

In the Realm of the Feminine

HOW SOME WOMEN SOLVE THE QUESTION OF MOTHER-IN-LAW

Mothers who have a flock of pretty daughters are said to be ever on the lookout for eligible young men and when they are found invite them into the homes. The young hopefuls are treated in a most charming way and if the maneuvers of the fond mamma are successful two or three of the pretty girls are married.

Then there is the other family where the children are all boys. In this case most of the mammas are on the lookout for attractive girls, not because they want to have them for daughters-in-law, but because they are afraid that their sons may want them for wives. At least that is the way many of the mothers feel.

The actions of Mrs. Louis J. Tichacek, the wife of the wealthy contractor who has been a member of the Illinois state legislature, who has one daughter and nine sons, have recently come before the public, have caused a great deal of comment. Mrs. Tichacek does not think that the girls of today are suitable for wives for her sons because they devote too much of their time to society and are no good homemakers. She thinks that she has solved both the mother-in-law and the servant problem, the opinion of the general public, however, differs somewhat.

When her first son was old enough to be married Mrs. Tichacek, like many mothers, considered the social qualities of some of the girls she met socially. She did not think that any of them would make convenient wives and decided that she would try a new plan. Her home is old-fashioned and the servant girls are like the breed of girls of twenty odd years ago. They are taken into her family and share the work with her and her daughter and are allowed to sit at the same table with the family. In this way the girl learns to know the family. When Mrs. Tichacek found that her son admired one of her girls she encouraged him and allowed them to be together as much as they liked, providing none of the household duties were neglected. After five years the first maid and Mrs. Tichacek's eldest son were married and are still very happy.

The plan with her first son worked

so well that Mrs. Tichacek decided to apply it to all of her boys, and two others have followed in the footsteps of the first. The girls, now that they have their own homes, are not forced to work, and as finances in the Tichacek family are in a good condition there are servants in all of the homes. But these new homes are constructed on an economical basis and the wives superintend all of the work.

This match-making mother says that she found her system in the Bible where it is related a number of times that a son of the wise men or prophets married the maid-servant. She says that she has solved the servant girl problem because she treats the girl with consideration, and she has solved the mother-in-law problem by allowing the girls to become thoroughly acquainted with her, so that unharmonious things that break up many homes are impossible in her family. Mrs. Tichacek's plan has worked very well in her own home, but some young men might object to having mamma select their wives.

Mrs. Eva MacDonald Valesh, the well-known president of the American Federation of Woman's Labor, does not agree with Mrs. Tichacek and says that she is either twenty years ahead of her time or fifty or a hundred thousand years behind it, and she is most emphatic when she says that Mrs. Tichacek has not solved the mother-in-law nor the servant problem, but has sadly muddled both.

She says that a hundred thousand years ago there was a matriarchate where woman ruled supreme and man merely hung around and was made useful whenever it was possible. She also predicts another such age in twenty years, but advises women to live the twenty years and not try to bring the conditions into the present day. She also accuses highly the man who would let his mother select a wife for him.

It would seem that the woman of this day and age who takes it upon herself to work out the life-problem and direct the destiny of another is shouldering a burden that is likely to become top-heavy.

NOVEL IDEA IN NET BLOUSES

A clever New York designer has made use of a French idea in devising blouses of French net, known as tulle or blonde and other extremely sheer fabrics. By themselves, as every woman knows, net waists are so delicate that the wearing of them is a somewhat trying and uncertain proceeding. It is practically impossible to anchor them securely in any one position. And there can be no such quality as "fit" because of the necessity of having them large in order to keep them from breaking out.

This New York designer, says the Kansas City Star, has got around these objections by putting a corset cover of lace, embroidery and ribbons inside the net waist and fastening both corset cover and waist to the same belt. The ribbons can be run in and taken out at will and the combination corset cover and blouse easily laundered in one piece. These blouses are a distinct novelty and quite an inexpensive one. Another model by the same designer is in white cotton crepe with a regular Montenegrin jacket, also of the crepe, but with a Persian border. The coloring is repeated in the buttons and the bow at the neck.

INK STAINS ON SILVERWARE

To remove ink stains from silver inkstands, etc., rub the stains with a cloth dipped in salt, then rinse and clean as usual. If, however, the ink has been allowed to harden on, wash it in hot borax and water. If the stains do not yield to this treatment rub them with a solution of chloride of lime, rinse well, dry and polish.

For the lime solution mix four ounces of chloride of lime to a smooth paste with a little cold water, and when smooth and thoroughly blended add sufficient water to bring the total amount up to 1/2 pint. Stir it well together, cover it down tightly and let it stand for 24 hours, stirring it occasionally. Let it settle, then skim off any particles which may be floating on the surface, and carefully pour off the clear liquid, corking it down well. This lasts indefinitely if kept properly corked.

The Watteau effects are very popular and graceful on some figures. They should be avoided by the person whose figure does not have straight lines.

Children of the Poor to Have "Big Sisters" as Well as "Big Brothers"



Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Sr., and the kind of city girls she is trying to help by means of the Big Sisters.

WE have had "A Little Brother of the Rich," in book form, and the "Big Brothers" in person. Now we're to have the "Big Sisters," whose organization has just been legalized in New York. They are the Big Sisters of the little poor sisters, and their purpose is looking after the physical, mental and moral welfare of little girls, not only in the children's courts in New York, but in other cities of the United States.

The Big Sisters are following in the footsteps of the Big Brothers—that is, they will endeavor to do for the little girls of the poorer classes what the Big Brothers have been doing in the past eight years for the little brothers

of the girls. There are more than a thousand Big Brothers now; there were only forty in 1904, soon after Ernest K. Coulter, clerk of the children's court of New York, started the movement. Judging from the enthu-

siasm with which the leaders of the Big Sisters are taking up the work, there'll be more than a thousand Big Sisters eight years from now. Naturally, perhaps, the first of the Big Sisters are wealthy women. They

trust their leaders of the movement will draw others, since in the case of the little sisters it is personal effort, requiring time, that counts. The very first of the Big Sisters is Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Sr., to whom is awarded the credit of setting the ball to rolling. She began her visits to the children's court of New York about two years ago and found much to arouse her sympathies and her interest. The sordid and sometimes tragic stories of the youngsters arraigned in the court aroused in her a desire to do something permanent to ameliorate their conditions. At first she enlisted her sisters, Mrs. Stephen H. Olin and Mrs. F. C. Havemeyer, in the work, and these three women gradually drew to themselves others of like mind.

To the social workers of New York Mrs. Vanderbilt has come to be known as an earnest active helper. Her most recent public appearance before the present was as builder of the Vanderbilt tenements, known officially as the East River Homes, where in persons threatened with tuberculosis or afflicted with incipient disease may have at low cost the advantages of fresh air and wholesome environment in their fight against consumption.

The model for the work of the Big Sisters is found in that of the Big Brothers. These are the men—young, old and middle aged in years, but all young in heart—who know that only a small percentage of the boys and young men arraigned in city courts are bad at heart. The Big Brothers know how to manifest a friendly interest in the boys of the street without overstepping the line where friendliness ends and officiousness and "charity" begin. They know that the folks of the poor districts of the big cities are not fools and can tell the difference between the man who comes among them with a desire to be useful and helpful and the man who does good for the salvation of his own soul. It is going to be with the Big Sisters after they get their movement fairly started. Already they have offices in the suit of rooms occupied by the Brothers, and they have secretaries to attend to the sessions of the children's court and notify them when a case comes up that requires their attention. They visit the children in their homes and extend their offers of aid in just the same way and in the same spirit as do the Big Brothers. When employment is needed the Big Sisters try to find work for the little sisters. When there is need of clothes it is supplied in the same way. They know how to be helpful without being patronizing. And when their family troubles—so often the little sisters have to bear the burdens of their elders—there is the friendly suggestion of a helpful word that smooths the path. A. J. BRINTON.

A USEFUL MOP

QUITE the latest in floor cleaners is a mop fastened to a metal brush back, which slides on and off the handle. This mop works like a scrubbing brush, with none of its inconveniences. All its parts spread out into direct contact with the floor, so that it can be readily used under radiators, bookcases and all odd corners. Various kinds of mops can be fitted into the same handle.

For bathrooms or kitchens, where the floor must be scrubbed daily, the ordinary white mop cleans with practically no dust and can be used either dry or with floor oil. Another mop for the same handle is chemically treated and impregnated with oil to last six months and furnishes an easy and practical way of keeping the floor in condition. It is an improvement over the old-fashioned mop, which is the cause of much drudgery, wasted time and ill temper.

The New Colors

THOUGH gray is again to be in great favor, yet there are to be some lovely bright colors seen in dress this season, and our modistes are unlikely to forget that the success of all such bright colors lies in the moderation with which they are used.

At a sensational dress show recently the draped skirt and the bunched pannier were features of many of the models, and the modified color touch proved once more how telling it is. For instance, a fawn colored embroidered tussore coat and skirt had a Chinese red collar, which gave it a cachet. From this exhibition we learned that black patent leather is again in favor for belts and that oriental embroidery is in greater demand than ever.

New Stocking Device

WOMEN who are afflicted with perpetual Jacob's ladders in the tops of their stockings should adopt an amateur device that is successful in preventing such mishaps. Instead of using the steel hooks at the ends of the side and front elastic substitute quarter inch satin ribbon. Fold a piece in the middle, sew it there to the elastic itself, leaving the two short ends free.

On each stocking put two or three loops of silk thread to match in color, and through these tie the ribbons. There will be no madrasa work, as some one terms these tiny holes in the stocking made by hooks, and the effect of the pink or blue satin ribbon bow is attractive.

Long Sleeve Now Fashionable

THE new sleeve is a problem that must be taken up by every woman. As a matter of fact the long sleeve that fits the arm snugly is the latest development along this line. It is made in a variety of ways. If you like to look really old-fashioned and at the same time show that you are very well-fashioned you should adopt this style. It has a long shoulder that drops for two inches over the arm, a slightly full sleeve that is gathered into the armhole, a piping or a thick cord to hide the gathers, then a tight four inch cuff fastened at the back and extending well over the back of the hand.

WHEN PLACING SLEEVES.

A GOOD rule to follow when determining the proper position of sleeves when placing them in a blouse is to fold the sleeve along the forward seam and crease it at the top of the fold at the opposite side.

This crease marks the point of the sleeve that is to be sewed to the shoulder seam.

After this, measure one inch back of the shoulder seam and crease the blouse at a point exactly opposite. On this crease the forward seam of the sleeve is pinned. It is then an easy matter to baste in the under part of the sleeve and, gathering the upper part of the sleeve, baste that in even with the edge of the armhole.

A CHARMING FROCK

OF CROCHET LACE AND SATIN METEOR.



THIS smart frock of crochet lace and cream satin meteor is made very unusual by the use of black velvet ribbon placed directly in the center. Black satin bows with white buttons echo the black and white note of the sash.

To Press Geige

THIS popular fabric is even more of a favorite for suits this spring than usual, and the only objection one can have to the material is its proneness to become shiny. Here is a way to overcome this objection. If it is sponged with hot vinegar and pressed in the usual manner the shiny appearance will entirely disappear. The vinegar does not stain or leave an odor.

STORY TELLING GAME.

AN interesting game and one that demands ingenuity from a hostess consists in making an interesting collection of pictures from illustrated magazines or picture postcards. These are selected with a view to telling a definite story; though the pictures need not necessarily be connected or taken from the same source.

The larger these illustrations are the better. They should be clipped or pasted on to big sheets of brown paper, which can be spread out on tables fastened by long pieces of string or ribbon to ordinary picture books or placed on screens.

The players are asked to examine these and then to set to work to weave a story of not more than 250 words, which will be brilliantly illustrated by the pictures. The stories may either be told or written, and any number of people may select the same series. In this case the first prize is generally allotted by vote, everybody giving an opinion as to the cleverest work.

What Makes for Success

WHEN a girl dabbles in a whole lot of things she loses real interest in any one of them and hence does not become successful. Decide what you want to do or be and then bend every effort toward making this thing possible. Sometimes, it is true, a girl cannot do the thing she would like to do because other obligations demand her efforts. Ever in such event she should make the best of the situation, do well the thing she is obliged to do, in the hope that it will eventually lead her out of discouragement into the clear light of happiness.

Many of the world's most successful women are those who at the beginning of their careers had to do many things that were distasteful to them and who had to overcome obstacles that at first might seem overwhelming.

When Food Burns

WITH too many irons in the fire often proves too true to the busy housewife.

She has forgotten to add water to the cooking food, and the odor of the burning meat, vegetable or fruit reminds her of the fact.

When this happens quickly seize the pot from the range and immerse it in a vessel containing cold water.

The steam will escape from the outside instead of passing upward through the food.

Place the food in another pan and continue cooking or dress to serve.

The most critical piece cannot detect a burnt taste in the food. This is a suggestion worth trying.

Housekeeping Hint

A good housekeeper has a novel way of keeping clean the top of the gas range. She places over the entire top a piece of asbestos paper, cutting holes for the burners. The paper catches and holds all overflows of food and prevents them from falling into the range, where it is difficult to reach and clean. By using the paper while cooking and removing it when the range is not in use the work of frequent cleaning, blacking and polishing as well is reduced to a minimum.

DRESS OF THE BUSINESS WOMAN

Correct dress for the business woman is a subject that is often under discussion, and it is sometimes hard for the wage-earner to decide just what is proper for business wear.

It has been said that "dress is like a poem, a symphony or a picture," and it is not only the details or accessories which should blend into one harmonious effect, but the surroundings must be appropriate or the result is a failure. A gown that would be artistic and beautiful at the theater or party would be most inappropriate behind the counter or in the office.

Neatness and simplicity are the dominant factors to be considered by the business woman who would be well dressed. Strictly tailor-made garments seem to be always appropriate for business wear, but there are some women to whom that severe style is not becoming and they may find plain styles of softer lines are better.

When one notes the sheer lingerie waists cut with extremely low neck and above the elbow that are worn by some salesgirls in the stores, there is approval by the public in the stand which is taken by many firms to do away with the practice. It is desired by the management of some stores that the salesgirls wear black waists, but there are some objections on the part of the girls themselves which are not unreasonable. Unless the material is of expensive quality, black cannot be laundered successfully, and many content that a dress which is worn continually at work requires laundering whether it shows that it is soiled or not, and many girls are unable to afford a quality which is satisfactory.

At one of the large department stores a compromise was recently effected between the management and the employees whereby the latter are allowed the privilege of wearing white or black waists at their discretion, with the limitation that these waists be of a material which shall not be transparent, no lower than round neck and with sleeves covering the elbows.

In the fancy waists which are frequently seen it is not unnatural for observers to wonder if it is a party waist which has been taken into business life to be worn out. If that is the case, it is poor economy, for much depends today upon the dress of the business woman. Watching the advancement from one position to another, it is noticeable that as a rule those who dress neatly and plainly climb the ladder of success most rapidly.

The business woman is required to be up-to-date in dress as in every other

line, but this should not be expensive for the average woman if she has learned to use a needle successfully. The one who has not may well be an object of pity to her more fortunate sisters. A little remodeling, a few touches here or there, will frequently freshen up a dress which has become slightly out of style, and will make it entirely suitable for another season's wear, particularly if it is made of good substantial material.

Public opinion seems to permit the saleswomen of certain departments of the stores more dressy gowns than other sections of the same store or those in offices. Witness the gowns worn by the women who sell that line of merchandise. A plain black silk dress seems quite in harmony with its surroundings of handsome gowns, furs and furnishings seen in all modern gown sections.

The secret of a beautiful black messaline dress was revealed and it shows the slight cost at which one may dress. Six yards of silk were purchased at a sale for \$1 a yard and with 75 cents for findings a strikingly handsome gown was produced at a cost of \$6.75. It was made by the saleswoman's own deft fingers, copied from a Paris importation, severely plain but stylish in every detail, yet not extreme, for no well-dressed woman wears extremes in fashions either in business or society.

A large outlay of money is not required for the business woman to be well dressed, but good judgment in the selection of styles and materials is essential, and a careful consideration of one's surroundings while at work as the artist would give to the hanging of his picture.

RIGHT KIND OF THREAD TO USE

A common practice among seamstresses is to use too coarse thread, both on machine and hand sewing, and sometimes it is so coarse that the cloth will tear away. Coarse thread is not always stronger than a thread suitable to the fabric of the goods. For buttonholes and sewing on buttons, a rather coarse thread is needed; for gathering, medium coarse; for stitching on the machine, fine as the ravellings of the fabric, and for hemming, finer still. It will often save much time if the thread basket is supplied with all the commonly used numbers of cotton thread, a spool or two of linen, a paper of needles, assorted sizes, and a card or two of darning floss.

Belts are high in favor on coat dresses and skirts. Usually the belt is placed just across the back to hold in a little fullness.

Mantelets of taffeta made up in colors contrasting to that used in the gown are very chic. Very often these are draped to give the pannier effect.

TRIED RECIPES

Peach Pudding.
Sift two cupfuls of flour with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and half a teaspoonful of salt; chop into this one tablespoonful of butter, then add one beaten egg and enough milk to make a soft dough. Butter some baking cups, put a preserved peach in the bottom of each, sprinkle with sugar, cover with the dough, stand the cups in a pan of hot water, cover and bake 20 minutes in a hot oven, then uncover and bake five minutes longer. Serve with peach sauce. To make the sauce cook one teaspoonful of arrowroot or cornstarch in one tablespoonful of butter, gradually add the peach syrup, stir until thick and cook 10 minutes over boiling water.

Codfish Balls.
Ingredients: One half pound codfish brick, two cups potatoes, mashed, one egg, paprika to taste. Cook and mash potatoes very fine and keep hot. Add cold water to codfish and let simmer till tender; drain in cold water, pick and flake; add the flaked codfish to hot mashed potatoes, season to taste with paprika and beat well with a fork. If too dry, add milk or white of egg and beat well with fork. Shape into round balls, dip in egg and then bread crumbs and deep fry. Are good warmed over. Enough for family of four.

Apple and Fig Dish.
Ingredients: Six large apples, one cup chopped figs, one-half cup sugar, one-half teaspoon cinnamon. Pare and core apples, fill cavities with figs, sprinkle with cinnamon and place in a baking dish with one-half cup of water poured over them. Cook parings and cores in water to cover; strain, add sugar and boil until it begins to "jelly," when it should be poured over the apples and baked occasionally until they are baked. They may be served with whipped cream, if liked. This amount will serve six.

Brown Fried Cakes.
Ingredients: One cup brown sugar, one-half cup molasses, 1 1/2 cups sour milk, butter, size of an egg, two eggs, two tablespoons soda, spice to suit taste, flour to make consistency of biscuit dough. Roll out about an inch thick, cut with small fried-cake cutter and fry in deep, hot fat. When cool, sugar them in powdered sugar. Will make from 2 1/2 to three dozen fried cakes, which should be thick and very light.

Potato and Apple Sauce.
Ingredients: Peel and chop fine eight average size potatoes (use food chopper or baking powder can); wash again in cold water and drain. Have ready a steel frying pan with four tablespoons bacon fat; when smoking hot add potatoes and salt and pepper to taste. Stir when a golden brown. Serve with hot apple sauce or jelly.

When an article is scorched in ironing wet the spot with cold water and put it in the sun.

FEMININE CHAT

When the drawn work in linen dollies or any other fancy work is worn out and the centers still remain good, stitch a row of insertion over the drawn work.

A small steel crochet needle kept in your machine drawer will be found invaluable when pulling bastings, ripping, catching the under thread and other details incidental to sewing.

For the latest network designs a braid, imported especially from Germany, is employed, says the Spokane Chronicle. This comes in skeins. It has the advantage of making a more compact little bird than is obtainable with the ordinary cottons.

The sheer dotted muslin, which is marked at a low figure among wash goods markets, makes dainty curtains. The curtains may be finished with ruffles, ball fringe or a simple lace edging.

Pillow tops of tapestry or silk damask come in wide range of prices. The colorings of some are unusually soft and the designs attractive. Backings of the prevailing tone in the covers are to be had in saten, denim, rep or linen.

Dressing gowns of blanket cloth are woven with a figured border; the border serves as a finish about the lower edge of the gown and for a collar if there is one.

Kitchen dish towels and roller towels, hemmed and ready for use, come in different grades. The cost is no more than that usually asked for the material by the yard.

The white enameled bread or cake boxes with a rolling top are a convenience to the housewife.

Bulgarian colors are seen in the peplum jackets of satin, worn with cloth skirts.

To preserve the good lines of the soft, clinging gowns wear a tow corset and brassiere.

A tailored bow of a vivid color is seen under a piece of lace or net that fills in the slashed skirt.

Plaited peplums are noticeable on party frocks for young girls. They look prettiest when made of chiffon, tulle or net.

Plaited skirts have their plaits held together with an inner tape so that the narrow figure silhouette is not lost. Jet girdles are encircling many evening gowns. These are made of large flat jet beads arranged on a net foundation.