

COST OF LIVING.

If It Is "High," Is It The Fault of the Woman?

PLEA FOR BUSINESS SYSTEM.

Instead of Cheerfully Paying For Unwarranted Rises in Food Necessaries, Why Not Ask Your Dealer For the Reason?

Woman is blamed for everything, sooner or later. Starting with that of fair of the apple and through all the intermediate ages, the charge that "she did it" pops up every little while.

Among the many accusations brought against the twentieth century woman is her responsibility for the high cost of living. Yes, really!

No one has actually come out and accused her of hoarding prices, but the stern, practical minded investigators say that the increase is due to her "her easy-going way of saying: 'All right! Instead of 'Why,' when her butcher or grocer or dry goods dealer tells her that his particular commodity has gone up in price."

Ever since prices commenced to increase, efficiency experts and farseeing economists have been sounding away at woman because of her lack of interest in the matter in a broad sense and her inertia about adopting preventive measures. They claim that just so long as woman shops in her present careless fashion, taking the dealer's word about the weight, quality and value of her purchases, she will be exploited by the unscrupulous.

For instance if a woman would make it her business to know the legal weight of all dry measures, she would not stop at thinking that the dealer's level of pounds is level and true. She would know the exact weight according to the standards and would let the dealer know she knows. She would not be content with a dealer's outrageous number of pounds in her last ton of coal at the south of town with her coal dealer on the next and remind him that she had paid him for coal to be burned, not for stones for coal for grates and choke her fires.

She would read the labels on all packaged goods, know exactly how many pounds or ounces each package contained and consider whether she would gain or lose in quality and quantity by purchasing the same goods in bulk. In short, she would be on the job and would turn her mind to the business basis, and her concerted action would put a stop to it, in many cases, unwarranted increase in price of the necessities of life.

There is a manly way of estimating the truth in the accusation to hold her up and take her to account for herself that a better knowledge of market quotations, a better understanding of the attention to the details of purchasing and her participation in the market, ensler all around. The manly way of considering it, may be:

A MANLY ONE.

What Sonny Boy Will Wear in the Springtime.

For early spring wear, choose this small coat of broad cloth with a pointed



THAT BROAD BACK.

voke, a demibelt and patch pockets and finished with big bone buttons. Please observe that the socks are embellished with clocks.

For Winter Sports. In sport suits homespun has a big place in the very smart tailored suits. Wool velours are seen in very gay tints, but wool velours in a gay tint does not look garish or bizarre. These suits are made for the Canadian and the northern United States resorts. With their big rolling capelike collar and deep cuffs of fur they have a lot of style.

WINTRY LUXURY.

Here's a Motorcoat For Solid Comfort This Season.

Built in tiers of muskrat and contrasted with real sealskin, which gives the fur cuffs, deep collar and smart



THE MOTORCOAT.

best this winter motorcoat comes for Journeymen. The fur cap, with goggles buttoned in respectively, interesting.

A HOMEMADE FIRELESS.

A Stout Wooden Box, Old Newspapers and Hay the Chief Requisites.

A fireless cooker is often a necessity in the up-to-date kitchen, but the expense for a ready-made one with the cooking house. However, a very satisfactory one can be made at virtually no cost and will prove an economical means of boiling and steaming.

Take a wooden box, about 12 inches high and 12 inches wide, and fill it with newspapers, crumpled up and packed tight. Then fill the box with hay or straw, packed tight. The box is now ready for use. To cook, place the articles to be cooked in a cloth bag and place it in the box. Pour water over it, and cover the box with a lid or a board. The food will be cooked in about 2 hours.

You can make easily any kind of stew, or meat, game or poultry, by cooking it over the fire in the usual way for twenty minutes and then boiling it in the hay box, covering it with the lid and leaving it six hours. Lentil, pea or mixed vegetable soups require three hours boiling on the fire and four hours in the hay box. Boiled meat requires thirty minutes' boiling for a small joint and forty-five for one of five pounds and four to five hours in the hay box. Breakfast puddings require an hour's steady boiling on the fire and four to five hours in the hay box, and puddings the same. Soft vegetable, also potatoes and cereals, like the same, but a non-ardid require five minutes' boiling and one and a half hours in the hay. Haricot beans, lentils, carrots, turnips, require twenty minutes on the fire and three hours in the hay. Oatmeal porridge can be cooked fifteen minutes on the fire, then left all night in the hay and be given five minutes on the fire before serving at breakfast. Any kind of fruit can be stewed in the hay box. It is best to make a syrup of sugar and water, add cloves, lemon or any flavoring liked, bring to the boil, add the fruit and let it simmer ten minutes, put into the cooker and leave three hours. Small fruit takes less time. Any dish that is to be eaten hot must be brought up to the boil after taking it out of the hay box before serving.

Childish Modes.

For the very small girl the short no-plee smock over bloomers is a favored play costume and is made up in all the sturdier rub stuffs, with touches of smocking, cross stitch, feather stitch or other embroidery or with tiny contrasting binding.

About Pockets.

We are to be "pocketed" the coming season as never before, and who will admit that this fashion feature can fall to please us and inspire in our hearts and minds a very strong and substantial desire for new clothes?

FOR YOUNG FOLKS

Sleepy Time Story About a Greek Girl.

MYSTERY OF A QUEER VASE.

What Happened When a Curious Little Person Lifted the Lid—Many Woes Came Out to Sadden the People of the World—An Odd Garden in Germany.

Tonight, said Uncle Ben, to little Ned and Polly Ann, I am going to tell you a story that has come down from antiquity. It is about

A PEEPING GIRL.

Curiosity is wanting to know about things that don't concern you. It nearly always gets folks into trouble.

There was Pandora. I think I shall have to tell you about her.

Pandora was a lovely young Greek girl. She had everything that heart could wish for when she was born.

The gods who lived in their beautiful palace on Mount Olympus had each given her a splendid birthday present. She received beauty from one, health from another talent from another, and so on.

There was one old god, though, who thought he would play a joke on the others. So he went and hid the other gifts and hid them in a chest, and then he gave Pandora the gift of curiosity.

When Pandora was six years old she found the chest in her room. It was locked, but she was so curious that she tried to open it. She tried and tried, but she could not get it open.

One day when she was twelve years old she was playing with her dolls when she noticed that the chest was open. She looked inside and saw that the chest was empty.

Pandora often wondered about the chest, and she asked Epimetheus so many questions about it that he thought it best to lecture her every now and then about staying out of the chest with the chest.

The more she wanted to know about the chest, the more curious she became about it.

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A Supper At Sanger's

By SADIE OLCOTT

Jenny Wright was, between the ages of sixteen and twenty, the belle of the village.

When Jenny was nineteen there were even chances between Arthur Perry and Herbert Angell. Among the jaggards Ed De Forest's show seemed the poorest.

Now, Jenny Wright's bunch was considered the liveliest that had ever been known at Hunterville. They were constantly playing pranks on one another, and never was there a case where the person victimized failed to take his or her medicine good naturedly. Then, too, there were driving, fishing and swimming parties in summer and skating and coasting parties in winter.

One day when they were together at their headquarters, which was Jenny Wright's home, one of the boys complained that there was, as he expressed it, "nothing doing," which meant that amusements were lacking.

One of the girls proposed that they get up a week's elopement. The idea caught at once, and different plans of procedure were suggested. Of course Jenny must be the feminine part of the elopement. That went without saying. But who was to be the masculine part of it?

Naturally at this point there came a halt. None of the girls cared to nominate a fellow to elope with Jenny. No fellow would nominate himself and eventually would nominate any one else. Jenny, of course, was not in position to elope. What made the matter of the elopement was that Arthur Perry and Herbert Angell were pressing each other for a duel. The boys were in favor of a duel, but the girls were in favor of a manly deed.

When it looked as if the matter would fall through, Arthur Perry, who had more confidence in his chances of being chosen to elope, suggested that Jenny herself make the choice.

But that it be kept a secret between her and the fellow she chose till the elopement had taken place. She was to notify the party of her choice, and he was to run away with her exactly on the stroke of 9 of the town clock.

At 10 the bride party was to meet at Sanger's, a hotel and boarding house on Hill street, five miles distant, where they would all congratulate the bride couple and then sit down to a supper.

The suggestion was at once adopted by all the party except Jenny, who was finally won over. It was not until the night of the elopement that she would select the man she would choose for a husband, but it was suggested that she would.

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STYLE TIPS.

Latest News From Paris About Skirts and Blouses.

Every cable brings from Paris the news that the skirts of 1917 will be narrow. All those in the watchtowers have proclaimed the coming of this enemy to full skirts since last September, but only in limited segments of society was the news acted upon. The manufacturers had the material for full skirts, the average woman wanted full skirts, the wholesale houses turned them out by the thousands, and it was only left to the exclusive women and their dressmakers to cut down the width and lengthen the hem.

The question which will soon confront every woman is whether she wishes to change the silhouette of her skirt or go on wearing it as it is. It is ready to be discarded. One cheerful feature of the return to the slim silhouette is that a full skirt can be cut into a narrow one with ease.

That garment known as the outside blouse, which is merely a short, twentieth century blouse, has grown quite important and popular since the large shops, owned by the exclusive French models and placed them with in the reach of their own price.

Women like them. They are more becoming than the wide skirt waist and they do not make demands on one's purse for laundry. They have a thin lining of their own, which is a boon to the woman who has neither the time nor the money to arrange a vast variety of expensive underwear which shows so through the thin blouse.

The so-called blouses are worn with skirts that are not of their material or color, so this makes for variety and contrast in color. So far they are in fashion, and indeed in style, they are better than the old-fashioned blouses.

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FOR MATINEES.

A Gown Designed For Decorative Afternoon Use.

Brown chiffon velvet and satin combined feature this frock, trimmed with velvet buttons and narrow cordings.



DRESSY EFFECT.

A bit of scarlet bands the Lanvin neck, and a touch of the same velvet gives an girlish effect that is very natty. The girdle is velvet ribbon.

CHILDREN'S TOYS.

Lessons Learned in Play Leave an Everlasting Impression Upon Character.

A child's play is really its most important business, for in it the exercise necessary for the growing body is obtained, and at the same time lessons are learned which leave an everlasting impression on the character. For this reason it seems almost incomprehensible that any mother should be content to provide her children with toys that vibrate in good taste or by a too complete ignorance of the nature of the child's mind, she neglects the best means of his education or his training.

There is no need to give a baby one of those noisy, rattle toys with strings, and a few other features which are really only noisy rattle toys with which the baby is left to his own devices. These toys will do him no good, and he will be learning the sense of proportion and artistic truth and at the same time giving him a soft corner in his heart for his four footed neighbors.

From Japan comes a very complete set of doll's furniture which would delight any small homemaker. It is cut out of a solid block of Wang Yung wood and can be reassembled into a block again by the use of a little patience and ingenuity, a fact that makes it a most instructive toy, carrying out the Montessori game of solids in a more advanced and more interesting form.

Another fascinating toy which would bring joy to any little boy and to a good many girls is a carpenter's blue apron with a wide pocket, in which there is a very complete set of miniature tools, and for the more domesticated we lady there is a doll's dress-making outfit put up in an attractive box.

With toys such as these, not to mention the better known games in which many can take part, a child can at a very small cost be taught to educate itself unconsciously, learning lessons that are of far greater value for after life than many of those given in the classroom.

To Clean Feather Pillows. Feathers that have lain for any length of time in pillows should be washed. To do the work in the best possible manner open one corner of the pillow and pour boiling water in upon the feathers. This makes them a wet mass, and they are much more easily handled. Remove them and then wash them thoroughly with soap and water, being careful to rinse them in several waters. Then put them back into the washed cover and hang in the sun where they will dry and be light and fluffy. In this way none of the feathers are lost.

Baked Indian Pudding. Scald one quart of milk in a double boiler, stir in gradually five tablespoonfuls of granulated Indian meal and cook twenty minutes. Add three tablespoonfuls of butter, one cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of salt, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful of ginger and two beaten eggs. Turn into a buttered dish, pour one cupful of cold milk over the top and bake about one hour.

CHIC MODEL.

This Chinese Effect Is For Midwinter Wear.

Originated in design and the velvet in fabric, this smart hat takes a deep



PIQUANT ITSELF.

band of stitchery on its flaring brim. Nothing can be jauntier than the tilt and pose of the velvet bow which stops the round crown.

Early Marriages.

Dr. William Lee Howard is a authority for the statement that if a girl marries at eighteen her offspring are apt to be totally unfitted to struggle with the problems of the world. At the age of twenty-one she may give birth to at least one child of high efficiency, but those that were born before or after will be unfit. When parents are too young, the girl under twenty-one and the man under twenty-seven, the offspring are too often delicate, and malformation and idiocy are common among the offspring of too young parents.

A French authority declared that the ideal age for marriage is thirty-three years in men and twenty-six years in women.

Homemade Sausage.

Put any scraps of unused meat through the meat chopper and grind an equal amount of fat and lean fresh pork to add to it. Mix two table-spoonfuls of cracker crumbs for each cupful of meat, season with salt, pepper and poultry seasoning to taste, bind with an egg, shape into cakes and then fry.

An Interesting Garden.

One of the most interesting gardens in the world to children at least, is one in Berlin. The owner of the place is adorned it with statuary that every child would be glad to see, because



STATUE OF RED RIDING HOOD.

there he has placed groups of fairies and pixies and all sorts of the queer little people that children love. A notable piece of sculpture in the garden is that depicting Little Red Riding Hood and the wicked wolf. Every child has read that fearsome story and rejoiced that the little girl was saved from the clutches of the cruel beast.

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