

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

FROM WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Procrastination is a common fault, I find, and the only way to fight it is to do a task when brought face to face with it. The letter which is laid by is seldom answered, and the bit of mending, which meant no more than ten or fifteen minutes at the beginning, grows into a mountain of care which bears heavily upon the conscience.

A busy woman never sees the end of her duties, of course, for fresh ones enter every time the door is opened. But when she is wise she marshals them into lines and disposes of them in order. If there is a good reason for jumping one forward, she loses no time in thinking about it. The woman who works without system takes the task that catches and fixes her roving eye, but she does not permanently forget the others which are lurking in corners and closets, in boxes and bureau drawers.

When we work by system we have no superfluous articles about us. We buy furniture and clothes and trinkets as we find use for them, and do no hoarding. When we work at random the results are ragged, notwithstanding the outlay of time and strength. There are always holes to be filled—ragged ones, sometimes—and a woman may be excused for feeling that her burdens are heavy. As a matter of fact, the women of my acquaintance who achieve the best results in work are women whom I meet at the homes of friends, repaying calls or taking part in the social life of their circle.

I was a witness to the reformation of a haphazard woman. After being swamped in sewing, unanswered letters, piles of visiting cards, and heaps of unopened magazines, she made a resolve which nobody expected her to keep. She would divide her day so that the work and play would alternate. She began at the bottom and took her tasks as they appeared, the weekly mending first, because the garments must be put away, and two letters each day from the pile until it disappeared. In the afternoon she planned calls for alternating days and reading for whatever evenings were spent at home without visitors. Probably she has never reached the end, because life is a merry-go-round, but she has found satisfaction, and that is worth while. Incidentally, she has simplified life, eliminating where she never believed it possible to cut. It is hard to recognize in this wholesome, cheerful man the worried housewife who never forgot her burdens even in sleep. She was conscientious, you see.

DINING-ROOM SUGGESTIONS.

A circular table cloth can be made by buying linen the desired length, or by square tablecloth and spread it upon the floor; find its exact center. Then take a piece of string, pin one to the center of the cloth and tie a pencil to the other end. Now draw a circle, using as a radius the distance from the center of the square to the middle of one of the edges of the cloth. This will give the largest circle contained in your square. Then cut around, following pencil line, turn and hem as usual; the curve is so gradual that you will have no more difficulty than in hemming a square cloth. They hang gracefully and launder well.

The flower decoration for the dinner table is the one that gives the best result for the least expense. There should be an important spot in the decorative scheme, and the rest of the design should be connected with this central idea. The eye should be held by a large group of flowers and wander off to the contributing smaller ones, only to return to the main patch of color.

For a nice breakfast dish boil dried beef a few minutes in water to remove the salt and to make it tender. Put the beef into hot butter, fry a second, make a gravy with flour and milk, boil for a minute and serve with small pieces of toast. Cold boiled ham is also very palatable served in butter gravy.

ACTRESS SEEKS DIVORCE.

Well-known actress, who is the wife of the Shakespearean actor, E. H. Sothern, she has just announced to Reno to take up a residence there. After living in Nevada for six months—the legal residential period—she will begin suit for divorce. Mrs. Sothern recently tried to procure a divorce in the Nevada laws, but Judge Price, at Reno, refused to grant a decree on the ground that she was not a legal resident of the State.



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MORNING CHIT-CHAT.

"Please tell me how to make friends, I want to be friends with people, but somehow almost everybody thinks I am proud and haughty, and really I am not at all," little girl wrote to me the other day.

And for her sake and the sake of any who may be in similar case with her, I am going to quote a sentence of Emerson that I used the other day.

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." When I hear people bewailing their inability to make friends readily I always think of that quotation, and long to ask—"You want to make friends, but are you ready first to be friends?"

Are you? That you means any one who does not make friends quite so readily as he would like.

When you meet new persons, is your first thought to do something for them, to set them at ease, to be friendly toward them, or are you thinking about how you can make a good impression upon them?

An overbearing desire to make friends almost always defeats itself. Forget that you are trying to make new acquaintances like you and concentrate on liking him, and see if you do not find that you have made a friend.

I know that people are often unjustly stigmatized as being proud and haughty when they are merely diffident and self-conscious, just as the little girl who wrote to me undoubtedly is.

And I realize that diffidence and self-consciousness are hard to conquer, because the more you think about trying not to be self-conscious the more self-conscious you always get.

But there is one perfectly good way to get over these big barriers to friendship, and that is to think so hard about other people that you won't have time or energy to think about yourself and how you are appearing.

If my little girl will try that rule for a time, I am pretty sure that she will find that people will soon cease to regard her as proud and haughty.

In speaking of a woman who, although extremely good and generous, somehow failed to make many friends, Alice Freeman Palmer explains the failure as the result of—

"An absence of heart culture; of that sunshine which melts its own way." Many people who are not actively proud and haughty are passively at fault in that, like this woman, they lack "heart culture; that sunshine which melts its own way."

Perhaps the people who feel that the world has not done their desire for friendship justice; who want more friends than they yet possess; who feel within themselves the possibility of being loved and loving more than they yet have, will do well to take the pledge of friendship that the great president of Wellesley College, whom I quote so much, made to herself—

"I will give all the years have brought to me to my own soul." "God help me to give what He gave—myself—and help me to make that self worth something to somebody; teach me to love all as He has loved for the sake of the infinite possibilities locked up in every human soul."

ANGLIN ON DRESS.

Margaret Says "Save on Frocks and Put the Money in Furs."

"My clothes creed is well summed in three statements," says Margaret Anglin in Human Life. "First, I believe in saving in the number of frocks and putting the money into good furs."

"Furs are very expensive, and they are constantly growing more so. Nevertheless, they are so becoming to all women that it pays to sacrifice other things in the wardrobe to buy them and to buy good ones."

"Next, I believe in having good, well-cut frocks, little trimmed, but plenty of jabots and gumples and yokes and collars, so that there can be fresh, clean things for the neck every day. I like the intimate things, those clothes that touch the skin, to be dainty."

"Third, I believe in the tailor gown, but I like it trimmed and softened. The adorned French and American tailor makes I prefer to the unadorned English styles, which are too trying for any woman."

"To this creed I would add that if I were very poor and able to have but few clothes I should make a point of having my gowns made just alike. Then no one would ever know which were new and which old. I should always wear black in the day and white in the evening."

"But every one likes to dilate upon his creed, so let me add something by way of elucidation and elaboration to mine. First, as to furs. I prefer dark furs. They look richer, and as a rule are more becoming. Personally, I like the long-haired furs, but if I were of less height I should wear the short-haired ones. Mink is the favorite, as it should be, of short women."

"For the street I like the plainest gowns in cut and color I can get, but I will not wear the English tailor-made frock, which in every respect except decoration is exactly like a man's business suit. The French and Americans trim these suits, feminizing them with rows of braid and bands of silk or folds of velvet, and they are mealy-mouthed becoming."

"The English tailor suit demands a stiff linen or heavy flannel shirt waist. The French or American permits bodices of silk or velvet or even of chiffon. A French tailor suit I got in Paris and have worn as it seems endlessly is of black-chestnut cut with a long coat and plain but flaring skirt."

"So far it is English, but it has a becoming shawl collar of soft silk and rows of braid that brighten it. And the bodice is of black chiffon with plimpings of pale blue silk, and with it I wear a fresh glimpse of lace or embroidered linen or of white chiffon every day. Odds and ends left from a worn-out white frock work up nicely into dainty accessories like this that make a costume charming."

"One rule I always follow—I never wear in the house the gown I have worn on the street. The moment I come into the house, no matter how tired I am, I slip off the street suit and get into a house gown."

"The change in itself rests me. I do this in part from hygienic motives, in part from artistic ones. The street gown is not sanitariously fit to be worn in the house until it has been well brushed and gone over to rid it of any germs it might have accumulated on the crowded pavements, crowded in more than one way. But artistically the street gown is also important. It doesn't go with the furniture."

Newest in Note Paper.

The newest color in paper for correspondence or notes is what is known as wood violet; just why violet one fails to comprehend, for it is a gray with perhaps a hint of violet tint. This should be stamped with initial or monogram in white and silver, the silver being embossed, while the ground is colored white by hand. The correct style for monograms is a long, narrow design to be placed in the upper left-hand corner. These designs are very odd and quaint.

Separate Waist Frills. Nice fancy work you'll find in the hand hemming of tiny linen frills to wear down the front of your shirt waist.

If all your plainest shirts are really blouses, fastening down the back, the frill, four or five inches deep, should be sewed to a finished strip of sheer linen nine inches long and two wide.

This may be attached to the middle front of the stock collar by a small fancy pin, or even buttoned fast, there being provided two buttons on the collar of your blouse and two tiny button-holes in the strap that holds the frill.

LATEST FASHIONS.

MISSES' AND GIRLS' SACK APRON.

Paris Pattern No. 2739

All Seams Allowed.

Made in plain colored chambray or linen, checked or figured gingham, this is a most serviceable garment for the school girl. The apron is loose and comfortable, completely covering the dress and therefore protecting it from all dirt. The lower edge is finished with a deep hem and the back is fastened with small pearl buttons. The upper edge is gathered into the low round collar and the full sleeves are gathered into cuffs of the material. If desired, the upper edge may be cut out in low-neck outline and overlapped may be used instead of the long sleeves. A wide, square pocket or flaps either side of the front, or these in six sizes—4 to 18 years. For a girl of 10 years the apron, as in front view, requires 3/4 yds. of material 27 inches wide, or 2/3 yds. 36 inches wide; or, as in the back view, including 3/4 sleeves, it needs 3/4 yds. 27 inches wide, or 2/3 yds. 36 inches wide.



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In the Sick Room.

The arrangement of the sick room is very important. People seldom realize the wonderful effect which a patient's environment has on his condition.

Brightness and sunshine must have a decided effect upon the nervous system during recovery from serious illness, although in its acute stages much shadow may have been necessary.

The best outlook for a sick room is a southeasterly one. Much can be done at times by altering the bed in order that the light may not cause glare in eyes easily strained because of weakness and ill health.

Have just a few flowers, very fresh; and always keep them about their arrangement. Avoid in your rooms all heavy hangings and draperies. Quiet in the sick room is a matter of primary importance.

Whispering or talking outside the door is quite unnecessary, however, if you can avoid it, avoid it, whether with intention or in lack of it.

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MUTTON AS YOU LIKE IT.

From the New Idea Woman's Magazine.

Braised Mutton—Select two and one-half pounds of lean cuts from the forepart of the mutton and remove all fat. Lay the meat on a hot iron pan over a quick fire, and turn quickly until each piece is nicely browned on both sides; or the meat may be slightly broiled if preferred. Put a tablespoonful of crumbled marrow in a fryingpan and cook until a light brown; add one-half of an onion chopped fine, and fry this until nicely browned. If you haven't the marrow, use salt pork. Season with salt, pepper, and one-half teaspoonful of summer savory or capers. Place the mutton in the pan with a cupful of water, cover closely and let simmer two hours, being careful not to let the water boil entirely away. Remove the meat, thicken and season the gravy, serving at once.

Deviled Mutton—Cut thick slices from a leg of cold underdone mutton. Score them with a sharp knife. Mix together one-half a teaspoonful of paprika, one-half a teaspoonful of made mustard, and one-fourth of a teaspoonful of salt, and rub the slices with the mixture, working it well into the scorings. Prepare a sauce with one-half a cupful of the gravy, one-half a teaspoonful each of mushroom catsup and Worcestershire sauce, one teaspoonful of lemon juice, and heat well. Broil the slices of meat, arrange them on a hot platter which has been rubbed with cut onion, pour a little of the sauce over them, garnish nicely, and serve. Serve the remainder of the sauce in a boat.

Baked Mutton Chops—Cut the chops from a shoulder of mutton, heat two or three pounds of fat taken from the top of a bowl of stock, and saute in it an onion, sliced thin, then the chops. Put them into a covered baking dish upon a bed of chopped turnips, carrots, onion, and celery; rinse the frying pan with a cupful of stock and pour over the chops. Cover closely and cook about an hour and a half, then turn the chops and season with salt and pepper; add three medium-sized potatoes previously cut in quarters and parboiled in salted water. Add more broth, if necessary; cover closely and cook thirty minutes, or until tender. Remove the cover, brown nicely, and serve at once in the dish in which they were cooked.

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