

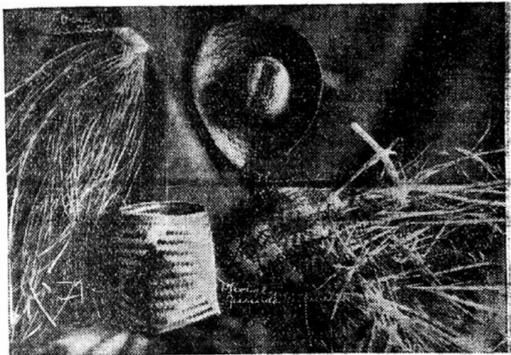
# Womankind

## THE PALM LEAF IN FAVOR WITH THE BASKET-MAKERS

A Locally New Material That Works Up Prettily—What a Victim of "Basketitis" Says.

Lovers of the art of basketry will be interested to know of a locally new material for weaving which is sure to obtain favor. Hitherto rattan, raffia and the native grasses have been used, but early in the summer Mrs. Osborne, principal of Harrison school, brought on from Massachusetts a quantity of palm leaf, such as is used in the manufacture of hats

holds of New England; for many years, it was found to be an easy and ready way of increasing the family income, and some members of nearly every family at some time has taken a hand at it. The wife of the late Governor Smythe of New Hampshire was an expert and artist in weaving and basket for the work the enthusiasm that some of our western women



Showing the beginning of a piece of work and the side weaving.

This she had dyed in Indian colors—green, red, orange and purple, and turning the knowledge of hat-weaving, acquired in childhood, to account, she has done a great deal of palm-leaf basketry. Some of her creations are herewith pictured, and, as will be seen, there are of many shapes and intended for many uses. There are sewing baskets, knitting bas-



Fancy Bags and Baskets in Colors and White Palm Leaf.

kets, wall pockets, flower pot covers, cigar cases, pencil cases, chautauque bags, key baskets, toy bags. Some of these are woven of the white palm leaf, others are in white and one color, as white and green, white and orange; still others are in Scotch plaid or several colors. This palm leaf is the product of a palm in Cuba. It is imported in the leaf and



Cigar Case and Wall Pockets in Green and White Palm Leaf.

prepared for weaving purposes at the factory by being bleached from its original greenish color to a pure white; then it is "split" into strips of different widths. That used by Mrs. Osborne is numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, the widest being less than a quarter inch. The bleached palm leaf may be readily colored by the use of vegetable or aniline dyes.



Wall Pockets, Hat and Basket.

Cuban palm leaf for the weaving of hats. From this factory the material is sent out, nearly every state in the union using it in some form. Dearfield, that hive of handicraft, was the first place to use palm leaf for the making of baskets, and palm-leaf basketry has there become a recognized form of industrial work. The making of hats of palm leaf has been a lucrative industry in the house-

hold and hand and brain together, and all the way through childhood and youth. And the word, "fad" was unknown. Recalling myself from this "opioding" to the pretty disarray of basketry in Mrs. Osborne's rooms, I asked, "Do you consider basketry a fad?" "Not a fad, my dear woman, but a disease, a contagious and insidious disease. I predict that soon hospitals and specialists for the treatment of basketitis will



## Metal Printed Velveteen Gown

The pendulum of fashion swings toward the highest point of elaboration. Velveteens and velveteens, first of all for gowns, and later on for many of the hats, in fact for all of the millinery for fall and winter wear are indications of the trend towards rich and luxurious effects. Even last winter the better dressed New York woman cast her vote in favor of the velveteen gown. This year Paris has introduced her own velveteen, and particularly over the many variegated and beautiful effects which the French and English manufacturers have produced, and these gowns we shall see much of later in the plain solid varieties after the

first lot of dresses have been sold. There is much that is extremely novel in the arrangement of the costumes this season. The return to the vast amount of braiding, applique of cloth, fancy figures, crocheted buttons, bizarre effects, have all aided in altering the appearance of the average dress. The woman of fashion is made for herself to glow over, and that she will never part with one of them for love or money. No I am not facetious. Basketitis is too serious a disease to be treated facetiously. I know, for I assure you I speak entirely from experience.

There's such a demand for flats we can't wait. "There's many a night that he hasn't gone home to dinner, but it don't do any good." She jerks him up by telephone and says she is particular about the janitor an', seems if, she's lookin' for a combination English butler, nurse girl, French cook an' washwoman.

be in demand all over the land, and that unhappy husbands will be seeking in the divorce courts freedom from victims of this apparently hopeless malady. It was only a year or two ago that the contagion was introduced here through the medium of an innocent coil of rattan and a graceful switch of raffia, and observe how it has spread. Once attacked, there is no escape, for it follows its victims to shore, wilderness and mountain top.

"Teacher, is that a loon?" "No, dear child," was the reply, "this is not a loon; this is a loon; a loon is what your teacher has become doing basketry, a crazy loon." —Charlotte Whitcomb.

Mr. Graham's seen nearly every janitor in town, but he hasn't found one that'll help wash the dishes an' Mrs. Graham don't see why they can't get as much for their money as the Hedges. It isn't money that smooths things for the Hedges, but these young people who're good-natured an' make housecleanin' so jolly, the janitor can't stay away.

## WHAT AILDA LARSON SAYS:

HERE'S to be changes in the neighborhood, I hear." Miss Larson looked up inquiringly. "I jes' heard the Moores, were goin' over to spen' the winter with her father. 'No use to heat two houses,' Mrs. Moore says, says she, 'an' father's the better able to buy coal 'an' George.' "I never heard what father said, but they move Monday. It's owin' to Mrs. Moore they're goin'." She's got 'pinions an' a tongue to 'press 'em, an' she made up her mind she'd rather have a new fur coat 'n keep house this winter. She put it to her father so's he'd have to take 'em in. He's man that's been imposed on ever since the nurse put corn starch 'stead of arrow root in his milk. He an' Mrs. Bailey 'll spen' the winter in a back room upstairs an' leave the rest of the house to the Moores. Give some people an' inch an' they'll take the piece, seems if. A daughter's obligations ought to balance those of a father, but they don't in many families I've been in, an' I've lent a hand in most 'houses in town.

"Then the Grahams are goin' into a flat, if they can find one that has fourteen rooms, an attic, a good sized basement an' a porch for \$18 a month. Mrs. Graham believes in miracles an' she expects Mr. Graham to bring 'em to pass. He's a busy man, from eight in the mornin' to six at night, but he works harder from dinner till bedtime an' 's paid less. At the office

she was to have it, but if he spen' more he was to double the deficit an' make her a presser of it. Mrs. Dutton didn't say much, but she ordered a new suit she wanted an' couldn't find the money to buy. "Mr. Dutton began Monday mornin', an' he sent out a watermelon, a basket of peaches, one of grapes, half a bushel of mushrooms an' some pears, beside other things from the grocery an' a roas' of beef, some fish an' chickens an' half a ham. As soon as Mrs. Dutton saw the way the kitchen table was littered she telephoned to her dressmaker to put on the more expensive trimmin' she wanted, but wasn't sure she could afford it. "She had the ham boiled an' the roas' an' had the chickens cooked an' ordered samples of all the fruit for dessert an' Mr. Dutton smiled pleasantly an' said he didn't see why women made such a fuss over housekeepin' when all they had to do was to order what they wanted. The next day he was late an' forgot to order anything an' he'd have grumbled 'bout eatin' warmed up things if the 'spression on his wife's face hadn't stopped him. It was that way for ten days an' the Duttons either had too much or too little to eat. Before two weeks were up Mrs. Dutton handed his wife a check. "I'm behin' now 'bout \$20," he says, "honest for once, an' I can't afford to keep house any longer," says he. "You'll blig me by not sayin' anythin' an' jest spen' this \$50 as you please," says he. "Preachin' an' practisin' are two diffron' pertensions an' a man who can

## WOMEN DAIRY EXPERTS IN THE STATE AUXILIARY

Mrs. Viola K. Wilcox of Benson President of the Association Is a Practical Butter and Cheese-maker—She Is Sent Out by the Auxiliary to Lecture and Demonstrate at Special Dairy Institutes.

The Minnesota State Dairymen's association has a very quiet but effective woman's auxiliary, whose good work deserves to be heralded. Its influence is not measured by its membership, for this is small, being made up chiefly of dairy experts and wives of the men prominent in the advancement of this important Minnesota industry. The auxiliary has been organized about eight years and meets at the same time as the men's association and in fact works in the closest relationship to it. The president of the auxiliary is a member of the association executive committee and the women are heard in the convention programs. The idea of the auxiliary was generated by the feeling that women needed the inspiration and instruction of the association meetings and similar gatherings quite as much as the men but were not getting them. A large share of dairy work, especially on a small scale, falls upon the women and the few who were interested enough to attend the association meetings before any special provision was made for them realized the importance of bringing modern methods to the general attention of the women. The plan of helpfulness underlying the auxiliary work is of brushing each other up by the comparison of experiences, by the distribution of valuable literature and by direct instruction in better methods. The possibilities of improvement to the dairy interests of the state through the work of the auxiliary were first recognized by the appropriation of \$50 from the funds of the association for carrying on the proposed educational work. Later this was raised to \$200 a year and now the auxiliary is entrusted with the expenditure of \$500 to push scientific dairying especially among the women. At first the plan of work was to send a woman with the men conducting dairy institutes in districts remote from creameries, and home butter and cheese making was taught by the auxiliary representative. This year the work was combined with the state farmers' institutes and two women instructors presented the dairy work. Mrs. C. H. Robbins teaching better-making and Mrs. Viola K. Wilcox teaching cheese-making. Mrs. Wilcox, president of the auxiliary, was the speaker in the institute dairy program for one evening. Among the speakers will be Miss Julia Brude of Hanska, a graduate of the agricultural school, who will speak on "Farm Co-operation," basing her paper on the experience of the farmers' co-operative store at Hanska.

done in the most remote backwoods districts, where long drives were required between appointments. Not long ago she gave a demonstration at a meeting in one of the northern border counties, gathered in a little Catholic church. The chart of the dairy cow being before the altar and the instruction was given through an interpreter. Mrs. Wilcox is not a theorizer, for fine notions would have faded away before many of her experiences. She has lived for eighteen years on a dairy farm. She learned chiefly by experience, but her keen, inquiring mind has been very quick to appreciate and adopt all valuable new ideas. Experience taught her to make butter that found a ready market the year around at 25 cents a pound, but it was not of uniform quality and it did not satisfy her. Science added the knowledge necessary to secure uniform excellence. The Wilcox farm, at Benson, is largely stocked with Holstein cattle, whose strong characteristic is the quantity rather than the richness of the milk. This fact led Mrs. Wilcox to investigate cheese-making, in which the milk is utilized as well as the cream. She learned cheese-making at the school of agriculture, and for the past eight years has made cheese in preference to butter, as she has found it more profitable. The variety recommended by the school for domestic cheesemaking is Gouda, a Dutch brand, and this is the one Mrs. Wilcox makes exclusively. Gouda cheese is very soft, light, soft and mild, and suits all tastes better than any other. Normally it takes a Gouda cheese about three or four months to ripen, but the process can be hastened so that a very good cheese can be produced in two weeks. The cheeses are small, using about eight or ten gallons of milk for each. At the institutes Mrs. Wilcox uses whatever utensils are at hand in order to make it clear to her audience that no expense is necessary for utensils, although a small amount can be expended profitably. This is an important point in dealing with the people that the auxiliary especially desires to help, and another is that the work requires but a small amount of time, as a cheese can be completed ready for storage in an hour. Printed directions are furnished with the demonstration, and Mrs. Wilcox makes it plain that, with good milk, clean and well aired, that a very valuable and appetizing article can be added to the home dietary at a slight expense of time and money, and that the well-made article will find a ready market. At the annual meeting of the Dairy association the auxiliary will provide the program for one evening. Among the speakers will be Miss Julia Brude of Hanska, a graduate of the agricultural school, who will speak on "Farm Co-operation," basing her paper on the experience of the farmers' co-operative store at Hanska. Some of Mrs. Wilcox's work has been



MRS. VIOLA K. WILCOX, Benson, Minn., President Women's Auxiliary to State Dairymen's Association.

do one can't always make a success of the other, seems if."

### MOTHER'S FAIRY TALES

Stories Told by Mrs. Carter Harrison, to Amuse Her Children Have Been Published.

A book of sprightly fairy tales by Mrs. Carter H. Harrison, wife of the mayor of Chicago, has just been published by McClurg & Co. Mrs. Harrison became an author involuntarily and wholly by accident. She invented fairy tales for the amusement of her children and they, with the keen memory of infancy, investigated upon them being repeated unchanged in order to facilitate the required exactness. Mrs. Harrison wrote out her stories and in her absence they could be read to the children by their nurse. A representative of the publishing house, hearing of them asked permission to read them, and was so much impressed by them that he persuaded Mrs. Harrison to allow them to be published. The book is entitled "Prince Silverwings and Other Stories," and is finely illustrated. It is a most curious fact that the most successful children's books have originated in the same way as Mrs. Harrison's book. Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" sprang from a love of his little child friends and a desire to amuse them, as did "Shock-Headed Peter."