



# Betty Blair Answers Questions on Many Subjects

## A Page Devoted to the Interests of Women and the Home--Suggestions for the Wife and Mother

**Partners at a Dance**  
 CAN'T a girl dance half a dozen times with the same boy at a party if she wants to? I think it is jealousy that makes the girls say such mean things about me just because I danced with the best dancer more times than they did. —Dollie.

It is never wise for a girl to make herself conspicuous and if she dances half a dozen times with one boy she is sure to excite unpleasant comment.

**Registering at a Hotel**  
 I am going east next month and as I have never traveled alone I am almost afraid to go to a big hotel. Will you please tell me what is the proper way to register? —Alice.

You need not be afraid for the employees of a large hotel will do everything to make you comfortable. You should register, as Miss Alice Jones, Minneapolis, Minn., or Mrs. John Jones, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Tarnished Silver**  
 Will you please tell me thru your paper what will prevent satin-finished silver from tarnishing? —A Constant Reader.

There is nothing that you can do that will prevent silver from tarnishing.

**Replated Silver**  
 Do you think it pays to have spoons replated and if so kindly tell me of a good place to have it done? —A Housewife.

Plated silver is now so reasonable that you would save nothing by having your old spoons replated and had better buy new. I cannot give business addresses in this column.

**Chop Suey**  
 What is chop suey, and can you tell me how it is made? —Jessie.

Chop suey is a famous Chinese dish. To make it take two chicken livers and two gizzards, an ounce of green root ginger, three stalks of celery and a pound of young pork cut into small pieces. Saute this in a frying pan, adding from time to time four table-spoonsful of olive oil, one of vinegar, a table-spoonful of Worcestershire sauce, half a cupful of boiling water, a dash of powdered cloves and salt and pepper to taste. Just before it is cooked add a cupful of small mushrooms and one of bean sprouts.

**Maidenhair Ferns**  
 Will you please tell me how to make a maidenhair fern grow? I have tried several ways, but have had very poor success. —Mona.

Failure with ferns comes, as a general thing, from a neglect to give the plants proper attention. Ferns like a rather moist atmosphere, but they should not be kept wet enough to rot the roots. Some varieties cannot be showered and others thrive under a fine spray that leaves the fronds saturated. Keep the plants out of the sun, and be sure that the pots are perfectly drained. Watch the soil and never allow the roots to get dry. Evaporation

takes place rapidly in a warm room and constant water must be kept and enough water given to keep the soil moist. The best soil is one leaf mold and sand. If your fern turns brown and dry cut off the leaves and set the plant away to rest for a few weeks. Then bring it out and let it have plenty of light and water.

**Shine from Men's Clothes**  
 Can you tell me how to get the shine off men's clothes? Also how to prevent the rapid wear of the trousers? My husband's vest and coat are still new by the time the trousers look worn. My hair falls off very badly and my scalp itches. Can you give me a remedy? —Mrs. B. M.

I fear there is nothing that will prevent the trousers showing signs of wear before the coat and vest? Many men purchase two pairs of trousers with one coat and vest when they get a new suit. To remove the shine lay a wet cloth over the shiny place and rub with a hot iron. Do not allow the cloth to become dry or the iron to remain still or it will leave a mark. The cloth should be kept

stump enough to steam when the iron touches it.  
 For a hair tonic there is nothing better than a pint of beer, a tablespoonful of fine table-salt and twenty grains of quinine. Shake well and wet the scalp with the lotion twice a day.

**Wedding Invitations**  
 How long before a wedding should the invitations be sent out and when should the announcements be made? —A Bride.

Send the invitations to the wedding from two to three weeks before the day and post the announcements the day after the wedding.

**Remedy for Bunions**  
 Will you kindly give me a simple remedy for bunions? —Reader.

Take two parts of burgundy pitch and one part of resin and reduce to the consistency of a salve by adding sufficient raw linseed oil, heated just enough to make it mix. Take a bit of

soft tanned leather and spread it with the salve and bind it on the bunion. Wear this all day and at night remove and rub away the softened surface. The irritation and inflammation will be promptly reduced and the hard surface made soft. Chamois skin may be used, but it is more apt to wrinkle than the tanned leather.

**A Fur Neckpiece**  
 Is there any way to clean a fur neck-piece at home? —Jennie.

Beat the fur thoroughly to get all of the dust out and then with both hands rub warm cornmeal into it. Shake out the meal frequently and put on fresh until the meal is no longer soiled when shaken out.

**To Straighten the Legs**  
 Will you please tell me if anything can be done for a child whose legs have become bowed from standing too early? Also if the child is likely to outgrow it, for he has no weakness, but is perfectly strong and healthy? Will you

also tell me how to go about training a child's hair to curl? What could I use for the curl when it is long to curl on the finger and what could I use to make the curls stay in place until cultivated? —An Old Subscriber.

You had better consult a physician about the child. There are braces that can be worn to straighten the legs and certain kinds of exercise are good, but they should not be taken without the advice of a physician. When long curls were universally worn they were curled over an iron, not unlike a poker, and I do not know anything more modern. Brushing the child's hair the wrong way is said to result in curly hair if you commence when the child is a baby, but I do not know of anything better to do after the hair has grown too long to be curled around the finger than to dampen it and twist it about a curling iron.

**Marking Table Linen**  
 Kindly tell me where to place a single initial on table linen? What is the

correct size of the letter for a napkin and the width of the tablecloth hem? —Inquirer.

Place the initial on the tablecloth so that it will fall inside the corner of the table. Some people use an initial in the two opposite corners and it makes a very pretty effect when the cloth is laid. The letter on the napkin is placed about two inches or two and a half inches, it depends on the size of the napkin, from the hem. The hem on the tablecloth should be from one and a half to two and a half inches long.

**A Trained Nurse**  
 Will you kindly tell me what requirements are necessary and what the expenses are to become a trained nurse? —G. S.

The requirements vary by the different hospitals. Write to the City hospital, Ashbury, Northwestern, St. Barnabas and the Swedish hospitals in Minneapolis for their circulars. A certain amount of education is required and the applicant must be over 21 years of age.

If you are found eligible, and there is an opening for a probationer, you will be given an opportunity to try the work for several months, perhaps six months. If at the end of that time you find that the work is not congenial, that you are not physically able to endure it, you may leave the hospital without paying for the tuition received. If you decide to continue in the work, you will study for two or perhaps three years longer, according to the hospital school in which you enter. During this time you will be given lodging, board and uniforms and incidental expenses. You will also have an annual vacation, and the benefit of the hospital staff in case you are ill.

**To Start a Rubber Plant**  
 Will you please tell me how to start a rubber plant? I have an old plant and it is dying and has several slips on it and I would like to start one. —A Subscriber.

Cut off the slip and plant it in a dish of sand. Keep the sand very moist and let the slip have plenty of sun until it is well rooted. Then transfer to a pot and fill it with earth.

**Stamp Collection**  
 Can you let me know where one can dispose of a collection of postage stamps or give me the address of some one who will buy them? —Queequey.

I cannot give business names or addresses in this department. If you read the newspaper and magazine advertisements you will doubtless find the name of some dealer in stamps.

**To Curl an Ostrich Plume**  
 Will you please tell me how an ostrich plume that has lost its curl in damp weather can be curled again at home? —Mrs. L. S. J.

Draw each little feather over the edge of a dull knife to recur the plume. If you would hold your hat over the stove when you come in out of the dampness the plume would recur itself. Be careful and not hold it close enough to burn the feather, but just so that the heat will envelop it.

**Calling at a Hotel**  
 When a man and his wife call upon friends at a hotel what cards and how many should be sent up to their rooms? —A Subscriber.

One of the wife's cards and two of the man's should be sent up if you are calling on a married couple. The man sends cards to both the man and the woman, but the wife only to the woman.

**A Deodorizer**  
 Will you please inform me of a good deodorizer for under the arms? —J. M.

Bathe with cold water and then wet a fresh cloth and pour a little ammonia on it and wipe the armpits. This will deodorize them and dry the skin. Then dust with a powder of one-third lycopodium to two-thirds boric acid.

The tallest soldier in the German army, who was enlisted recently, is 7 feet 10 inches in height, and his weight is 255 pounds. He adorns the ranks of the First regiment of foot guards.



**Business of the Hair**  
 DRYNESS of the hair accompanies but does not cause grayness. It is, like grayness, the result of certain nervous disturbances within and, unlike it, can be corrected by artificial means. Oil, glycerin and petroleum are the three lubricating substances which are best for the purpose. A good mixture is olive oil and an equal quantity of liquid vaseline with one-eighth part of rectified spirits containing a few drops of tincture of myrrh and glycerin added. This oily mixture rubbed into the roots of the hair is beneficial to a certain extent to the nervous system which is the cause of grayness. It is not understood generally that the color of the hair, and to some extent the complexion, is dependent upon the condition of the nervous system. The nervous disturbances which give rise to such pain as persistent neuralgia are the same that later cause the hair to change in color. It often is noticed that patches of whiteness appear in the hair in spots where pain has been located.

The person with nervous, excitable or artistic temperament usually is inclined to early whitening of the hair, while grayness often appears to be entirely retarded when relief from mental worry has set in.

As a general thing the most that can be done to make a luxurious growth for the hair is done for it in childhood. It never should be allowed to outgrow its strength and to exhaust the energies of the follicles at its roots without being properly clipped and pruned. This also is true of the eyelids, which can be improved by constant and systematic clipping even more than the hair itself. The eyebrows also are susceptible to improvement by the same process, although their pruning is advisable only if the growth promises to be too light and then it should be done by a professional.

On grown people the irregular growth of the eyebrows may be lessened by

systematic brushing. Vaseline or lanolin should be rubbed in thoroughly and the brows should be brushed and carefully trained down with a soft brush.

In working with the hair to get the large, natural looking waves now so fashionable, one woman has solved the problem of how to be beautiful, the in curl papers. Taking a wide piece of silk braid she wires it by half a dozen or more kid curlers which she fastened flat and parallel along the inside. The braid was then folded together side ways, and the edges caught with a thread for just the length to which the curlers reached. The ends were fringed and left loose to tie in a large Alsatian bow on top of the head, giving the effect of the ordinary black bow worn in the daytime. This one large roll gives the single wave an undulating effect in the hair, and where one curler is not enough ribbon could be substituted as not taking up quite so much room as braid, and in that way leave room for a couple of small satellite bows under the spreading ends of the large one.

A tiny fringe, it is rumored, is to edge the fashionable pompadour this winter. So far the fringe is seen upon the artificial pompadours which are becoming popular under the name of "transformations." They are so well done that they do not betray the wearer's lapse from nature. The hair is matched to perfection and they are adjusted by combing it well forward, and then slipping on the bought supply, which is cleverly intermingled in doing it up.

A new sponge manufactured from South American rubber has softness and elasticity beyond that of the finest fiber sponge. These sponges have everything to recommend them in being so resilient of the sulphur which is a chemical part of the rubber that they are immune to the dreaded microbe, besides

being without the slimy propensity of the sea sponge.

A small powder puff in the same rubber, as delicate as swansdown, and withal more durable, can be washed and dried often enough to be kept free from the microbes which are supposed to infest a swansdown puff. One of the conveniences which goes with these little articles is the small damp-proof and collapsible boxes which can be had with them for traveling purposes.

History repeats itself and the night-cap, for the wearing of which the finger of scorn has pointed to our grandmothers has suddenly jumped into popularity. It is huge as a nightcap, alias dejeuner cap, alias bondoir cap, alias convalescent cap, and it is upon the devoted head of the convalescent upon the other side of the water that it made its reappearance. Those who remember the floppy "nets" into which their tresses were bundled in childhood can hardly conceive of the elegance of the embroidered edged affair, surmounted by a bow—which would do credit to a lingerie hat—in which the "setting-up" invalid decorates herself. Some of these caps are made with a "mob" crown with enough frills to look like a Charlotte Corday hat. Other simple little muslin affairs are made like a sweep cap, only of thin muslin and lace. In Paris they are called "nettes" and made from coarse silks and netted with full silk frills are furnished with lingerie sets in colors to match the ribbon insertions in the night-gowns. The height of luxury is reached in the so-called silk caps to match the delicate flesh-colored silks of touseau nightgowns and in which the sachet bag is hidden away at the top. The fancy is to fill this with the favorite and individual perfume which lingers around the hair after wearing.

Belgian women take a pride in doing their own work. If asked why they engage no help, they are very apt to reply that servants are kept only by lazy, incompetent, extravagant, or sick persons.

The discretion that is known as the better part of valor may merely be cowardice in disguise.

Parasols were used by the ancient Egyptians.

A NEW line of needlework is the ornamentation of leather accessories. A collar and belt to match in a brilliant shade is the most popular form of leather wear, while waistcoats are added to tailor makers.

Embroidery is not impossible if a soft, supple piece of kid is chosen. The design is stamped on and where the kid is uneven the point of a coarse needle is used to perforate the thick places before working. Silk or chenille, or a combination of the two, is used, with a gold thread introduced to give an ornamental touch. Before working the leather should be basted to a backing of coarse muslin, and it should be put in frames to embroider, working it with a fine needle. A quicker way is to stamp a running pattern of festoons or any trailing design which does not intersect too closely, and to make vertical slits in one of the ways of trimming, and punched circles and oval done in the narrowest possible width of ribbon. These ribbons, which are narrower than the baby width, come especially for embroidery in old shades which have a rich oriental effect.

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Theater bags are made of moire in the following way: Get two squares of moire in any of the art shades of blue, green, or mauve, from fifteen to eighteen inches wide, or a little less if your opera glasses are small ones. Work the moire over its surface in some fashion.

One way is to sew gold cord over the pattern in a wavy line about four inches from the edge on both sides. Inside this arrange gold spangles in a leaf-

like design or in circles, leaving the center clear for a heavier embroidery in the combined cord and spangles, which should be an initial or a monogram. For those who wear black, black moire can be chosen and worked in steel and silver spangles. After the two sides are ready run them neatly together, rounding off the corners, and line with white satin or the same color as the moire. Three inches down from the top in the lining sew on a row of small gilt rings, and thru these run satin ribbon of the same color as the bag, leaving the ends to fasten together under a butterfly bow, and leaving the ribbon just long enough to fasten over the other comfortably. A bead fringe of gold or silver across the bottom is an improvement.

One piece patterns should be chosen as far as possible, if for no other reason than a labor-saving device. A piece apron is a new idea in children's patterns which takes less than half the time to make than does the one with ordinary sleeves. There are also little Gretchen aprons and dresses to be worn with gumps, both of which slip on over the heads, the yokes being cut all in one piece without seams or fastenings. One-piece kimonos and corset covers are invaluable as time savers and the open necked night gown that slips on over the head not only is less work to make but it lasts longer, as the wear and tear is evenly distributed. For a man's night shirt the same plan holds good in avoiding the styles that are called the "kimono shirt." These can be cut high enough so as to be practical in winter and the seamstress can face the neck and finish the front all by the same facing twice as easily as she can put on a collar. The collar, too, is apt to be the first thing that wears out and has to be replaced about a night shirt while the other wears evenly.

Another invalid's accessory is a pillow-holder. This is a piece of webbing fitted with the little metal slides and clasps which are used on side garters. For the making of one which would incidentally solve the problem of what to do with the garter clasps that are thrown away, three yards of webbing would need to be allowed to each pair of clasps. The idea is to fasten the clasps to the edge of the pillow and by means of the straps attach it to the back of the chair or bed in any position without the constant rearrangement so annoying to the invalid.

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# A Collection of Stories on Various Phases of Housekeeping

## Thanksgiving Decoration

FRUIT candle shades are made for Thanksgiving decoration by painting fruit designs on paper and cutting away the spaces between the patterns. Designs in which the stems and leaves form a trellis work should be used, and the more cutting out the scheme admits of the better. The frame chosen is the simple style in which there are two circles, a smaller above a larger, and in which the shades has a flat surface and sloping sides. The wire is then covered with thin silk gathered to both edges, the color being chosen to contrast prettily or to harmonize with the fruit scheme. Lattice designs are good, and plums, peaches, oranges and grapes are painted to trail all over lattice work. Flowers, such as pansies, wisteria, peonies, roses, and chrysanthemums, are painted in brilliant and natural colorings, and the stems are twined in and out to form the interstices.

A pretty idea is to match the shade decoration in the flowers of the center pieces, using glass candle sticks and setting the center one into a great mass of the flowers, which are so arranged as to bank around it without vase or bowl being visible. Chrysanthemums in red, and white, and yellow shades make a lovely combination in which the lining can be of the lighter color and the most of the outer decoration in the dark.

The painting is done with water colors, but when this is too laborious a process wall paper can be used, and can be found in many latticed patterns, which are even more effective than the water colors.

## Hand Painted China

WANT is filled now that hand-painted china has become fashionable enough to be done by professionals and to be sold at places where it must reach a high standard to be accepted. There always is somewhere a dear friend by whom a hand painted ceramic is far more appreciated than the purest and best sample of a renowned factory which the connoisseur could possibly

pick out. These pieces are done in the fruits and flowers and are treated with artistic mingling of the natural and conventional, and in the heavier tones usually left to the skill of the great factories. Black backgrounds edged with many shades of gold which is carried into the conventional leaf work for naturally colored blackberries, peaches and nasturtiums, brilliantly effective in the transparent liquid. Goblets of straight, upright shape are beautiful in black with pendent bunches of golden grapes, the borders and standards also being of gold in blended shades.

## In the Parlor

FOR giving style to the room which must serve as living-room and reception-room at the same time there is no one note so effective as the proper fitting-up and placing of the piano. Where room will admit it should be drawn across the corner, and the first essentials for this arrangement are the drape and the arranging of lighting facilities back of it.

The light is most easily and simply managed by attaching a small candelabra of two or three candles to the front of the piano itself, putting it in at the low point at the left where the light falls upon the music. With electric lights this can be easily managed, or without it candles will well repay for the trouble in later convenience and artistic effect.

To the fastidious taste the little metal touch given by the candelabra is emphasized in a way worth while by the addition of hanging handles in the same design and material. These are put on at each end of the instrument and have their raison d'etre in the saving of fingermarks with every change of position.

The drape is managed with two materials—a soft silk which is gathered over the back or rather the front surface and heavy embroidered strips, which are used as a narrow frieze across the top, and a corresponding band across the bottom.

These hold the drape silk in place,

and if the piano is to be perfectly caparisoned there should be designed at the same time another broad strip, which is lined, folded over envelop-fashion, and laced together into a music cover for permanent use on the rest.

There are all sorts of latitude in the choice of decoration. The least elaborate plan is to choose linen and have it stamped in a design that would lend itself to the ordinary long and short couching stitches, and which can be carried out in heavy rope silk.

In a Louis XVI parlor, in white and old rose, a design of ribbon-work was done after this fashion for the piano, this little wreath, garden and hanging baskets of the Louis XVI pattern being worked in rose and mahogany-colored ribbon on a white moire. Soft rose silk and cords finished the decoration.

## Cleaning Laces

LACES should be cleaned according to the material of the lace. Silk lace should be stretched evenly over small, clean, thin wooden boards and laid overnight in warm water. This should be rinsed out in fresh, warm water and it should be soaked as many hours more in a strong solution of soap. At the last it should be rinsed thoroughly without rubbing.

Linen lace should be wrapped on a bottle which has first been covered with muslin or flannel. After the lace is stretched on a piece of coarse, open crinoline should be stretched over it and sewed lightly. Soak the bottle in lukewarm water and rub the outside wrapping with soap and a piece of flannel. Afterwards steep the bottle for some hours in soft, clean water. It may then be dipped in a thin starch water and rolled between dry towels. After it is taken off the bottle press it between a napkin.

To starch lace first squeeze them thru soap suds and rinse. Add bluing to the starch if you wish them white or a few teaspoonfuls of clear coffee if you wish them yellow. Squeeze out of the starch and roll up in towels. Pull gently into shape every little while with the fingers and pin on the ironing

table. Press between tissue paper with a hot iron after it is dry, punch the openings with a stiletto, and pluck out the edge loops with a pin, when it can be made to look like new lace. This plan will succeed with applique or any of the monilk laces which do not take to washing readily.

## For the Baby

FOR AN apartment baby is a little folding bathtub and cot combined, which is so simple of construction that it could be made in the house. It is made something like a cot bed, and the legs are crossed and pivoted together in the middle, one end being bent which is fastened to the other. The side bars are fastened to the top of the legs. Smaller bars also join the legs near the bottom, to strengthen them.

The legs are thirty inches long, and the side bars thirty-six inches long, the former being made of strips about an inch and a half square, and the side bars of a little thinner strip about two inches wide. The tub is made of a piece of rubber cloth, which is a yard and a quarter long and about thirty inches wide. The selvage is tacked to the outside of the side bars with brass headed tacks, and the ends of the cloth are hemmed and drawn up with braid. This is put up to about eighteen inches and securely fastened at the corners, forming the ends of the tub, which is shaped like a hammock. A small plait is taken at each corner about an inch from the end, which gives a little more depth to the water. It can be folded up and slipped out of the way in the bathroom, and, with a pillow, makes a comfortable little bed.

## For the Shut-in

FOR the shut-in are numerous crocheted and knitted articles of which the sofa rug or foot warmer seems the cleverest thing ever invented for an invalid. The rug is on the order of a baby's swaddling blanket, being made like a pillowcase for the feet to slip down into. It is long enough

to reach up to the knees and would be just as useful inside the bed when the patient is chilly as upon the sofa. The underneath part is of heavier wool and is knit so as to make it thicker and more like a pad than the upper part, which is crocheted. It is long enough to come up well under