbon part way down and tiny roses of chiffon dot the neck let from the buckle to the ends. The new jabots have a cascade of lace edging from three to ten inches wide.

The newest ideas are sport stock and glazed leather sets. Scarfs of this soft leather are swathed around the high collars. A plain piece of neckwear is a stock of pink moire taffeta or satin with high tabs in front and small tabs of white organdie resting on these. Striped velvet ribbon is worn as a necklet in rose, turquoise, black, bright green, watermelon pink, gold, old blue and violet.

Soft black satin ribbon six inches wide has pointed ends edged with skunk fur. The ribbon is wound around a high collar and tied in a large bow at the back on one side. A choker of violet faille has a short scarf of the same tied once in front, with a circular turnover at the top, fur edged. Turnover points in front trim high collars. Plaited ruches on top of high collars encircle the head. Panne velvet collars are trimmed with dull silver lace.

Vestees of white pique, plain and plaided silk, glazed feather, bits of ancient embroidery, beading, tapestry, broche, etc., are all used for a waist length vestee. Linen and pique stocks are stiff with an upper effect to turn over and are worn with a stock bow. One has wings at the sides, another has a tiny shelf standing out all around and points at the sides. Another is scalloped wider in front.

Marabou collars and muffs are in brown, gray or white and always trimmed with ribbon. A black marabou collar and muff set has black and white ribbon bows scattered with large jet buttons.

German Toast.

Materials. Three eggs, one half teaspoonful salt, two tablespoonfuls sugar, one cupful milk, six slices stale bread.

Utensils. Griddle, bowl, dish, egg beater, cup, spoon, knife, shallow dish.

Directions. Beat eggs slightly; add salt, sugar, milk; strain into shallow dish. Soak bread in mixture; cook on a hot, well greased griddle; brown on one side, turn and brown on other. Serve with sauce made by creaming one-half cupful butter; add one cupful sugar gradually, one egg, well beaten, one teaspoonful vanilla. Just before serving add one-half cupful hot milk.

Mushrooms Stewed.

Take one and a half pints of button mushrooms, clean them, put into an enameled stewpan with three ounces of butter first melted and allowed to brown a little. Stir them gently and shake over a moderate fire in order that the butter may be well distributed over the mushrooms; then add a very little powdered mace or nutmeg with salt, white pepper and cayenne to taste. Cover and cook till done. Serve around or at one side of bread patties.

The Woman of Today

The wise ones who look at the age and would diagnose its ills call one symptom a "sense of restlessness." Women are restless, yes—but more than that it's a restless age. Everybody is trying to do something, to get somewhere, to change over from the old order to the new, but just what the new is they cannot tell you.

And we would hold no argument for stagnation or for that listlessness which lets well enough alone and leans back comfortably on the past and is content with what is.

But it is possible that in this very quest for the next thing, or the new thing, we are but providing for ourselves ingeniously enough a cloak to cover our excuses for not doing the thing that's here today.

We are all very eager and very restless and so sure that the big thing is just ahead or somewhere else. We could do this all so well if we were just in a bigger city or at a bigger job, sadly forgetting that the job of today is, after all, the thing we have been given to work with.

"Will you seek afar off?" writes Walt Whitman in a "Song of Occupations." "You surely come back at last."

In things best known to you finding the best, or as good as the best,
In folks nearest to you finding the sweetest, strongest, lovingest,
Happiness, knowledge, not in another place, but this place, not for another hour but this hour.

Such was the strong philosophy of Whitman, wholesome medicine for a restless age which wants always the thing that is just beyond the prosy reality of today.

Feverishly we mark time, waiting for a chance to live, unmindful of the fact that in the very act of marking time we are doing the living. Sooner or later we will then come back, "finding the best in folks nearest; . . . not in another place, but this place; not in another hour, but this hour."

No mystery touches the life of a tomorrow that may not be yours today; no magic makes the big metropolis hold for you the thing that is not really in you to work out where you dwell now.

FOR JANUARY.

Two Styles of Winter Gloves Popular For All Sports.

One pair of these heavy gloves comes in any modish shade. They are wool with one-clasp fasteners and are not so

REAL COMFORT.

clumsy as mittens while just as warm. The other pair is heavy brown leather, with gauntlet tops. The strap is especially good for motoring, as it keeps out the wind, while for rough sports these gloves are stitched in such a way as to prevent splitting.

Sandwich Fillings.

Pimento cheese and thinly sliced tomatoes.

Tomatoes, sliced thin, with mayonnaise dressing and English walnuts.

Sardines made into a paste spread on white bread and dotted with tiny bits of lemon and ripe olives.

Peanut butter and paprika.

Cottage cheese and minced onion.

Stuffed olives (ground) and mayonnaise.

Chicken, finely minced; bits of celery and mayonnaise.

Brown Bread Sandwich.—Jelly mixed with wet ground raisins and candied orange peel.

Bananas sliced thin, dipped into juice of lemon, mayonnaise dressing and nut meats.

Ham chopped fine, with hard boiled eggs, mayonnaise dressing.

For the Children

A Small Lady and a Big Set of Real Furs.

Photo by American Press Association

The smiling little lady in the picture is very happy, as her expression indicates. She has good reason for her joy, because now she has a set of real furs for her own. Formerly this young lady used to wear mamma's on occasion, usually in the house. Not long ago, however, she had a mysterious visitor at night—he probably came down the chimney—and the next morning there was a beautiful set of furs bearing her name. Wasn't that a splendid surprise? The little girl thinks it was the finest thing that ever happened in her short lifetime.

Queer Bird Islands.

The most curious bird "islands" are to be found among the islands of Santa Barbara and in the California seas. These resting places for the birds are very small indeed, and often you can see the "island" disappear from sight, while the bird flutters hastily away to another.

They are simply fish that are perhaps the laziest in the whole world of ours. The natives call them the mola-mola, and the white folks know them as mole, or moon fish. They bask in the sun and seldom leave the surface of the water except when chased by an enemy. They vary in size up to ten feet across their backs. As for tails, they are satisfied with very rudimentary ones, a mere fringe of finlike growth serving as such. They are not afraid of the gulls and cormorants, for these birds settle down on their backs and rest there, preening and oiling their feathers and having a fine time. These fish are not good to eat, being of about the tenderness of india rubber.

Shrewd Boy Horse Tamer.

Out in Oklahoma there is a boy who has turned his attention to gentling colts on his father's ranch, where a great many horses are raised for the general market. Heretofore they were sold as they came from the pasture, bad and good, tame and wild, gentle and vicious, with prices set accordingly. The boy saw the absurdity of this. If good horses brought double and treble the money that bad ones did, why have any bad ones to sell? And so he studied out and followed a set principle of gentling, to the effect that, after holding each animal until its education was complete, there were received fully three times the prices as formerly. Now this youngster has been made by his father a member of the ranch company and regularly draws down a fixed income and a bonus on his added work.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Peanut Butter Fudge.

Two cupfuls of light brown sugar, a half cupful of milk and a scant two-thirds cupful of peanut butter. After boiling the sugar and milk to the soft ball stage, remove it from the fire and gradually beat in the peanut butter. Replace on the fire a moment, then spread on a buttered pan, and when partly cool cut into squares.

Waiting.

The first little cat said, "Meow-ow-ow!"
The next little cat said, "Spit-t!"
The third little cat looked very wise,
And the fourth one near had a fit.

The first little cat reached out a paw,
The next little cat sang a note,
The third little cat twitched its whiskers,
And the fourth one stroked down its coat.

The first little cat said, "Oh, hurry!"
The next little cat said, "Oh, wait!"
The third little cat said not a word,
And the fourth one cried, "Don't be late!"

Then four little kittycats scurried
Way off to an old apple tree,
Where four little birds, safe in their nest,
Were cozy and sweet as could be.

And the four little cats, they waited,
And four little birds waited, too,
Until, with song and flurry of wings,
Mother came—and waiting was through.

Then four little cats scampered homeward,
And four little birds in the tree
Just warbled and chirruped and twittered
As happy as small birds could be.

—Philadelphia Record.