



Fads, Frills and Facts from the Woman's Own Budget

Stories and Illustrations Prepared Especially for Feminine Readers---Did You "Ask Betty Blair?"---If So Her Answer Is Here

An Ailing Canary.
I HAVE a bird, about 5 years old, a canary, and for a year or more he has scarcely sung any. He pulls his feathers out and eats them. What can be done to help him or what is the matter with him. He was a fine singer before he was taken ill.—Mrs. C. A.

Your bird is probably overfed. Too much and too rich food will often cause a bird to pull out his feathers and eat them. The blood is enriched to such an extent that it causes an irritation of the skin which the bird tries to relieve by pulling out his feathers. Do not give him any dainties, but keep a cuttle bone in the cage and give him a little lettuce and a seed mixture of two-thirds rape seed and one-third of canary seed. As soon as he is well and comfortable he will sing.

Names for a Baby.
Can you inform me where to get a list of up-to-date names for a baby?—Mrs. I. A. B.

There is a very complete list of names in the back of the dictionary; in fact, I do not know of any other place where you would find a full list.

To Cure a Cold Sore.
Please tell me if there is anything that will cure a cold sore and what is it?—A Reader.

Apply peroxide of hydrogen to the cold sore and it will heal it quicker than anything else.

Peanut Butter.
Will you kindly tell me how to make peanut butter?—A Subscriber.

Roast and shell the peanuts, carefully removing all of the brown skin, and then grind the nuts into a powder by putting them thru a coffeemill or a meatgrinder. Pack away in small jars until needed.

Eiderdown and Tubs.
How can a pink eiderdown jacket which has become soiled from hanging in a dusty room be cleaned? Can you tell me how to clean galvanized iron

washtubs that have become very gummy from constant washings of soiled clothing? Scouring soap fails to remove the dirt. How can I remove the fingermarks from Russian stovepipe?—Interested Reader.

Brush your jacket thoroughly and then wash it in gasoline. Rinse out in clean gasoline. Be sure and do not use the tubs with kerosene. Rub well with a cloth dipped in the oil. Rub the stovepipe with a woolen rag dampened with kerosene.

Laxative Foods.
Will you please give a list of laxative fruits and vegetables in your department?—Mrs. G. E.

Tomatoes, spinach, lettuce, asparagus, salsify, cabbage, celery, Spanish onions are all laxative vegetables. Fruits with seeds are laxative, such as figs, blackberries, strawberries, huckleberries, blueberries and grapes. Other fruit having special laxative powers are apples, pears, peaches, oranges, grapefruit, cherries, prunes and plums.

Eyebrows and Lashes.
Would you kindly inform me as to something which will prompt the growth of the eyebrows and eyelashes?—M. B.

Rub a little vaseline into your eyebrows and lashes every night.

Iodine Stains.
I spilled iodine on my lawn matinee. Can you tell me how to take the stains out?—Ignorant.

Soak the stains in cold water for half an hour and then cover thickly with common soda. Let stand for several hours and then wash in the usual way.

A Peanut Party.
What do people do with peanuts at a peanut party? I mean, what kind of games do they play?—Jack.

One game that is frequently played is called peanut stab. A given number of unshelled nuts are placed on a

tray on each table, and at a signal the players, each armed with a long hatpin, endeavor to stab the nuts and lift them from the tray. The two who secure the most in a given time progress to the next table. Or the nuts may be heaped on the tray and removed with candy tongs in the same way that jackstraws are played, each single peanut counting one and a double nut two, etc. Hide the peanuts thru the house and use them in a nut hunt.

To Cultivate the Memory.
Do you know of any simple method by which the memory may be strengthened? You seem to be able to answer all sorts of questions, so I thought perhaps you could suggest some way by which I could exchange my poor memory for a good one.—Reader.

Memory must be cultivated to be strengthened, and this can be done in many ordinary ways. The most wholesome way is by repetition and memorizing favorite verses or bits of prose will help you. When reading, close the book suddenly and see how much you can remember of what you have read.

When you go to church or to a lecture, endeavor to recall the sermon or the talk. Try to remember what hymns were sung in church. At night try to recall what you have heard or learned during the day. That is worth a place in your memory. These are simple ways, but they will all help to strengthen the much-abused memory.

To Bait a Mousetrap.
Miss Blair, is there any way you can bait a mousetrap with cheese so that it will catch the mice? I don't seem to have any luck at all, and the mice seem to increase instead of decrease in my pantry.—Matron.

After the cheese is securely fastened to the hook in the trap, hold it over a gasjet or lamp until the cheese is well toasted. The smoked trap will prove very enticing, for the odor of the cheese will permeate the wood and attract the mice.

Engagement Gifts.
Is it customary to send engagement gifts to a girl when her engagement is announced? I remember a few years

ago that everybody sent a newly engaged girl cups and saucers, and I would like to know, if you can tell me, Miss Blair, if that is still the custom?—Maude.

It is not customary to send engagement gifts to a girl unless you are a relative or an intimate friend. Cups and saucers are not as popular as they used to be, and the girl friends usually send something for the trousseau, a piece of embroidery, some linen for the table or a handmade piece of underlinen.

Down Pillows.
Do you know any way to keep the down from coming thru the pillow cases? I have some very handsome pillows, but I cannot use them with any comfort, as the feathers will work their way thru the covers and stick to anyone who uses them?—Constance Reader.

If you had waxed the inner cover of the pillow the down would not have worked thru. To do this, iron the wrong side of the tick with a hot flatiron, rubbed with beeswax, rubbing the iron

over the wax each time before putting it on the cloth, until the tick is thoroughly coated with the wax.

The Gavotte.
What sort of a dance is the gavotte, and what costume should be worn when dancing it? We are going to have an entertainment for the benefit of the library fund and fancy dances will play a prominent part in the program.—Elsie.

The gavotte is a French dance, somewhat resembling the minuet, and remarkable for its combination of vivacity and dignity. No special costume need be worn, although when the gavotte was introduced the women of the period wore gowns resembling the Watteau shepherdess or Dolly Varden costume, short flowered skirts, with pointed bodices and full hip draperies, elbow sleeves and a big shepherdess hat. You can find the pictures of a man and girl dancing the gavotte on almost any piece of Dresden china.

Duties of a Patronsess.
Please tell me, Miss Blair, what are the duties of a patronsess? Is the name merely honorary, or are there some special duties pertaining to it?—Country.

A patronsess is understood to stand as sponsor for an affair, and her name is a guarantee to her friends that the entertainment is as announced. The patronsess is sometimes asked to receive, and if the affair is for charity she is expected to dispose of or to purchase a certain number of tickets.

A Soapstone Griddle.
Will you tell me, dear Miss Blair, how to use a soapstone griddle? I have a new one, but the cakes will stick to it, altho I have tried greasing the griddle and rubbing it with salt.—O. T.

Wash your griddle thoroughly with soap and water to get rid of the grease, which should never have been used on it. Then set it in the sun for a day before using it, rub well with dry salt. Wipe with a dry cloth and set at the side of the range to heat very slowly

for an hour before you attempt to bake the cakes.

Rubber Plant.
I have a very handsome rubber plant that has always done well in my window. Recently it has seemed to be dying, at least the leaves are dropping off and I am afraid that all of the leaves will fall. Can you tell me what is the matter and what I can do for it?—Mrs. L.

Perhaps there are worms in the pot. Try giving the soil a mustard bath, a tablespoonful of dry mustard in two cups of warm water and if there are any worms in the earth it will bring them to the surface.

A Hardwood Floor.
How should a hardwood floor be cleaned that has been oiled or polished?—J. M.

Wipe an oiled floor with a cloth that has been dipped in oil. A waxed floor needs only to be wiped occasionally with a dry cloth and polished once a fortnight, perhaps, with a weight brush. A warm woolen cloth will remove the white marks and dullness caused by water and grease spots may be rubbed out with turpentine while washing soda will take away most other stains.

A Floor Oil.
Can you give the proportions for a good floor oil?—Mrs. G.

The best floor oil is made up of equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine mixed with enough Japanese drier to make it harden over night. The oil and turpentine must both be pure.

A Bride's Flowers.
Who should pay for the bride's bouquet and the flowers for the bridesmaids, the bridegroom or the bride's parents?—Subscriber.

The bridegroom should send the bouquets to the bride and her bridesmaids.

Hair Dressing for Small Daughters Now a Fine Art



HAIR dressing for the little girl between the ages of 4 and 14 has become an art. Tightly plastered locks and starched pig-tails belong to the child of the past. Miss Up-to-Date, with clear complexion and rosy cheeks, has her face set in the softest frame of fluffy tresses, and her mother has no small task to keep them light and glossy.

In the first place the care of the hair itself has developed into a duty of no small magnitude. When a child's scalp is healthy, the hair should be washed once a week with pure castile soap and luke-warm water. This gives it the loose, fluffy look that is so essential. The best and quickest method of shampooing is to shave a small piece of the soap into very hot water and allow it to become thoroughly dissolved. Temper the water gradually until it does not burn the back of the wrist. Then, with the aid of a soft nail brush, which is kept expressly for the purpose, it is only a matter of five or ten minutes' work for a mother to cleanse the scalp and hair.

Whatever the age of the child, this simple shampoo is most effectual. Care should be taken, however, that the hair and scalp are thoroughly dried, using plenty of dry towels and fanning vigorously at the end. To prevent any danger of colds, many mothers wash a child's head just before putting her to bed.

Should the scalp show any signs of dandruff or if it is naturally dry, a reliable tonic should be applied regularly and the weekly shampoo continued as above. Borax or ammonia should be diligently avoided in these frequent washings if the hair is to be permitted to grow long and luxuriant, as they dry out all natural secretions.

As patent as this shampooing process may seem, it is unquestionably the secret of the extremely pretty hair of the little girl of today and lays the foundation for beautiful silken tresses when she grows to womanhood.

In the matter of the daily dressing of the hair, mothers have no end of little girl coiffures from which to choose. For the child with perfectly straight locks, the Russian style, cut short and bobbing around the ears and neck, has long been a general favorite. Practical and comfortable as it unquestionably is, the one objection to it is the extremely boyish look which it gives.

The latter is relieved somewhat by a slight pompadour effected by parting the hair on either side of the head at the front and tying the intervening locks at the left of the head. Or for the very young child, the hair is parted on a perfectly straight line with the nose. Several strands on either side of the forehead are caught each in a small bunchy bow of soft ribbon. This style of hair dressing is becoming only to a child with rather low brow.

The particular charm in either of these rather severe styles, lies in the freshness and brightness of the bow or bows that set them off. The modern little girl has to have hair ribbons galore and a fancy basket kept especially for them is the only means by which they can be preserved with any kind of smoothness. Even then they must be folded over the fingers every time they are taken off, and the same ribbon should not be worn oftener than twice a week. With constant handling a ribbon loses its dressing very quickly.

One young miss, who has a large supply of hair ribbons, receives most of them from her aunts and uncles on various birthdays and Christmas days. She is proud of her pretty head of hair and even more particular that it shall be prettily arranged and tied, so whenever questioned as to what she would like, her answer is always some special color and kind of hair ribbon.

Unless a child's hair has a wiry straightness, many mothers prefer that it should be tied or braided loosely and then pulled out in soft, fluffy curves

around the face. For the little girl who is blessed with curly locks, this coiffure is a very simple matter, as the hair falls naturally into graceful lines. The newest and smartest way of fastening the locks in place is with a huge bow at the side of the face, if a child is very small, while a larger girl has the back locks held together at the nape of the neck by a silver gilt ornament in the form of a snake. This winds in and out among the hair and holds it tightly in place, so that stray ends cannot work out easily and fly in untidy fashion in front of the eyes.

To arrange long, straight hair, however, is a much more difficult problem, but the mother who takes pride in her little girl's appearance solves it by means of rag curlers at night. Locks of hair dampened slightly by running them thru a hand which has been dipped gently in water, are wound separately around strips of cotton cloth four inches in width. Each rag is tied in a hard knot around the waist of hair and when morning comes, the tresses have a tendency of its own to be curly, these waves are brushed around a curling stick and made to look like genuine corkscrews.

The child with a very high forehead should have it concealed by bangs, which are again returning to favor. They are cut with a horseshoe curve that slopes up on either side. If the bangs are short, the hair behind the crossover part is pulled up underneath to relieve a flat look on top of the head. If the head has quite a decided bump on top, the part is made well back, thus effecting a very long bang.

A last and important point about children's hair is that the very short locks at the side of the ears should be trained to grow up. If a mother is troubled with their fringing down on the cheek, they should be soaped in place each night. In a few months' time they will stay in place of themselves.

The Prettiest Coverlet Some New Designs

A MOST serviceable coverlet for a brass or iron bedstead is simply scalloping the edges and binding them with silk or cotton tape in white, which is easily stitched on by machine. A long roll cover to match is made in the same way. In some sleeping rooms even the mattresses and pillows themselves are included in figured denim.

Of all methods of finishing denim edges these large scallops bound with tape will be found to be decidedly the simplest and most effective. Plain strips or squares of denim scalloped and bound with narrow satin ribbon are wonderfully serviceable for dressing table or stand coverings. Couch pillows are included in squares of plain colored cambric. The denim extends out beyond the pillow, forming a sort of ruffe, and has large or small scallops buttoned in crocheted cotton or bound with white cotton tape. Inexpensive lace insertions are also used to trim or finish denim coverings. One deft-fingered girl has decorated the plain rose-colored denim of the various stand covers and pillows in her boudoir with spreading scroll designs outlined by narrow white French braid. Her waste basket, folding screen, shirtwaist box, window draperies and laundry bags are all made in the same color of denim and are ornamented with figures or borders of the white braid.

Among some of the exquisite new designs of this serviceable material are most marvelously blended flower effects in two or three harmonious colors. Pink roses are grouped with palest bachelor buttons and a suggestion of lavender wisteria or magnolia blossoms and bunches of heather mingle with festoons of pale blue ribbon. Noteworthy among the one color designs is a motif showing a huge lavender fleur-de-lis bloom, surrounded by several clinging buds. These all have pure white backgrounds. An unusual pattern on a background of American beauty red displays drooping clusters of pearly Indian pipes found in wooded swamps. Narcissus stalks on a pale lemon background give a delightfully cool effect.

But most striking of all is a haughty peacock almost in life size against a cream colored background. His magnificent blue and green tail sweeps down behind him and the entire figure is encircled by an enormous garland of scattered delicate flowers. Denim in this design was employed to cover one of the old colony wingchairs, now so popular for bedroom use. The peacock's figure almost covered the back of the

chair, the flowers reaching to the wings and arms.

So decorative are these denims that with the aid of a machine and careful fitting the home sewer is able to transform her bedrooms into veritable flower gardens. And the beauty of the garden is that the occasional tubbing brings them out as fresh as growing flowers.

A Bathroom Radiator

THE question of securing sufficient radiation in bathrooms is often a perplexing one to the engineer or contractor, as in many cases, points out a correspondent of the Metal Worker, particularly apartment houses and city hotels, the bathroom is too small to allow of the use of the ordinary forms of radiation, and various substitutes are used to obviate this difficulty. One of them is to run a vertical riser thru all the bathrooms in the house, usually 1 1/2 or 2 inches in diameter. To secure a sufficient amount of radiation another method used is to take the ordinary sectional wall radiator, which is made in a variety of patterns and applicable to a number of other uses, setting this on the floor.

A single section, however, may not have enough radiation surface to heat the room, and in an instance recently noted a rack made of brass or nickel-plated pipes was built up above the radiator. This arrangement not only gives a sufficient amount of radiation, but affords at the same time a useful rack for drying towels, and as it is nickel-plated is not displeasing to the eye. It is, of course, understood that this is simply one application of a plan which may be extended to a variety of uses. For example, the rack may be lengthened or widened, according to the necessities of the occasion. The radiator was set close to the wall so that the outside faces did not project more than five inches from the baseboard. The supporting standards can be made in a variety of forms.

Queen Maud's Hobby

Queen Maud of Norway has her hobbies, like most other European royalties.

Among the many things she has collected at various times are miscellaneous ornaments and useful articles made of ivory, of which she is a great admirer.

She has also for years collected ivory tusks, the spoils of royal sporting expeditions all over the world, and these will doubtless be added to when her brother, the Prince of Wales, returns from his Indian tour.—M. A. P.

Odd Masks for Little Ones For Masquerade Parties

BECAUSE many mamas have difficulty in thinking of characters for their little ones to impersonate, this fascinating array is likely to prove of great assistance at this season of masquerade parties.

There's the unspeakable Turk to begin with! Only he isn't unspeakable. He's a modest little darling, who has had rakish raiment thrust upon him, and, if one reads correctly, he had far rather be home playing with his headless horse than pretending to march merrily at this festive masquerade. His trousers are red, his jacket is blue, his shirtwaist is cream white, and his sash is a riot of color in stripes. A black tassel tops his fez.

Any fond mama might conjure this sweet little creature in toilet. It is of white tulle, layer upon layer, and all very full, the foundation being of tafeta. A ruche-like finish is at the neck. The wings are made of the tulle, upon a wire frame, and the wand is an ordinary stick wound with white satin ribbon.

The crown might adorn the lovely Titania herself, a simple floral affair, as graceful as it is dainty. The dress might be done cheaply in tarlatan.

No wonder the wee Jap has lost his heart. He, by the way, is clad in a grand garment of deep blue satik heavily and magnificently embroidered. Both it and his shoes are the real thing, mama having traveled in Japland. She might have gotten him there, too, to judge by his pretty black eyes.

To go back to nearly a century ago, one finds the sweet maiden in the pan-fattest. These are handsome as well as lengthy, being quite smothered in frills of lace. Otherwise this quaint little figure is all in white mull, dress apron, hat and all.

Mr. Dutch-boy, who has the bad taste to desert her, is in a brown stuff "combination" garment which may be made with some little trouble. Naturally, the ear extension of his cap will not be wadded.

Marie Stuart is up to her old tricks—not that she was ever accused of attracting by means of sickening. This royal character, who married early and as often as possible, is represented as wearing a splendidly embroidered satin dress, with bodice and sleeves of velvet. Van Dycked lace is the finishing touch. Here she is, quite too young to be wearing the famous namesake mourning bonnet which she made it a point to always have on hand.

William of Orange, called the Silent, who was her contemporary, comes next. He'd best beware, else he will find himself minus a heart (if not a head). His coat, breeches and shoes are of satin,

his stockings of silk. Ribbon knots make him more charmingly jaunty than he aspired to be in real life. So do the lace collar and cuffs. Fortunately, his curls have not yet "come off."

Miss Brownie is a fetching characterization for a lively bit of youthful piquancy. Leadlike affairs of green are over her dress of wood brown. Her cap is of green. It is all tafeta here, but crepe paper may serve on a muslin foundation.

Up to this point the "kids" have been marching up in two files to receive their favors. Now you see this little flirt dancing away with the quaint lad of 1860. The black velvet bands on his coat and breeches, as well as his striped stockings, are decidedly quaint.

The tragic muse might well be the name of the lofty young thing in steady draperies and the picturesque head-dress. As a matter of fact, the costume is a copy of that worn by Racine's Athalie, who, you may not remember it, was a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and, after she became queen, was massacred for her wrongdoings. This reproduction of this heroine of biblical days (ninth century B. C.) thrills one afresh, as it recalls Voltaire's reply upon being asked to write a commentary on the author: "On has only to write at the foot of each page, beautiful, pathetic, harmonious, admirable, sublime."

And, lastly we have a little Eskimo. He looks, at Athalie's dress. Perhaps he thinks it too long. It certainly is cooler than his furry tops, which are capped in picturesquely characteristic fashion. Wee coquettes are likely to make many a jest at the expense of his warmly wound-up feet.

A fine lot of suggestions, surely, and out of the usual run of milkmaids, flower girls and Swiss peasants.

In buying Nottingham curtains avoid the more florid styles, which are usually of questionable taste. Many simple effects can be had in the real Nottingham weave, and if elaborateness is desired there are beautiful imitations of Arabian and other heavy laces. Some of the best and newest are reproductions of antique or filet lace. Most Nottingham curtains are now made in America, the name denoting the machine on which they are woven, and not the place where they are made.



MASQUERADE COSTUMES FOR CHILDREN