

HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS

WOMAN'S INQUIRY COLUMN

Letters to the Woman's Inquiry Column are invited. They should be addressed to Editor Woman's Inquiry Column, Washington Times, and should reach the office before Saturday to insure an answer the following week. Each letter must bear the full and correct signature and the address of the sender, not for publication, but merely as an evidence of good faith. Unsigned letters will be ignored.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Tell me how to renovate black chip straw hats; also, rough white straw hats and if the sunburn on white straw hats can be removed. ECONOMY.

Smooth straw hats may be very successfully painted with water colors. Lampblack is a good black, but be careful not to be caught unprepared in a hard shower.
White straw hats may be cleaned by dissolving a teaspoonful of oxalic acid in a cup of hot water. Scrub the hat, using an old tooth brush, to avoid painting the fingers in the mixture; scrub off with pure water and dry in the sun. Later reshape with a warm iron.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Do you think it is right to ask a man for his photograph, especially when you have known him for a long time?
N. M.

If you have known him a long time, and there is no danger of his thinking you are unduly interested in him, I reckon you might.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Is it proper for a lady to thank a gentleman when he takes her to the theater or any affair?
CURIOUS?

It is proper to say you have enjoyed yourself and be gracious generally.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Tell me a good sachet powder that will keep its scent.
P. C.

Ask at the stores where such things are kept. No sachet powder I know of keeps its scent very long. They all have to be renewed frequently.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Will almond meal whiten the skin? Is it good for pimples? If I use it instead of soap and want to use soap again will it harm my skin. What would you use, the almond meal or soap?
A. M. G.

Almond meal softens the skin and also tends to whiten it. It will not remove pimples, but the continued use of it is very efficacious in the removal of blackheads. It may be used in conjunction with a good soap, but I prefer the almond meal alone.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
Tell me how to arrange a den?
M. F.

A den is simply a cozy informal sitting room. The floor should be polished and should have a few good rugs upon it. There should be a good-sized reading table containing a lamp; some good books and current magazines and above all, a paper cutter. The chairs should be comfortable and about in pillows; there should be a low divan or couch of some sort over which a shelf in easy reaching distance may be built, on which your favorite books, a pair of brass candle-sticks, your steno and pen, bric-a-brac may be placed. Hang a few good pictures on the walls. An open fireplace adds greatly to the comfort of such a room.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:
I have just received an announcement of the engagement of an old friend to a young lady I do not know. Would it be proper to write her a few lines, wishing her happiness?
IGNORANT.

Simply write to your friend and congratulate him, meet his fiancée, if possible, and meet his fiancée. It wouldn't be improper, of course, to write to the girl, but perhaps your congratulations to her would be better spoken.

A New Use for Love Letters

Two devoted lovers who were married last year in old Virginia, "the home of love and beauty," exchanged daily love letters during their engagement. As the months wore on the letters accumulated, and by the time the wedding day was fast, each of the correspondents had a goodly number, for they never destroyed any. Finally, the happy bride-elect had all the letters increased in two white satin pillows, which were brought up the church aisle before the ceremony and placed in front of the altar, says Hope notes. The bride and bridegroom knelt upon these to make their vows, and the pillows were then carefully transferred to a place of honor in the new home.

Seen in the Shops.

A stand of dull French gold with three female Egyptian figures supporting a cut glass dish, around which were six gold candlesticks.

The new cotton velvets are marvels in coloring and waves. They will make charmingly inexpensive gowns.

A shaker for making lemonade it had for the lower part heavy cut glass, the upper part of sterling silver.

Belts of blue and green mercerized linen, pointed at one end, embroidered all over in dainty white mercerized flower. Both ends are scalloped and the pointed ends run through gold buckles.

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Elgin Butter
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CHIC STRAW HAT.

We show here a piquant little model in a straw resembling fine manilla, which characterizes a majority of the small hats. A fold of carlesse velvet ribbon is laid softly around the crown and a bunch of ribbon loops is artistically arranged on the right side and held in place by a dull gold buckle. Where the brim turns at back, it is filled in with loops of velvet ribbon.

How Women Survive.

While tens of thousands injure themselves by overfeeding, there are countless women in the classes with limited income who, of deliberate purpose, and not because they are without money, reduce their diet to the point where it barely suffices to keep them alive. They wish to economize; also they wish to make a good appearance; so economy cannot be pushed in the matter of clothing. For a similar reason they cannot take a humbler house or lodging.
The only branch of domestic expenditure in which they deem that money can be saved is dietary. And very often the fact that some people do eat too much is made to justify their eating too little. So tea and bread and butter constitute the breakfast. The dinner is a mere name, and tea and bread and butter suffice for the evening meal.
Now, although it is true that by a careful selection of foods one can live on a few penny daily—and live well in every sense of the term—it is quite another matter to do the kind just hinted at will keep any one in health, says Home Notes. Hence, one sees these people lose flesh, acquire a pallid skin and wrinkles, and very frequently chronic dyspepsia. They study appearance, yet they sacrifice that health, which is essential to good appearance.

The Attractive Girl Must—

Avoid talking loudly, especially in public.
Avoid slang; it may sound amusing, but it is anything but ladylike, and other people know it.
Avoid making faces when she talks, and cultivate repose of countenance and manner.
Avoid a blase air, and appear bright and interested in what other people are saying.
Avoid making unkind remarks about a person not present, as other people will consider whether she says such nasty things about them when they are also out of the way, says Woman's Life.
Avoid ostentatious dressing, or clothes evidently too elegant for her station or means.

Children's Dresses.

Every mother who has a little tot to dress takes as keen an interest in juvenile modes as she does in fashions for herself.

All mothers like to feel that their children are well dressed, and to obtain that result an endless amount of patience, time and good taste are entailed. To be well dressed is always to be appropriately clad. It isn't essential to have so many suits; in number as it is to have them suitable for various occasions.
A child can never be unattractive in a freshly washed frock, no matter what its material, and all suits should be made with a view to frequent washing.

This year the eyelet embroidery, done entirely by hand, is engaging the attention of enterprising mothers, and the result, either on china silk, fine handkerchiefs, or coarse weaves, is equally effective, says Modern Woman.
This is popularly a white year, and colorless frocks are always refreshing and dainty. They are the most economical, too, because they wash better than colored fabrics.

Household Hints.

Alcohol is excellent to clean the piano keys, but care must be taken that no drop of it touches the woodwork. If the alcohol should spill on the wood, wipe off immediately with a dry cloth and rub with a bit of clean cambric.
Fine china plates, saucers, and sauce dishes, whether decorated or not, are better for having pads between them when piled. If white felt circles are not available, squares of ordinary clean blotting paper will answer the purpose.
To improve the flavor of after-dinner coffee rub the lumps of sugar with a piece of lemon peel. For tea the sugar should be rubbed with orange peel.
In laundering embroidered linens the designs will stand out beautifully if they are ironed on several thicknesses of Turkish toweling.
In buying a hair mattress choose one filled with black rather than white hair, as the latter has generally been bleached, which deprives it of springiness, and makes it "mat" more quickly than the black or even gray hair.

DOINGS IN THE WORLD OF FASHION AND STYLE

The Moire Coat.

The moire coat is one of the season's features, but it has not ousted the taffeta coat from favor, and taffetas are used for everything from the serviceable dust coat to the handsome evening coat. The evening coat of taffeta, in white or delicate color, is usually laced with lace or with the batiste lace which has a foundation of batiste instead of net, while the design is worked in various inset laces and embroideries.
Occasionally one sees a chic and youthful coat in taffeta, say of a delicate rose pink, almost entirely self-trimmed. One such model, copied from a French coat of black, was of the faintest and creamiest of pinks and made with a delightful little shirred Capuchin hood and many little shirrings and quillings, but with no lace save in the sleeves and down the insides of the fronts.

Embroidered Linen.

Coats of embroidered batiste and of embroidered linen are as numerous as those of lace, and while some of the latter are but slightly embroidered, the batiste coats need heavy and ornate trimmings to give them shapeliness and body. Among the French frocks brought over recently, the general scheme is that of a princess or bodice and skirt in richest lingerie material, elaborately inset with Valenciennes and with or without a moderate amount of hand-embroidery, while a loose bolero or a loose sleeveless coat reaching to the hips is almost covered by embroidery.

Silk Coats for Lingerie Gowns.

Silk coats of many kinds are made to accompany skirts of lingerie stuff—silk mousseline, chiffon or sheer woolen material—and will apparently be as popular as they were last summer. Moire, plain, or short, is making a strong bid for favor in this department of dress, and certain striped effects in handsome

novelty silks are much liked for similar purposes. The flowered silks, too, are still fancied for these picturesque coats; but on the whole, the smartest silk coat and sheer skirt effects shown so far have been secured by using shot or one-tone silk for the coat. A model greatly admired at one opening has a rather short basque coat of shot chiffon moire; shading from straw color to pink and with wafer dots in plain straw color scattered over the moire surface. This little coat was associated with a skirt of white mull inset with straw color Valenciennes and the skirt materials were repeated in guimpe and sheer frills. Another frock had a girdled coat of surah shot in a soft dove gray and coral pink, and trimmed in gray cluny studied pink crests. Valenciennes of creamy tone was mingled with the dyed cluny, and both laces appeared upon the skirt of gray silk mousseline. Guimpe and sheer frills were of the Valenciennes, the former having tiny bows of coral satin and little coral buttons set down its front.

The Covert Cloth Box Coat.

The comparatively short box coat in covert cloth, broadcloth, etc., has many friends this season, and still shorter pony jackets in black and tan are furnished for wear with plaid, check, or striped skirts, but these coats are suitable only with frocks of a certain type and are of less use for general wear than a longer coat of the conventional fitted back and fly front order.
A few very attractive belted or girdled coats are among the new showing, and among the best of the models was one in white serge, with black velvet guimpe, rock finish, cuffs and buttons, but the same thing is shown in soft mixed grays and mode shades. The redingote is at its best in cloth or velvet, and is not especially fancied for summer wear, but there are some close-fitting half-length and three-quarter coats of the plainest tailored type, and the tourist coat with loosely belted back still has its use.

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