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SELECTION OF PIECES.

This is of the Utmost Importance to Both Pupil and Teacher.

As regards the selection of pieces, teachers too often make the mistake of choosing those too difficult for their pupils. They forget that a simple melody well played is preferable at all times to an ambitious piece whose difficulties cause the performer to halt and stumble. An examination of the musical portfolio of our average young ladies by one uninitiated would lead him to suppose them performers of the highest caliber. Liszt, Rubinstein, Raff and, in fact, every famous concert composer will be found represented, while the owner thereof, most likely, will be unable to play even one bar of their compositions correctly.

The Strauss waltz mania that swept over this country some years ago must be held responsible for the checking of many a promising student's advancement. These waltzes, never originally intended for the piano, contain difficulties beyond the grasp of ordinary performers. Written for orchestra, their arrangement in piano form could not be otherwise than impracticable, so far as the aiding of a correct style of playing is concerned, and also unthankful as regards results. For an average value de concert, written for the instrument, though apparently from a cursory glance of a much higher grade, will, on close examination, not alone be found easier, but also incomparably more brilliant and effective.

To those whose style is not yet formed, and who are anxious to obtain a perfect technique, The Musical World advises that they avoid all arrangements for orchestral scores or adaptations originally written for other instruments. This of course does not apply to transcriptions made by eminent writers. The judicious selection of pieces, studies, etc., is of the utmost importance, not alone as applying to the welfare of the pupil, but also molding the material success of the teacher. It is well for both parties if a happy medium is here adopted. Many go to the most opposite extremes.

To the child who is just learning to read, we do not offer Shakespeare; neither does the father, when he desires to give his son some relaxation from his schoolbooks, select one of George Eliot's works. This would only weary his young mind, and instead of stimulating serve to check whatever is luxuriant there. The same rules apply to music. To appreciate what is noble in this art, a gradual cultivation is necessary. Yet the means to arrive at such an end must be most varied. It will not do to pursue a cut and dried course, applied to all, irrespective of difference in character or talent. One must be led, another stimulated, this one restrained and apparently held back by force; all different, yet all brought nearer to perfection by ways seemingly opposite.

The best substitutes for flannel petticoats are soft silks quilted and edged with lace, or warm, thick flannel drawers worn over combinations. These seem to answer the purpose of warmth without adding to the size of the wearer.

A favorite handkerchief is of fine sheer linen, with a hemstitched border.

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FROCKS FOR GIRLS.

NEW MODELS FOR AGES RANGING FROM SIX TO SIXTEEN YEARS.

The Gowns Are More Original and Less Elaborate Than Usual—The Same Materials Adopted by Adults Are Employed. Features in Millinery and Cloaks.

The winter gowns for little people are more original than usual, for they hardly trench on the modes adopted by their elders—a remark which does not apply to the materials used for frocks. Hop-sacking, tweed, faced cloth, poplin and satin are all utilized for young people. This winter's models for children's garments are comparatively plain and appropriate, and the tendency is toward the English and American styles, which are well known to be better adapted, in



FROM SIX TO SIXTEEN.

a practical form, than the Parisian ideas for children's apparel. The more simply a child or girl is dressed until the age of 17 the more becoming it is. There is always an ungraceful period for young girls, and silks, laces, and chiffons are quite out of place until a girl is about to appear in society.

A pretty model for a girl of 14 to 16 years of age is made with a basque, with full sleeves and high cuffs. The cuffs and collar may be of velvet of the same shade as the dress.

A wrap for a child of 6 is of electric blue cloth, trimmed with fur, and for another color dark red in the same form is pretty. Cloth hats with feathers in the same color are very popular for children, and Scotch plaids, with beige color for foundation, are much in use.

Party frocks are made of pretty crepons, poplins, cashmeres and soft satins. Very picturesque and simple are the frocks with fanciful yokes and guimpes, simulated with soft silk either plaited or gathered. Two capes edged with lace, made full from the neck, is another favorite mode of bodice trimming, and in nine cases out of ten these pretty party frocks are made with puffed sleeves at the elbow and narrow gauntlet cuffs at the wrists.

The comparative length of girls' frocks at various ages is thus directed by Harper's Bazar: "At from 4 to 8 years the skirt falls just below the knee. From that time it begins to lengthen, reaching two inches below the knee at 10 years, three inches above the shoptops at 12 years, two inches above the shoptops at 14, and at 16 comes back to the 2-year-old length, which is just flush with the top of a not overhigh boot, unless the young woman is of more than average maturity, when it may fall to the ankle. Three-year-olds are on the debatable ground between the longer frocks of babyhood and the short frocks of childhood—some mothers preferring one,



TWO PRETTY PARTY FROCKS.

some the other—but latterly there is a decided preference for putting them also into the French skirt falling just beyond the bend of the knee."

Three-quarter jackets, trimmed with braid and fur, and long coats are always well worn, and one of the favorite colors just now is a green cloth like beige.

The coats this winter are generally double-breasted, have triple capes and are trimmed either with beaver or some kindred fur.

A feature in millinery is the extraordinary size of the granny bonnet. The fresh little faces are hidden away and seem to be visible only at the end of a long tunnel.

A Novelty Rattle.

Wonderfully pretty and sure to please the sovereignty of the nursery is a novelty rattle, which may be put together at home with but slight expense, according to Golden Days. A small wooden hoop,



BABY'S HOMEMADE RATTLE.

such as is used for embroidery purposes, is the foundation for this bauble, which becomes a giddy affair when bound about with narrow satin ribbon, half an inch in width, especially if two tones are employed, such as white and orange, blue and gold, pink and green, or buff and crimson. To do the work neatly, start with one colored ribbon and carefully bind the hoop. When this is finished, wind in an opposite direction with the other tinted ribbon. After the hoop is neatly covered take several strands of ribbon and attach with a flaring bow to the bottom of the hoop. Tip each ribbon end with a silver bell, and the fancy is in readiness to delight some nursery cherub with its brilliancy of coloring and musical bell tinkle.

The New Trimmings.

There are any number of new trimmings. One of the most effective is a broad braid of various colors, edged with fur, which looks particularly well on cloth dresses. Other labor saving and striking effects are produced by means

of ready made ruffles of black satin, elaborate gimps, jet insertions and fancy collarettes, berthas, etc. Lace is still as popular as ever, and a particularly prettifying is a ruffling of black moire edged with extremely narrow white guimpes. A bizarre effect in a broad trimmings lace is produced by bands of white insertion on black net, or black insertion on white net. These transparent bands of insertion are in high favor just now and are used on the heaviest materials, such as satin, bengaline and moire antique.

One Way to Dry Wet Shoes.

When, without overshoes, you have been caught in a heavy rainstorm, perhaps you have known already what to do with your best kid boots, which have been thoroughly wet through, and which, if left to dry in the ordinary way, will be stiff, brittle and unlovely. If not, you will be glad to learn what I heard recently from one whose experience is of value, writes a correspondent of Harper's Bazar.

First wipe off gently with a soft cloth all surface water and mud; then, while still wet, rub well with kerosene oil, using for the purpose the furred side of canton flannel. Set them aside till partially dry, when a second treatment with oil is advisable. They may then be deposited in a conveniently warm place, where they will dry gradually and thoroughly. Before applying French kid dressing, give them a final rubbing with the flannel, still slightly dampened with kerosene, and your boots will be soft and flexible as new kid and be very little affected by their bath in the rain.

In following these directions it need hardly be added that, kerosene being inflammable, one wants to keep away from the fire while treating the shoes with it.

New Materials For Mourning.

There are many new materials that can be used for mourning, such as bright reversible satin, with satin on one side and a cord on the other. All the large patterned moires are useful, especially when trimmed with jet, and the soufflet moirais, which are woven to resemble bubbles, stand up in bold relief. Some of the fine reps have been brought out in a new guise. But mourning, to be in good taste, cannot be too simple and devoid of ornament. Heavy crapes, which are expensive, are frequently tortured into all kinds of shapes of plaitings and ruchings, which are decidedly in bad taste.

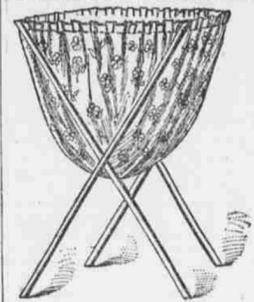
To Clean Marble.

It is a delusion to think that bad stains on marble can be effectually removed without calling in some professional hand, but there are a variety of recipes which will help to lighten the color of stains and even remove them if they are not of long standing. For instance: Mix an ounce of soda, of powdered chalk and pumice stone, respectively, with enough water to form a thickish paste. Spread this well over and beyond the stain. Leave it on for 24 hours or more; then wash it off with soap and warm water and polish it well with an old soft rag.

WORKBASKET TABLE.

A Convenience That is as Serviceable as it is Pretty.

A unique workbasket, which can be readily transformed into a table, and originally on exhibition at the Decorative Art rooms in New York, has recently been described for The Household. It is



THE WORKBASKET EXPANDED.

made from a common camp stool, from which the canvas for the seat has been removed.

Into the opening thus formed was shired a capacious bag or pocket, wires being stretched across the two open ends for holding the frame in place and serving as a foundation for the shirings of the pocket—the materials being figured india silk in dull old rose shades, with a lining of old rose satin.

The wooden framework is painted white with enamel paint, and a square board, painted in the same way, with gilt lines for decoration, is made to set over the pocket, resting on the framework, thus making a table of it and hiding from sight the work in the pocket.

It makes a handsome piece of furniture for a lady's use and is as serviceable as it is pretty. Quick witted women need hardly be told that this convenient affair may be made less delicate and therefore better adapted for the wear and tear of the ordinary sitting room by making the pocket of darker colored material and painting or staining the wooden framework a cherry or mahogany hue. Indeed, ingenious women will doubtless add to and improve upon this model, which is suggestive of a variety of styles made on the same principle.

Rules For Mourning.

According to one of the authorities, the period of mourning for a father-in-law is a year—ten months black, two months half mourning. Crape is seldom worn, though the crape period was formerly six months.

For a parent the period is the same as above. The longest period for a brother is six months—five months black, one month half mourning. The crape period was formerly three months; it is now almost discarded. The shortest period is four months black, no half mourning. The period of mourning for a father-in-law is often shortened to six months when relatives reside at a considerable

distance from each other. All of which prompts the remark that the world would be made more cheerful and sensible if "mourning" garments were discarded altogether.

A Dressy Wrapper.

The modern tea gown is usually too elaborate an affair for ordinary home wear when the lady of the house attends to many of the domestic affairs herself. She likes, however, when the more arduous duties are over, to have a comfortable and at the same time pretty gown or wrapper at hand, which may be quick-



A NEAT FITTING WRAPPER.

ly put on, and present a neat appearance without all the accessories of a regular dress. Such a wrapper may be made of any of the attractive all wool fabrics shown in the shops. Make it with a fancy drawn yoke front and Watteau back. Make it dressy by putting on a turn down collar, cuffs, belt and shoulder caps of velvet or silk. The result will be a trim, neat house gown.

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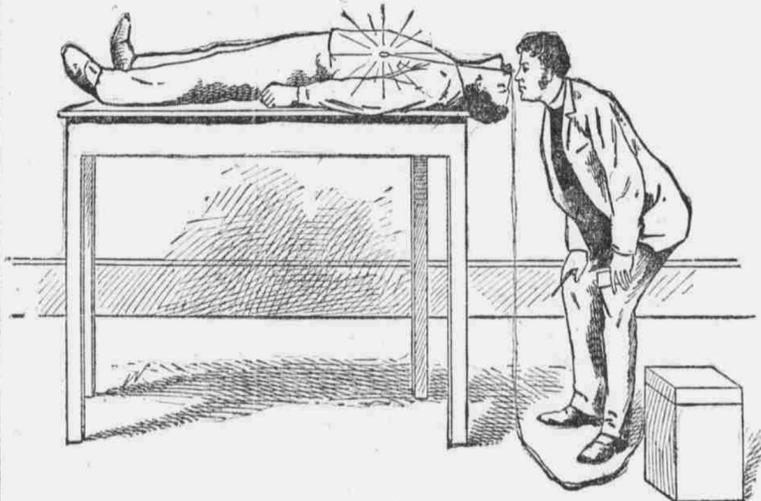
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The above picture is photographed from an illustration on page 619 of the Supplement of THE TRIBUNE Encyclopedia Britannica. It is only one out of nearly 100 illustrations on the subject of electricity contained in THE TRIBUNE Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica—thirty-six of which can be found in no other edition of Britannica in print. Among them we mention a few of the modern appliances therein so beautifully and accurately illustrated:

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CLEARANCE SALE

WE are going to do business in our new store by the middle of this month, and we have concluded to move no goods from our present place of business if we possibly can help it. To accomplish this we, on second day of January, put figures on all goods in stock that ought to sell them all in one week. Below is a partial list:

Highest Grade Minnesota Patent Flour (in sacks) - \$3.99

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Canned Asparagus, - .12 1/2

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Preserved Strawberries, imported gallon jar, .39

Preserves in large tumblers, - .09

Preserves in 30-pound pails, - 1.80

Preserves in 5-pound pails, - .29

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Without going any further, we would say that all goods will be sold for less than they are worth until closed out. We will also have counters, scales, show cases, coffee mill and other fixtures to sell for what they will bring.

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