WHAT WOMEN TALK AND THINK ABOUT

THE AGREEABLE RELATION-IN-LAW

DELICATE FAMILY PROBLEMS

By ADELAIDE GORDON, Editor of Correct Social Usage.

Things Which Make or Break Us in Popular Esteem. . . . . — A Series of Plain Talks On the Art of Being Agreeable. . . . .

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MY ADMIRATION goes out voluntarily to the man or woman who lives on a basis of sound friendship with those relatives who have been acquired by marriage. It is not always the easiest matter in the world, tho one of the primest importance, to command the good will and hearty liking of your wife's people or your husband's family, but when you can and do command it you prove thereby the possession of some very good qualities of heart and some very good methods of manner, and you also show that you know more than a little concerning the arts that make for popularity.

You prove this most potently when you have married into a family between which and yourself no life-long associations exist, or between which and yourself no prompt affinity is excited. Many a young woman especially finds herself in just this awkward position. She weds a charming man, whose nearest relatives are unsympathetic, almost unfriendly, and quite unlike her husband. Then the opportunity is brought conspicuously forward when she can and she should show the quality of her breeding, and demonstrate just how much she knows of that most precious and delightful and irresistible science: The making one's self agreeable in the face of genuine difficulties.

Weapons That Win.

If the situation is such a one as I have outlined above—and with lamentable frequency I find that it does prevail—the wife in the case, with her own self-esteem and her marital happiness to maintain, can wield one, and only one, set of weapons in order to win her way. he must take care to be tactful, not retaliatory, and she must pursue the never-failing profitable policy of the sweetest politeness.

"They don't like me, and I shall not put myself out to make them change their opinion," I heard one bride angrily declare on her return from her first visit to her husband's family, which visit, I judged fom her statement, had hardly been a success.

She came over and sat down beside me, and it was not long before I heard all about it. It was a very familiar story, but she looked greatly discomfited and not a little puzzled, too, when I smiled over its conclusion.

"But don't you think they were perfectly horrid?" she asked, aggrievedly.

"Well, they were not very kind or pleasant, surely," I admitted. "But," I went on, "I think you bungled your side of the contest, too. You made ever so many blunders that hurt their feelings quite as sorely as their behavior hurt yours, and then, as you are gay and young, and in society, and popular, you ought to have used more tact: you should have been more patient and a great deal more polite and adaptable than you were. You are apparently not aware that it is more blessed to be agreeable in the face of a little rudeness than to be revengeful."

I saw the sly retort that was on the tip of her tongue, and I forestalled her by saying, "I know, my dear, whereof I speak, because I have had experience."

The Wisdom of the Serpent.

"Now, when you are married your troubles with your relations-in-law begin as a rule, and my marriage was no exception to the rule. My husband was a charming fellow, but his family were very stern, very proud, very conventional Virginians, and I came from noisy New York. Thruout my maiden days I had frequently been told that I was a most attractive young person; I knew that I was popular, and I never dreamed that my manner could ever be other than delightfully ingrotiating until I went to visit in my mother-in-law's home. There, I confess to you, I received a shock. Everybody was civil, but it was as plain as could be made that they did not like me at all.

"At first I was astonished, and then hurt, and finally, a good deal irritated, for I had descended on the family fully prepared to be taken right into its bosom and made much of as a daughter and a sister. But I was not, and, woman-wise, my first inclination was to fly straight to my husband's confidence, and seek consolation.

"However, having some of the wisdom of the serpent, combined with a good deal of the harmlessness of the dove, I checked myself in time, and thereby avoided one of the big mistakes that wives frequently make."

I looked my confidante straight in the eye as I said this, whereat she guiltily hung her head.

"It is not either good form or good policy to complain to your husband of the way his family treat you. When you have a situation of this sort to meet, keep a stiff upper lip and silence and look about as I did to see as nearly and as clearly as possible just where the trouble lies.

Fixing the Blame.

"I was not very long in sitting on my private committee of investigation before I was aware that some of the blame for the strained relations between myself and my husband's family was resting on my shoulders. The wrongs are rarely, as you know, all on one side.

"I had never stopped to realize how much I had hurt the family pride when I laughed at some of the ancestors' portraits and failed to give my mother-in-law precedence in and out of the dining-room, and addressed my husband's elderly maiden relative as 'Jane,' instead of 'Cousin Jane,' and annoyed my nervous sister-in-law inexpressibly by bringing my pet dogs to the table with me, and laughed at the antiquated bonnet of a highly venerated neighbor, and in one way and another had taken liberties and assailed traditions and hurt sensitive feelings when I should have shown the utmost consideration and sweet thoughtfulness.

"That is where I find so many individuals, who are called upon to deal with the vexed question of their relatives by marriage, remiss and narrow-minded in their view of the situation. I should like to take all newly made wives aside and whisper low in their ears that the secret of success when making the acquaintance of their husband's family is to display toward every member thereof the most distinguished courtesy.

Conquests of a Household.

"It is only fair to concede that a bride's new relatives, with rare and beautiful exceptions, regard her from a critical standpoint, and are much more eagerly on the lookout to identify her failings than her virtues. They are not apt to think that she is wholly worthy of the nice man whom she has married, and they have an ugly little way of magnifying her little mistakes into deliberately offered insults, when she may really be unconscious of having made them.

"But there is no American household, in which I have ever been, that is proof against the son's wife, who, stranger tho she may be, seriously and secretly undertakes its conquest by dint of sheer courtesy. Her courtesy is shown by an exercise of the most gracious consideration when she visits her husband's people, or when they visit her, and her discretion is first made evident by carefully discovering, by previous cross-questioning of her husband, just what some of the leading family prejudices and habits are.

"There was a bride I have known who assumed the liberties in her mother-in-law's house that she enjoyed in her own home, and thereby brought down bitter criticism on her thoughtless head. She demanded breakfast in bed, shirked the church-going, gave orders to the servants, and otherwise presumed. She was so lacking in tact as to bounce into her seat at table before the blessing was asked upon the meal, whereas, with a little keenness of observation she could have caused the wind of popularity to blow all her own way. Now, when you are visiting your relations-in-law, be sure to do as they do. You are not so much their relative as their guest, and, no matter if they rise at dawn and go to bed with the fowls, you should temporarily adopt their customs with a willing grace.

"Be punctual to the moment; make as few demands as possible; offer no advice or criticism, and listen to any that may be offered you with all smiling attention. You are not obliged to act upon it, but you can always receive it with an air of flattering interest that is just as satisfactory to the donor as tho you were ready to put it to practice.

"When I had duly taken counsel with myself over the troubled question of my manner toward my husband's family, I followed the suggestions I have just laid down, and I found that they worked like a charm. I conducted myself as tho I were visiting my good friends and not my own family, and thereafter I was welcomed in the home of my newly acquired family with a warmth and genuineness that I could not doubt and that I always enjoy."

"But, then, there is the problem of the mother-in-law," began my confidante. "Suppose she does not like you?"

"Oh, but she will if you go about her in the right way," I insisted, "and don't forget that she is your husband's mother, and therefore the rightful claimant to special civilities on your part. Learn beforehand the title by which she likes best to be addressed, and employ that always in speaking to her. Don't resent it because she weeps at your wedding, and looks more like the chief mourner at a funeral than one of the important figures on a festal occasion.

"If you have not charity for the feelings of others you have not really good manners, and some day you may be a mother-inlaw yourself and know how it feels to see your son pledge all his love and devotion and life to another woman. Do not make another mistake, so common with young wives, of misinterpreting the natural reticence and somewhat chilly diffidence of your mother-in-law's manner. when she first meets you, into a deliberately given indication that she does not like you.

"Do not, in short, be either sensitive or suspicious. I attended a wedding only the other day where the bride made this common and unhappy mistake. Not until the day before the wedding did she meet her mother-in-law, a little old lady who had lived long in widowed seclusion in a small country town, and, as was natural, she felt quite dazzled and disturbed by the grand home of the tall, splendidly gowned girl her son intended to marry.

"The fright made her stiff and silent, and the bride-to-be thoughtlessly interpreted this into evident dislike and a wish on the old lady's part to keep her at arm's length, and, worse still, into disapproval of her son's choice of a wife. In eager retaliation she treated the venerable lady with a manner that only thinly veiled her antagonism, and then the misunderstanding between them was quickly, deeply and everlastingly rooted. Criticism has flowed freely from either side and wrought wounds that can never be healed, and that is a pity, because they are both of them admirable ladies, and their connection might easily have been made a most conspicuous success.

"The trouble arose from the fact that the bride knew nothing at all of the art of managing a mother-in-law. There is a way to manage her, and my one daughter-in-law knows how to do it. She was a stranger to me, and not a native of my part of the country, and I cannot say that I was charmed with the idea of my son's marriage. Like the major portion of mothers who have fine, tall sons, I thought no woman quite equal to the dazzling position of his wife.

"Frankly I admit that I felt sad and shy and nervous at the idea of meeting this miss from California, who had won his heart, and when I saw that she was not beautiful or well dressed, I felt as tho cold water had been dashed in my face. But not so one moment afterward. She came forward to meet me with a beaming smile, saying, without any formal introduction:

"'I would have known you anywhere in the world as his mother, you are so like, and is he not the handsomest, finest and best of men?" and with that she lifted one of my hands and kissed it with a little air of grateful deference that would have won the heart of the proudest queen.

"I have never considered since whether my daughter-in-law is beautiful or well-dressed, nor regretted her lack of fine features or taste in clothes, because I am so filled with pride over her cleverness in knowing exactly how to manage her mother-in-law." —Adelaide Gordon.

THE PROPER CARE OF THE CHILD'S TEETH

The Latest Word of Dentistry on How to Insure Good Health and Good Looks to the Grown Child Thru Care of the Teeth from Infancy—The Duty of Mothers in Seeing That Their Offspring Are Trained to Wash Their Teeth with as Much Frequency as They Do Their Faces—Why a Child's First Set of Teeth Should Be Given Extreme Care.

ARTIFICIAL teeth would be the exception rather than the rule in another half century if children were taught, according to Shakspere, not only to "wash their faces" but to "keep their teeth clean." The results would be apparent also in the looks of the next generation, for it is certainly true that nothing adds so much to the beauty of the face as fine, well-cared-for teeth.

Many mothers do not realize that they are not only responsible for the health and general welfare of their children, but for their good looks as well, and as nothing detracts more from the expression of the face than bad teeth, it is their duty to see that good ones are cultivated.

Decay destroys more teeth than all other diseases of the mouth. Therefore, an ounce of prevention in caring for the teeth, as well as in other matters, is worth a pound of cure. Mothers whose children have poor teeth often lay the cause to inherited tendencies, but dental bacteriologists all agree that it is not so much the quality of the teeth as their environment which causes them to decay.

It is true, of course, that the teeth are influenced to a great extent by parental nutrition and by inheritance, but many faults of the latter may be overcome by giving the infant and growing child proper food, which means nutriment rich in formative material. Eggs, milk, wheat-bread, meats and fish are all more or less rich in lime salts. In fact, the regular regime for producing a healthy body, such as wholesome foods, outdoor exercise and well-ventilated sleeping rooms, is all that is necessary to produce well-developed teeth.

Then, too, the teeth need exercise to make them strong, just as much as the muscles do. Consequently, the constant use of liquid and soft foods will give the teeth so little to do that from the inexorable law of disuse they will suffer decay.

Not only from an aesthetic standpoint are good teeth absolutely necessary for the cosmic completeness of the face, but from a functional standpoint they are essential for the mastication of food and for the proper articulation of words in speech.

Hygienically, too, the teeth should not only be kept sweet and clean for their own sake, but for that of the health. If they are allowed to collect particles of food they will become the breeding ground for disease germs or bacteria, which will in turn be carried into the stomach and intestines, and there be absorbed and finally carried into the entire system, until the health is seriously impaired. In addition to this, the teeth will be attacked by these living organisms, or bacteria, and decay will be the result.

The statement may sound paradoxical, but it is a true one, nevertheless, that the proper time to begin to care for the child's teeth is in infancy, before it has any teeth. In other words, during the period of dentition, which usually starts at four months and continues thru the third year, the child should be given frequent small doses of lime water to aid this physiological process.

From the time of its birth the child's mouth should be cleansed morning and evening. To accomplish this, use tepid water and salt, or water made slightly alkaline with a pinch of powdered borax. A small piece of soft linen cloth may be wrapped around the forefinger, dipped in the water, and gently rubbed about the child's mouth.

When the temporary teeth are all "cut," which is usually at the age of two years, a small, soft brush should be used morning, noon and night with the alkaline water, brushing the teeth carefully in order to reach all the groves. At the age of 3 the child should be given a brush and be taught to use it properly. The tooth brush should be concave in shape so as to adapt itself to the curves of the jaws. The bristles should be medium.

Of course, the child will regard the brush as a plaything at first, but it will soon become a habit to imitate mother and brush the teeth upon rising, after each meal, and before retiring. The mother should emphasize the fact that it is just as necessary to keep the teeth clean as the little hands. Indeed, it is really more important, for soiled hands will not cause half the mischief that soiled teeth will, and just because they are out of sight is no reason why they should be "out of mind," any more than hands or face.

In pointing this moral, the mother may adorn her tale with home-made jingles, which the children will soon commit to memory and apply. For instance,

Because the teeth are out of sight
Forget them not, but treat them right.

And again she will remind them by saying:

Be sure and keep your teeth snow white
Or food will never taste just right.

Sometimes she will tell how to brush them by humming the jingle,

To cleanse your teeth, brush up and down,
Once said a dentist of renown.

She will also teach the children, as soon as they are old enough to understand, that the eating of sweets and acids to excess, the taking of medicine, cracking nuts and picking with pins or wooden toothpicks, are all injurious to the teeth. To impress these truths upon their minds she will set a good example, and when particles of food become wedged between the teeth she will use a quill instead of a wooden toothpick. Dental floss will nearly always serve the same purpose, and the toilet tables of children should be kept supplied with this necessity, which is of quite as much importance as washcloths and towels. And so, after each meal, until the children fall into the habit, they are reminded of their duty by the mother saying,

The toothache always makes one cross;
It won't if you use dental floss.

It is not necessary to use toothpowder more than once a day; in fact, it is injurious to the dentine to do so. The powder must be both alkaline and antiseptic, and it is better to use it in the morning upon rising, brushing the tongue as well as the teeth. The following prescription is thoroly reliable, if compounded by a careful druggist:

"Precipitated chalk, one ounce; powdered resorcin, powdered myrrh and powdered castile soap, each fifteen grains, with a few drops of wintergreen added to flavor it. If a sweet taste is desired, a half grain of sacharrin may be added to one ounce of powder."

Genuine castile soap and tepid water make a good tooth wash. The following is also recommended for the same purpose: Benzoic acid, one drahm; tincture eucalyptus, five drahms; absolute alcohol, four ounces; oil of peppermint, fifteen drops.

Great care should be taken in brushing the teeth not to irritate the gums and make them bleed, as this will cause them to retract.

There was a time not many decades ago when parents paid no attention to the temporary teeth, arguing that toothache was as natural a sequence to childhood as mumps or measles. Nowadays enlightened people think differently, for they realize that a child with broken down or painful teeth cannot masticate its food properly, and that the digestion will be impaired unless dental care is given. The stomach and intestines will soon become enfeebled by the excessive labor which thus falls to their share, and they will finally refuse to act at all. The result will be an offensive breath and vitiated saliva, all of which often results in a swelled face and abscesses.

Instead of such an unnatural eruption, if the temporary teeth are cared for properly they will be retained much longer, and when it is time for the permanent teeth to appear the latter will have absorbed the entire strength of the temporary teeth, and the taking out of the crown of the "baby tooth," which is merely attached to the gum tissue, will be painless.

There is no excuse for children having poor teeth, and it is nothing less than criminal for a mother to neglect her children in this way. A reliable family dentist is of quite as much importance as a family physician, and the teeth should be examined frequently, so that, in case decay has begun, it may be arrested in its incipiency. The suffering, too, will be much less than at a later period when decay has reached the nerve.

MORNING.

NOON.

NIGHT.

MENUS FOR A WEEK

From Table Talk.

(By Special Permission.)

MONDAY, FEB. 29.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Cereal, Sugar and Cream.
Minced Liver.
Hashed Potatoes.
Sally Lunns. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Clam Chowder.
Sliced Oranges. Cocoa.
DINNER.
Turnip Soup.
Sliced Cold Pork. Alpha Salad Cream.
Macaroni. Lima Beans.
Celery Salad.
Wafers. Cheese.
Lemon Sago.
Coffee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Hominy Grits. Sugar and Cream.
Stewed Kidneys.
Duchess Potatoes.
Rolls. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Potato and Pim Olas Salad.
Baked Bananas. Cocoa.
DINNER.
Potato Soup.
Broiled Steak. Bearnaise Sauce.
Boiled Rice. Parsnip Fritters.
Escarole, French Dressing.
Wafers. Cheese.
Rice Pudding.
Coffee.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Barley Crystals, Sugar and Cream.
Baked Eggs, Potatoes au Gratin.
Hominy Gems. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Fried Oysters. Tobasco. Cold Slaw.
Cookies. Cocoa.
DINNER.
Carrot Soup.
Haddock Roe Croquettes, Sauce Hollandaise.
Mashed Potatoes. Peas.
Fetticus. French Dressing.
Wafers. Cheese.
Orange Float. Coffee.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Shredded Biscuit, Sugar and Cream.
Panned Chops. Saratoga Potatoes.
Toast. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Macaroni and Cheese.
Evaporated Fruit. Cake. Tea.
DINNER.
Mulligatawney Soup.
Mutton Haricot with Vegetables.
Beets. Lettuce. French Dressing.
Wafers. Cheese.
Corn Starch Blanc Mange. Coffee.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Quaker Oats. Sugar and Cream.
Fried Smelts. Creamed Potatoes.
Diamonds. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Welsh Rarebit. Pim Olas.
Fruit. Pop Overs. Cocoa.
DINNER.
Green Pea Soup.
Vegetable Cutlets. Brown Sauce.
Asparagus Tips (Canned).
Red Cabbage Salad.
Wafers. Cheese.
Coffee Fritters. Vanilla Sauce.
Coffee.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Gluten Grits. Sugar and Cream.
Broiled Tripe. Lyonnaise Potatoes.
Steamed Bread. Coffee.
LUNCH.
Corn Chowder. Cold Slaw.
Cake. Tea.
DINNER.
Cream of Asparagus Soup.
Corned Beef. Boiled Potatoes.
Savoy Cabbage.
Apple and Nut Salad.
Wafers. Cheese.
German Peach Cake.
Coffee.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit.
Wheat Crystals.
Sugar and Cream.
Sausages. Potatoes au Gratin.
Gems. Coffee.
DINNER.
Julienne Soup.
Steamed Chicken, Oyster Sauce.
Potato Croquettes.
Baked Tomatoes.
Celery Mayonnaise.
Wafers. Cheese.
Ice Cream.
Coffee.
SUPPER.
Creamed Sweetbreads in the Chafing-Dish.
Egg Salad. Cake.
Coffee.

SATINWOOD FURNITURE.

One of the new fads is for satinwood furniture. This is more prevalent in England than in this country, where the fashion has just been introduced. The Duchess of Connaught has ordered this kind of furniture for several rooms at Clarence house. All the bedrooms are to be furnished with it. There are some beautiful old examples of this style of furniture in New York, but little of it so far has found its way to other cities.

Mrs. G. W. Fall of Nashville, Tenn., has made a gift to the congressional library of a box containing many papers and letters of President Polk. The letters were bequeathed to the owner by the wife of President Polk and have been in her possession for a number of years. The congressional library has been trying to gain possession of them for some time, as the collection is a very valuable one.

THE NEWEST RAINY-DAY GIRL

She Appears in the Smartest of Raincoats—She Has Them in All of the Newest Shapes and Styles, from the Severely Simple Tailor-Made Covert Cravenette to Really Elaborate Creations in Cravenette Silk, with Braids and Buttons and Rich Embroideries for Trimmings, and Her Hats and Her Shoes Are in Keeping with Her Swell Raincoats.

A RAINY DAY IN NEW YORK.

SHADES of Mrs. Bloomer, and of all the dress reformers who have preceded and followed her! Could they but see the way that fashion has taken up the trend of their efforts, and evolved from their hideous monstrosities the things of beauty in which the fashionable folk garb themselves to-day, surely they would feel that they had not lived in vain.

Just a little glance down the highway of fashion readily brings to the mind's eye the vista of former rainy days and the curious conglomeration of cast-offs in which even the smartest and best-dressed members of society were wont to fare forth, when on business or on pleasure bent.

Then arrived the era of india-rubber, and the memory of those ill-smelling and still worse looking garments lingers with us yet. But how proudly they were donned and with what a conscious air of being up to date did the smart girl pick her way down the muddy street, holding up the train of her long skirt with one hand, while the other upheld the necessary umbrella.

To her aid came the playfully-termed societies of "Rainy Daisies," with their banding together of women pledged to wear skirts cut to clear the ground, not only on rainy days, but on all other days as well. Their labors have borne good fruit, for to-day the walking skirt is the feature of every fashionable wardrobe, and it has proved itself a boon to all classes of society alike.

But it is with the raincoat that the fashionable folk chiefly concern themselves nowadays, for this garment has been brought to a pitch of fashionable perfection which would seem nothing short of miraculous to the wearers of the old-clothes and robber-coat style of rainy-day dress.

Looking for all the world as tho made of the high-priced coverts, the Blarney or West of England tweeds, the smart Sicilienes, or even of expensive silks, the new raincoats are in every way rainproof, and that without the slightest hint or suggestion of rubber in their composition.

Not by any means the least of their attractions is the variety in which the up-to-date tailors and retailers are showing these attractive and at the same time utilitarian garments. There is nothing of the stiff, shapeless, inherently ugly waterproof about them. Quite the contrary, they represent in their shapely and graceful lines the very best that Dame Fashion has to offer.

And the uses to which these swagger wraps are put belie the title of raincoat, for there is not a purpose of dress as a wrap to which they cannot be applied, and that to advantage, too.

The smart girl uses them as a general top coat, and wears them with her morning shirt-waist suit, her pedestrian frocks and for all sorts of informal wear generally. She takes them for the auto trips, for they are not only waterproof, but windproof and dustproof besides, and while the cravenettes are deliciously cool to wear, they ward off the wind in such fashion that they are a comfortable wrap even on the coldest days.

Quite a fad of the auto girl is to have an adjustable hood fashioned from the same material as her (miscalled) raincoat, and this is attached to the garment when needed. Very quaint, indeed, does she look with her fair face peeping out from the frilled and ruched and ruffled edge as she speeds by smiling in the face of the wind and weather.

For the ocean voyage there is nothing that can surpass or supersede the raincoat. Here all of their good qualities are called into play, and each one of them separately appreciated. No longer does the ocean voyager reserve her oldest frocks for the trip and bundle up in any old sort of way. Quite the contrary, she picks out her best tailor-made and her smartest cravenette for shipboard wear, for nowhere else on earth does the paraphrase of the old adage hold good as on an ocean steamer: "By their clothes shall ye know them."

And not to limit the posibilities of the later-day raincoat, it has even been known to do duty for an evening wrap on occasion.

There is not a girl who will not find her individual style expressed in the new raincoats, no matter what style she affects. The tailor-made girl will hail with joy the coats of covert and tweeds, these being exactly the same goods as her brother—from whom she borrows so many of her fascinatingly boyish ideas—has his overcoats made from. If she be of the svelte and slender type, then the blouse style, with its smart double-breasted cut and puffy front, fastening with some handsome and mannish-looking pearl buttons, will appeal to her at once.

Her sister, with the Junoesque type of build, however, will take as her especial property the new design, which is modeled upon the English ulster. This is best expressed in the tweeds, and when fashioned with the fitted back and sides and the semi-fitting fronts—these latter having the extremely straight front line which is so fashionable—the erect carriage and the well-proportioned figure of the wearer shows off to full advantage, with the added attraction of the wearer and the garment being each well suited to the other.

The fluffy girl will look her very best attired in one of the new silk raincoats. These have the outer appearance of a rich dress silk. They are adorned with lavishly embroidered shoulder capes, collars, cuffs, and even pocket flaps are not exempt from the desire to make this as dressy and elaborate a garment as possible without in any wise interfering with the purpose for which it is intended.

Braids and braidings, buttons and embroideries with a touch of gold, both hand and machine executed, are not thought at all outre on the swellest of these very swell garments.

And a word about the hats which are appropriate to wear with these smart raincoats. The English women, to whom we must acknowledge a measure of indebtedness for these charming garments, have always had a penchant for walking in the rain, knowing full well that there is nothing more beneficial to the complexion than a rainbath for the face. To get this to its fullest extent they almost invariably discard the umbrella; hence the hat which accompanies the raincoat must be waterproof—or something which will stand the rain without resulting damage—too. The patent-leather sailor with a medium high crown and broad brim is a recent revival in this direction, and when the right block is selected and worn with a smart veil to keep the tiny strands of hair around the face, the result is sure to be good.

But no matter what the shape, the hat must be of the snug, close-fitting order. There are turbans of various shapes among which at least one becoming chapeau can be found for everybody, and there are smart little Breton sailors, toques and other simple shapes which may be plainly and severely trimmed without losing any of their attractiveness.

A WITTY TONGUE MAKES HER FORTUNE

Mrs. Jack Leslie, One of the Famous Churchill Girls, Is Said to Be the Most Amusing Woman in England—The Favorite Companion of Royal Princesses.

There is a bright young woman out on Lowry Hill whose ability to find a practical use for impractical things has given her friends many a hearty laugh. Mollie Brown—of course that isn't her real name but it will serve—is as clever with her needle as she is with her tongue, and the blouses she has made this winter out of a few yards of silk with some scraps of lace or a skein of embroidery silk have made her friends deeply regret the $15 and $20 they had to spend to obtain much less satisfactory results.

"I don't see how you fit them yourself on such good lines," critically observed a friend yesterday when Mollie was wearing a blue blouse, all tucks and inset with a quaint open trimming. "I have only one pair of hands and I find that is not enough to hold a hand glass to see if I am all right in the back and pin in an under arm seam at the same time. I tried a chair back, but really, I am not the shape of a chair back and tho a pillow is more adaptable and can be stuffed into a blouse, it will flop in a most aggravating manner just when you are ready to pin on the trimming. How do you manage?"

Mollie smiled mysteriously. "Don't I know about the chair back and haven't I grown thin over the pillows. I tried everything in the house when I was making this blouse, even the broom, and it was not until I went down town to match some silk that I had an idea which saved my reason and the blouse.

"I was crossing the store when I saw one of those corset models and as soon as my eyes rested on it the thought flashed thru my mind that it would make a splendid substitute for the chair back and enable the pillow to retire to private life. The woman at the counter was awfully nice and took me up to the storeroom to find one just my size and we tried my coat on to see if it would fit. It only cost a dollar and it is more of a comfort to me than my new fur stole. Nell has one of those wire dummies but they are expensive and no more satisfactory than my corset model. It is so seldom you find anything cheap and desirable that when you do there is only one course to take."

THE WOMAN WHO SEWS FOR HERSELF

An American woman is practically lady-in-waiting to the Duchess of Connaught and the favorite chaperon of the pretty Connaught girls, Princesses Margaret and Patricia. "The vice commandréss-in-chief of Ireland" some of her English friends call her, in laughing imitation of the title "vicereine" which the Americans have bestowed on Lady Curzon without rhyme and reason.

That wit will carry a woman where beauty and birth fail to admit her has been proved by Mrs. Jack Leslie. Altho Mrs. Leslie is a sister of the famous Mrs. Cornwallis West and one of the three Churchill girls, who gave New York something to talk of when they were young, she was almost unheard of until the durbar. An aide-de-camp who was to accompany the Duke of Connaught to India was taken ill, and for some reason Jack Leslie was appointed to fill his place.

While in India Mrs. Leslie was taken for the duchess again and again, much to the amusement of that royal lady, who begged her to keep up the illusion. Mrs. Leslie is a born mimic, and she took her part so well that there are certain Indian princes who still talk of the graciousness of the Duchess of Connaught, whereby they mean Mrs. Jack Leslie, born Churchill of New York.

"She is the most amusing woman in England," declare both the duke and the duchess, and Mrs. Leslie's tongue instead of her face has been her fortune. She talks of her gift for story-telling and general conversation just as a musician would discuss the technique of his performance, and she says that she has brought home enough stories from the durbar to last her two years.

She is continually with the duchess in an informal way, and accompanies the princesses to concerts and balls and is in closer touch with the royal family than perhaps any other American woman.

Defective Page