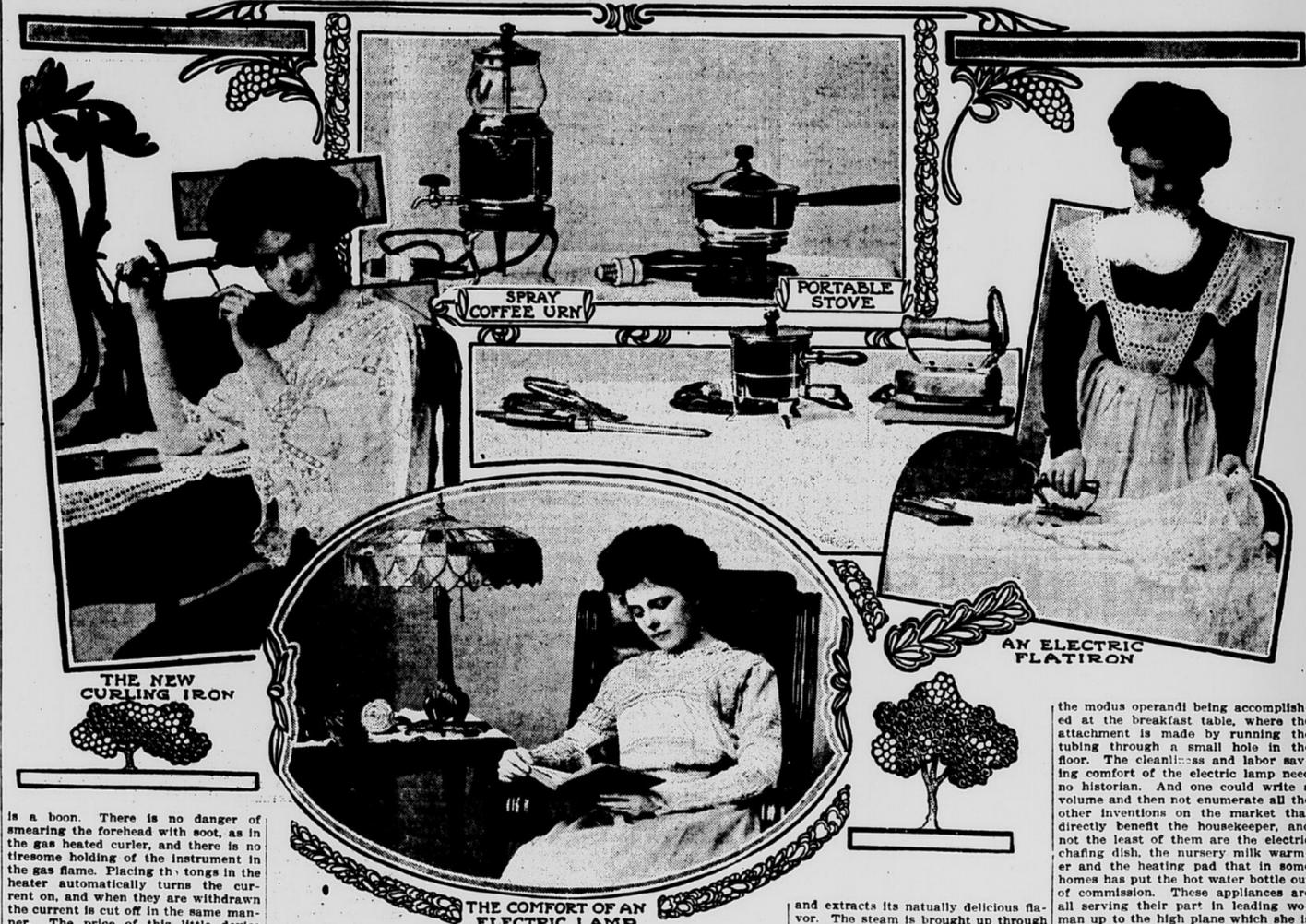


The Mistress Mechanic

Electric Appliances That Are Changing Household Drudgery Into Domestic Engineering

An author who has recently dabbled with the subject of modern marriage has discovered that the great tragedy of a wife's existence is not jealousy nor unpaid milliner's bills nor even different views on the question of votes for women. She asserts that the trouble is merely one of food and the ordering and cooking of it. In these days of fireless, dustless, laborless, wasteless and fatigues household appliances, by means of which a meal can be cooked with the touching of a button, it seems to me that the gentle genius who presides over the destinies of a home has little cause for complaint. And now that in most homes electricity is installed there are many devices and apparatuses run by this motive power that shorten the housewife's hours of work and lengthen her minutes of rest to hours. There are, however, many of these electric knick-knacks which require more or less expertness in a mechanical way to manipulate successfully used in the kitchen, bedroom and around the house. So it really looks as if the up to the minute housekeeper and professional cook will have to add to their title the high degree of mistress mechanic. The sewing machine, the bicycle and the automobile have done much to help women's education in practical mechanics, and it is no unusual sight nowadays to see women running their own touring cars with all the ease of a professional chauffeur. But all one requires to be mechanically mistress of the domestic situation are a little gumption and the ability to handle the monkey wrench and screwdriver with some expertness. Perhaps to expedite things some educational institution will establish a chair of domestic engineering. The degree then conferred upon the sweet girl graduate will doubtless be some Latinized synonym of that old term of ridicule, "kitchen mechanic," that the village cutup long ago dubbed the cook. As it is, a course in household economics has been added to the curriculum of the summer session at the University of California this year. This course has been deemed advisable by the faculty on account of the announcement of ten engagements within a week among the co-eds.

For any one doing light housekeeping or living in a few rooms an electric stove is most convenient, as it is free from all odor and smoke, can be used without danger of fire and does not heat up the room, and for a larger family and in a house, particularly in summer, the electric range is the most labor saving and comfortable means of preparing meals yet attained. There are a number of different makes in these ranges, but all have an electric oven, a griddle, a broiler, three or four electric heaters and the proper utensils to use on them. Each appliance is controlled separately by a switch on the front of the range, and any one can be used alone or altogether. The stoves take up little space in the kitchen, and the utensils are pretty enough to attract any housekeeper, no matter how unenthusiastic she may be about her work. They are of copper, double lined and nickel plated, and are separate from the heaters, but lock on when in use so as to make a good heating contact. The electric oven is a special joy to the bread and cake baker, for there is no draft, and the heat is even. It is controlled by a regulating switch giving three degrees of heat. As electric lighting in hotels is universal, the traveling or portable stove is just the thing to stow away among your belongings when you are packing up for the summer fitting. It connects to the ordinary incandescent lamp socket, and it will be found invaluable in times of illness for heating water, etc. Men who are particular about the exact temperature of their shaving water find that a stove of this description makes their lives a dream of happiness. And now that so many girls are doing up their fine lingerie shirt waists an electric flatiron is an absolute necessity wherever there is a lamp socket available, whether at home or abroad. The beauty of this iron is that you can take it to your work and are not obliged to take your work to the iron. It heats quickly and maintains a uniform temperature over the entire bottom surface while in use. The three pound iron is the best size for the traveler, the six pound size being the weight of that used for the ordinary family ironing. For the girl who waves her hair by artificial heat the electric curling iron



THE NEW CURLING IRON

THE COMFORT OF AN ELECTRIC LAMP

AN ELECTRIC FLATIRON

is a boon. There is no danger of smearing the forehead with soot, as in the gas heated curler, and there is no tiresome holding of the instrument in the gas flame. Placing the tongs in the heater automatically turns the current on, and when they are withdrawn the current is cut off in the same manner. The price of this little device runs from three to about six dollars. The most delicious cup of coffee I have had for some time was made in the electric spray coffee urn. My

hostess told me that to her mind the secret of success was explained by the fact that the dry coffee goes in a receptacle separate from the water, so arranged that the steam from the boiling water passes through the coffee

and extracts its naturally delicious flavor. The steam is brought up through a central tube, where it is condensed above, then passes down through the coffee, thus insuring the best results in the quickest possible time. This is certainly a get-breakfast-quick scheme,

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the modus operandi being accomplished at the breakfast table, where the attachment is made by running the tubing through a small hole in the floor. The cleanliness and labor saving comfort of the electric lamp need no historian. And one could write a volume and then not enumerate all the other inventions on the market that directly benefit the housekeeper, and not the least of them are the electric chafing dish, the nursery milk warmer and the heating pad that in some homes has put the hot water bottle out of commission. These appliances are all serving their part in leading woman up to the high plane which she is likely to occupy soon as a domestic engineer, the head of establishments in which electricity, compressed air, vacuum, high pressure water, etc., are installed. DAPHNE DEAN.

Vagaries of the Net Blouse

Charming Designs and Colorings to Be found in the New Embroideries

YOU very likely have read that amusing little book called "Are You a Bromide?" a volume that reveals the theory that all human beings are divided into two classes—bromides and sulphites. The bromide is the being whose mind keeps regular office hours, who worships dogma, can only give back what he or she has taken in, who does all his or her thinking by syndicate and who wouldn't be different even if he or she could. Adam, we are told, was a bromide, Eve a sulphite. "The bromides," the writer says, "seldom listen to one another and find the sulphites more refreshing than those of their own ilk." The sulphite, who is, of course, the salt of life, is the being

of doing the usual thing in an unusual manner. We thought that the day of the net blouse was practically at an end, but here it is again, developed in the usual net material, but in new and attractive combinations and meshes. Indeed, it is the beauty and variety of the latest designs that have helped the net blouse to hold its prestige, together with the greater range of colorings, which does away with the necessity of having the net dyed to match the goods with which it is used.

The designs most in demand are the fine meshed nets with small ring or dotted patterns, and the more expensive varieties show groups of tucks alternating with rows of embroidered dots. The vermicelli design that looks like fine net covered with an intricate scroll pattern in small cord is most effective in total made over white, but the more exclusive blouse makers prefer a dotted or ring design when fancy net is used, and they consider the plain nets elaborately treated smarter than the fancy varieties. Unless one is skillful with the embroidery needle these plain nets elaborately treated are apt to be very expensive blouses to possess, for hand tucking and embroidery in silks which go to beautify the exclusive models bring the net away beyond the reach of the woman with a modest dress allowance. There are charming nets to be found in all the new shades of the season, suggesting in their weave combinations of fine lace and openwork stitchery that make up attractively without much hand work. And it is possible to obtain ready tuckeds nets in much finer qualities and in such greater varieties than those of last year. Net and chiffon waists are charming made up over metallic or white laces, the filmy veiling producing a fairylike effect.

Before leaving the subject of the blouse let me say that in tub models the newest ones in white and color carry out the costume nuance scheme instead of seeming altogether separate affairs. For instance, a white blouse of batiste or linen to be worn with a wistaria linen suit will have bands of the mauve tone as a trimming, or the color will be introduced as a design in the material itself, or bands of English eyelet work are very smart as a trimming.

Wide bands of this openwork embroidery in exquisitely intricate and fine designs are displayed in soft ecru, and lovely effects are obtained with intermixtures of delicate colorings—a groundwork done in white with scattered designs of soft blue, rose, green or lavender thrown over it, or the eyelet work is in color with the other embroidery in white.

There are lovely batistes and mulls with all over embroidery designs, and some of these suggest delightful blouses, demanding little time and effort on the part of the maker. For example, there is a sheer silky net batiste which has clusters of very tiny tucks, three in a group, set at two

inch intervals, and between these groups of tucks are lines or large embroidered dots in delicate color—light blue, pink, green or lilac. A perfect material for a blouse to accompany a rose linen is of white batiste that has little English eyelets embroidered in pink, scattered all over its surface and at intervals of about three or four inches a strip of little pink embroidered rosettes, clustered gracefully together. Though empire and directoire models still prevail, some of the cotton and thinner linen goods are made with plaited skirts, quite high, of course, the plaiting is done in the line meeting the short body portion and so neatly and smoothly arranged over the hips that they give the impression of a plain skirt. The bordered goods and the flouncings are materials that lend

themselves well to this manipulation, and the style is especially becoming to growing girls, whose figures are, of course, immature, and to slender women. The waist may be plain, but the effect will be better if a few plaits are set on the shoulders. And, in connection with plaits, the box plaited princess is the newest frock that Paris has running around the arm makes the present over fashioned from chiffon pongee in the natural shade. Small box plaits put close together form a panel down the entire front, from the shallow yoke of all over valenciennes lace to the hem of the skirt, and the back of the frock is subjected to the same kind of treatment. Close fitting box plaits running around the arm make the sleeves to the elbows, from which point there is a deep lace cuff matching the yoke. A rather heavy cord of brown silk girdles the waist.

Costs, actually long coats, that are perfectly practical can be fashioned from broad ribbons, without overtaxing the skill of the worker. The better plan is to buy a paper pattern, though really there is very little shape to these wraps. Four lengths of ribbon are necessary, two for the fronts and two for the back. Those in the back are formed below the hips. Wide armholes are cut away, and fronts and back connect with fancy buttons and lacings from the hips to the lower edge. There are no sleeves, and a smart finish is given to the neck by a rolling collar of black satin. A simple design or rows of soutache braid finish all edges. In this way a sleeveless jacket, the modish fad of the summer, may be accomplished. CATHERINE TALBOT, New York.

Women In the Stage of Simplicity

To Reach the Goal of Success They Must Have Lived a Whole Lot—The Taint of Bohemia

THERE is only one class of women I have no use for—the self centered ladies. They show they have not mastered life's lesson. Co-operation is the secret of success, not self glorification. If we have it in us to soar above our fellow women it will just happen naturally while we are doing our everyday work. I have no patience with the woman who poses, who wears her hair parted a la Botticelli and lives on the wing of a lark and a strawberry. Her conversation is one long litany about herself. Now, I can stand a whole lot of "I's" while I am listening, but they must refer to things done, not to mental attitudes. It occurs to me also that the women who have lived a whole lot are the ones who have at last reached the stage of simplicity. I know two who have possessed all the luxuries who could still possess them and yet they choose to live in rooms as bare as nun's cells. Bric-a-brac and rococo effects belong to life's beginners. There comes a time when from knowing all these things too well we don't want any of them at all, but just plain white pine boards scrubbed spotlessly clean. The very sight of bric-a-brac will worry one's mental nerves, and we feel the room is very well furnished when it contains only one picture, and that a good one.

When a woman lives at a high tension, when she has a whole lot of original ideas and complicated thoughts within her own self, she absolutely demands simplicity of environment. She must have it. It is only the unsophisticated soul who, because she is so plain within, must have a whole lot of intricate environment. And this is enough of the whyness of the wherefore, only, my sisters, you who aim to read character, look around you when you enter the abode of each new acquaintance and by using your eyes find out what she is without asking questions. Beware of Bohemia. In the last month there have been several articles about bohemia in the magazines. These were intended to warn fond parents against sending their children to the wicked city (under the impression that they were geniuses of course). I would rather put my daughter in

a lion's den than send her alone either to New York or Paris. I regret excessively to say that fear of her being contaminated by wickedness would be the least of my objections. I would be more afraid of her being turned into a freak. Alas, there are enough queer things of the feminine gender as it is. Why they should be cultivated like hothouse tomatoes passes me. There is a time in a girl's life when most anything can be made out of her. If she lives in religious surroundings she becomes a nun, if in worldly company a brilliant society butterfly or else a skeptic; if she is surrounded by the blushing bride of the first good looking lad who asks her. Life at that stage is certainly not complex. It is after we have chosen our lot that the excitement begins. If parents only realized how easy it is! But no, they treat girls as if they were full fledged individuals instead of beings who are simply passing through varied experiences, as a child passes through measles and whooping cough. The old fashioned people believed children should be given full opportunity to catch these diseases, to get them over with, but we're wiser now. We know the effects they leave, and we cut them out whenever we can. Well, that's the way with girls. If parents can steer them past the immature stage with as few fads as possible they are, indeed, fortunate. But to return to the germ of bohemia. Once that enters the system it's like scarlet fever—you not only have a bad sickness, but after effects which stay by you and cripple you for the rest of your life. A girl inoculated with bohemia will be a trial to everybody for a long time, but if she is allowed to go to a big city and give the germ free rein she will never be any good, normally speaking, the rest of her life. She will never be neat or logical or have any system about anything. She will always associate contempt for dress with brains and brains with a contempt for social conditions, and that embraces pretty nearly everything on which we build prosperity. Bohemia is a nightmare, and there are people who can stand living in that sort of a dream all the time, only they ought to be kept separated from the rest and rated with opium, morphine and cocaine fiends. Would you send your daughter to live among them? And, if you did, do you ever think she would be quite "right" when she came back to you again?

Hate Clyde
New York

In the Housekeeper's Domain

NOT A DAY TOO SOON. ARE the screens up? Do it now. Yes, right away today, if it isn't already done. If isn't a day too soon. "But it is wash day," you say, "and we are much too busy to go to the attic after screens today." That's all the more reason that they ought to be up. The flies are attracted by the smell of soaps, and the few that are already about will be drawn to your open door or window. "But we are going to clean house next week, and we might as well put

off till the windows are washed. No use to handle them twice," you say again. Nonsense! The flies are already buzzing, and it is a deal easier to keep them out than to put them out after they have once got in. "Flies bring disease!" You have read that more times than you could count, but what are you going to do about it? Put the screens up early for one thing and deal sudden but sure death to the first stray intruder for another thing. Your house may be plain and simple

and extracts its naturally delicious flavor. The steam is brought up through a central tube, where it is condensed above, then passes down through the coffee, thus insuring the best results in the quickest possible time. This is certainly a get-breakfast-quick scheme,

rag carpets, muslin curtains, cheap wall paper and all that—but, still, if it is clean and wholesome it is a good place to be. But if there are flies buzzing about—ugh, that is different. Then mahogany furniture and Persian rugs cannot give it an air of refinement. So put the washing off a day or slip up on the morning of the sewing society, but don't fail to go and put the screens up right now.

ORANGE SANDWICH FOR CASTOR OIL.

"If only I had known sooner about that little trick of the orange sandwich for giving castor oil to children, how many awful struggles both the baby and I would have been saved," said a mother who had been told by the doctor to give her baby this unpalatable medicine. The orange sandwich is simply a small quantity of orange juice put into a spoon with the needed amount of oil added and over that enough orange juice to cover the oil. This is an excellent method for taking either castor oil or olive oil. It has been recommended several times, but is such a really valuable discovery for mothers that it is repeated for the benefit of the few who have not tried it and who still look forward to a "scene" every time such a dose must be given.

WHY NOT SIT DOWN?

A quaint old woman used to say: "There ain't no sense in them that has chairs being tired. Why don't they sit in them?" That is not a half bad question for many a weary housekeeper to ask herself. She would find life much easier, would fight the wrinkles off longer and would generally be brighter and happier if she could learn to sit down whenever she gets a chance. It is worth while to get comfortable chairs for almost every household task. Save sweeping, scrubbing and bedmaking, there are few things about a house that cannot be done just as well sitting as standing.

A STRAWBERRY LUNCHEON.

- Iced Strawberry Soup.
- Creamed Sweetbreads in Strawberry Cups.
- Lamb Chops in Pink Chop Frills.
- Green Peas in Pink Cases.
- Tomato Salad.
- Wafers.
- Strawberry Ice Cream.
- Cake.
- Strawberry Punch.
- Bonbons.

TO COOK NEW ONIONS.

A dainty way of cooking little new onions is to boil them in water with salt and pepper and plenty of sweet butter and serve on toast like asparagus points. A spoonful of cream can be added if desired.

KEEPING CAKES FRESH.

Cookies put in an earthen jar lined with clean cloth while they are still hot and kept covered close will be much more melting and crumbly than if they are allowed to cool in the air.

DELICIOUS TEA CAKES.

For breakfast or supper Sally Luncheon tea cakes are good to serve. To make them put two tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of sugar and

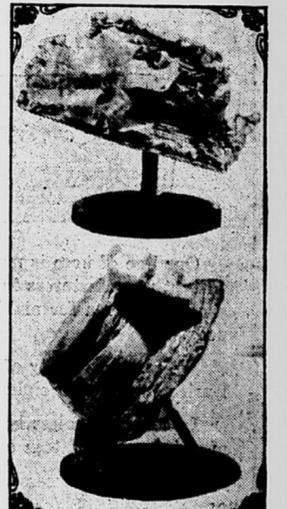
WHAT IS "ONE CUP?"

Young housekeepers are often at a loss when a recipe calls for a cup of anything to tell what kind of cup to use or how much a cup measures. The accepted measure is a stone kitchen cup and means that cup filled to the brim. It is equal to one-half pint. A cup of solid butter, milk, chopped meat or granulated sugar is equal to about half a pound. A cup of sifted flour is equal to quarter of a pound.

LATEST OF NOTIONS.

Candy "Peach Basket" Hat Adorns Smart Luncheon Table.

THE cartoonist is not the only man who is gaining a reputation for cleverness at the expense of the "peach basket" hat. The maitre d'hotel of a certain smart Fifth avenue hotel in New York is running him a close second. A society woman recently went into this hostelry for luncheon wearing one of the new pieces of millinery that are facetiously referred to as the peach basket variety. The waiter took a mental note of the style of the head-gear in which she appeared, and the



next time this fair patron dropped in for midday refreshment she found on the table to which she was assigned a confectionery reproduction of her hat. It is becoming quite a fad among hotel chefs and caterers to adorn their tables with creations which combine the art of the confectioner and the milliner. At private dinner and luncheon parties boutonnières and often the after dinner coffee cups and saucers are souvenir affairs carried out in confectionery that exactly represents the real things.



BOX PLAITED PRINCESS FROCK who brings a fresh eye to human affairs, who can understand without actual experience, who does not see only through the blue glass of convention, who may shock, but does not bore, who does the usual thing in an unusual way, and the unusual as if it were a mere matter of course. Well, in the dress world the net blouse is surely a sulphite. It seems to possess the faculty