

Practical And Pictorial Diversion for Women



THE RED EAR

Coll's Weekly Cartoon on American Society

Serving the Dinner in Proper Order The Best and Most Attractive Way to Manage It

By Eleanor B. Clapp

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WHEN a dinner is to begin with raw oysters or clams, six of these surrounding a piece of cut lemon are usually served on a bed of cracked ice on plates that come especially for the purpose. The plate containing this first course must be set upon a large dinner plate and placed at each cover just after the meal is announced, but before the guests enter the dining room. When the oysters are finished, both plates, the oyster plate and the dinner plate that was underneath it, must be removed. The soup tureen and a pile of warm soup plates must then be put before the hostess, who proceeds to ladle out the soup, the waitress taking the plates from her as they are filled and passing them to the guests.

If wine is to be served at the dinner, the host now fills the glass of the lady at his right with sherry or claret or white wine, or whatever wine is to be used, and then passes it to the gentleman at her right. This gentleman repeats the action of his host by helping the lady at his right and then filling his own glass, and so the bottle circulates. If champagne is used at dinner, it should never be opened until the fish course. After the soup plates have been removed the waitress brings in the fish plates, which must be warm, and sets them with the platter of fish before the host, who carves the fish with a silver fish knife. The waitress stands beside him, ready to take each plate and pass it to the guest. Very often, however, this course is served direct from the kitchen instead of being carved on the table, or various little entrees of fish baked in scallop shells or in tiny square individual dishes, each placed on a fish plate, take its place.

Next to the fish comes the principal meat dish of the meal, the roast or "joint," as our English cousins call it. The host carves the meat and the maid passes it and then passes the vegetables which accompany it, each guest helping himself from the dish. It is in good taste for the host to ask the guests to take a second helping of the meat course, but they are never asked to partake twice of soup or fish.

Fashionable Dinner Hours.
After the meat comes the game—in a simple dinner this can be omitted with perfect propriety—and after this the salad and then the dessert, which is always helped by the hostess. After the dessert has been removed, if there is to be a course of fruit, the maid puts before each person the finger bowls on the fruit plates. The guests lift the bowl and dollop from the plate and set them in front of it while the waitress passes the dish of fruit. Last of all is served the black coffee. If the hostess prefers, however, this can be served in the drawing room at the conclusion of the meal. A very large and fashionable dinner party, where the service is always a la Russe—that is, no carving is done on the table—is given at half-past 7 or 8 o'clock, but it is better taste to have a simpler and less formal affair, such as I have been describing, at the usual dinner

hour in all our large cities, at half-past 6 or 7 o'clock. A small dinner lasts about an hour, while an elaborate function may take anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours to serve. Guests should arrive promptly at the time set for the dinner or five minutes before it. It is unpardonable to be late. But if this should happen, it is not customary to keep the dinner waiting for the tardy person more than fifteen or twenty minutes past the appointed hour.
When dinner is ready the maid should come to the drawing room door and in a low but distinct voice announce that "Dinner is served." The hostess then leads the way into the dining room, and the guests follow her, the host coming last. At a formal dinner each gentleman offers his arm to the lady his hostess has asked him to take out.

Some Shoe Trousseau

VERY wonderful things, indeed, are the trousseaus of to-day. To get married is not the simple matter nowadays, in the way of clothes, that it was in olden times. In many cases—those where the young woman's means are limited—it is made far more of an undertaking than is necessary. But for those who can afford to spend the money for these chests of lovely things, the preparation is a time of absorbing interest. Each department of the trousseau is a wonder in itself. The shoe trousseau, for instance, can range in money value all the way from \$10 to \$300. The latter seems a fabulous price to pay for one's footwear—that is, all at once—but it is done, and more still could be spent.

The \$10 layout is a modest affair, but quite enough for many a happy little bride. There are her white wedding slippers, for which she pays \$1.50; her street boots, at \$3; her dress boots, at \$5, and her house, or evening, slippers, at \$1.50.

There is a \$25 trousseau, as follows: Wedding slippers, \$3.50; dress boots of patent leather, \$5; street boots of kid or gun-metal calf (the late style), \$4; two pairs of evening slippers, \$5; bou-doir slippers, \$1, and carriage boots, \$5. These can be varied in a hundred ways, till we come to the \$300 trousseau. This is luxurious indeed, and my lady who wears all these boots has a pair of every hour in the day. First, her wedding slippers, \$8; patent leather street boots, patent leather dress boots, calfskin street boots, kidskin boots for general wear, kidskin boots for light wear, each \$7 a pair (\$35); six pairs of evening slippers, to match various gowns, \$36; six pairs of bou-doir slippers of every degree of comfort, \$24; six pairs of shoe trees, \$6; three pairs of rubbers, about \$2; six pairs of spats of various shades, \$9; hunting boots, \$7; skating shoes, \$4; golf shoes, \$5; tennis shoes, \$3, and six pairs of low shoes (oxfords and pumps), \$30. Of course, this includes wear for every season of the year; but suppose the bride is going abroad for a wedding trip of several months or a year, every pair of shoes is packed away in the trunks along with all the rest of the luxurious trousseau, to come to light again in London, Paris, Vienna and dozens of other places.

WOMEN'S WAYS OF MAKING MONEY--IN STORES

By Cynthia Westover Alden

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IN THE aggregate, many thousands of girls and women are employed in the department stores which are a feature of the life of every American city, and which, so far as I know, have no counterparts in any other country. These stores are much alike in the different cities, those in Boston or San Francisco being run on much the same system as those in New York. The help, masculine or feminine, is kept under the strictest discipline. It is to be.

The first idea of the department store is to furnish everything that any one can ask for. The second is to print advertisements of bargains to draw crowds and religiously to give what is promised. The third is to expose goods freely before miscellaneous customers, relying on the help to prevent stealing or soiling of articles so exposed. It is easy to see how any slovenliness in the matter of discipline would involve great and continued loss.

Hours on Duty.
The hours are long all through the year, and particularly so for a couple of weeks at the holiday season, when the demands of shoppers compel keeping the places open in the evening. The work involves standing the greater part of the time, and it is a severe strain on the mind and temper; and yet, in spite of everything, the vast majority of these girls and women are cheerful, even happy. They get their wages regularly, only the least valuable ones are "laid off" in the dull season, and after store hours their time is their own.

It is the customary thing to put in the hands of one man the entire control of the help, the employing and discharging of everybody. He is often assisted by a trusted woman, who becomes a sort of matron, looking after the well-being of the girls and women, and also keeping a check on them which it would be impossible for a man to keep.

The floor-walkers, whose place is not unlike that of a contractor's overseer, or an overseer on a plantation, are men; with the exception of departments where women's garments are fitted. There a woman has to be employed as floor-walker. If you ask why men are used elsewhere, a department store owner will tell you that it is because the saleswomen themselves prefer it, and work much better under male supervision; that women cannot bear to be

under the direct control of other women. I don't know how much there is in the theory, but it is traditional, and suffices to keep a lot of good jobs for the men.

Behind the counter you will note that most of the people are women. So thoroughly developed is the department store system that the matter of personal whim in appointments and promotions and discharges is reduced to a minimum. Nearly every woman there has begun at the bottom round of the ladder as a cash girl. She has helped out her parents' scanty wages with \$2.50 or \$3.50 a week in that capacity. She has learned to keep herself neat as a new pin, to be quick, polite, and careful, to answer every call instantaneously, handle parcels, get the correct change, and avoid keeping customers waiting. That is a very important matter in the long run with such a store.

As most of its business is cash, change has to be made continuously, and as any flaw in the system would mean tremendous leakage, certain formalities must be gone through—which, as every woman shopper can testify, are more or less annoying to the one who waits. The cash girl who can do most to keep down this annoyance is the best cash girl, and will be booked for promotion on the first opportunity.

Promotion Slow.
No, she will not get to be a saleswoman at once. There is a step in between. She will be made a stock girl. Her employer's property is thrown into disorder by every fresh effort to exhibit it so as to make a sale. It has to be folded and put back in order. This is often a pretty burdensome job, especially in the matter of ready-made suits, dozens of which may be exhibited to a single prospective purchaser. It is the responsibility of the stock girl to do this and to do it well. Besides, she will have to run errands from the stockroom to the salesroom, or from the workroom to the salesroom, and make herself generally useful.
The habit of orderliness will be tested in the stock girl's work. It will be unfortunate for her if the floor-walker discovers that she has put back a suit creased in the folding or with dust on it. She has to be quick, too, for the general appearance of the department must be kept satisfactory at all times, and re-

placing must be done as soon as the effort to sell has ended favorably or unfavorably. The stock girl gets from \$3.50 to \$5 a week.

It is a great promotion when a stock girl becomes a saleswoman, or, as the trade expression runs, a "salesperson." Now she will have a chance to show whether she is going to win a prize or be kept in the lower ranks. She must develop practical knowledge or psychology, whether she has ever heard the word or not.

Qualities Needed.
No matter how carefully a buyer selects his goods, or how good terms he makes on the purchase, everything depends on the selling of them. The first characteristic here is lucidity, putting everything so clearly that the customer cannot help understanding. Politeness is important, too. Shoppers must be treated courteously, even when one feels certain that they are merely looking at things they are unable or unwilling to purchase.

The temper of a girl is brought out. She must not be annoyed at anything. She must take even petty insolence as one of the incidents of the business, and only pity the bad manners of the customer. She must be quick to discover any personal whim of the shopper, to humor it. She must also have an eye for colors, and avoid offering what the complexion of the customer makes impracticable. She must be able, with some accuracy, to guess at the purse limitations of a serious customer. But here opportunity has come. If she displays the right qualities, it will not be long before regular patrons of the store will begin to pay her the compliment of waiting till she is at leisure instead of accepting the services of some one else. It will be the floor-walker's duty to note that for the benefit of the manager. If the latter is good-natured, and happens to have the time, he will compliment the girl on such evidence of her success. Generally he doesn't. The exceptions are sunny days.

Responsibility for a fixed portion of the stock is placed on the "salesperson" by the buyer, who expects to be notified for his own guidance whether a certain article is "a good seller" or not.
The wages of the "salesperson" are from \$5 a week to \$15. But in some instances, when she is selling silks, jewelry or suits, she gets more than \$15.

The Troubles of Babyhood Days One of the Most Frequent is Constipation

By Dr. Emelyn L. Coolidge

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CONSTIPATION is one of the most frequent and most trying troubles to which many infants (and children) are subject. It may be caused by many different things, such as inheritance, malformation of the rectum or other parts, weakness of the intestinal walls, errors in the food, etc.

The treatment depends on the cause, and differs a good deal in a nursing or a bottle-fed baby. If the mother is nursing her baby and he is constipated, she should at once look into her own habits of life and see if the cause does not lie there. She should take at the very least two hours' exercise in the open air each day; be sure to secure a movement of her own bowels every day, even if she has to take some mild laxative. She should drink plenty of pure, rich milk, cocoa, oatmeal and cornmeal gruels, water, and take some form of malt tonic with her meals. She should avoid tea and coffee. Fruit, most green vegetables and some meat are excellent, but she should not eat very abundantly of starchy foods.

Not Enough Food.
Sometimes a nursing baby will be constipated because he does not get enough food to form a residue in his intestines. If this is the case, he will seldom gain in weight. Try giving him one or two meals per day of modified milk made up with oatmeal gruel as a substitute for the same number of meals from the breast. Be sure to give him plenty of pure water between his meals.

A teaspoonful of cream in a little hot water, given just before nursing, will often help to make his bowels more regular, or a teaspoonful or two of beef juice may be given night and morning. After the sixth month a little orange or prune juice may also be tried.
A bottle-fed baby who is constipated is often easier to treat. Add a little more top milk or cream to each bottle than the formula calls for; use oatmeal gruel when making up the food; if the milk supply is of the best and purest, do not pasteurize the food, and never use lime water, but use bicarbonate of soda instead. Lime water is often very constipating. Malted food may be added to each bottle for a short time.

More Heroic Remedies.
When all of these methods fail, then other measures will have to be taken. Sometimes a very little stimulant to the rectum is all that is needed. Hold the baby over a small chamber at exactly the same time and after a meal every day, and insert a small cone of oiled paper a little way into the rectum, or use a small castile soap suppository. In a few days after this treatment the bowels will often form a habit of moving regularly by themselves. Gluten suppositories will also prove of great benefit in some cases, but glycerine ones are too irritating for frequent use.
The child should not be allowed to go more than twenty-four hours without a movement. An enema of sweet oil, one or two tablespoonfuls, may be given with a bulb syringe, or half a tea-

spoonful of glycerine in an ounce of warm water or half a pint of warm soapsuds, but do not give an injection every day unless especially ordered by a doctor.

Massage of the baby's abdomen will often help. Have your hand warm, begin at the right groin and with your fingers make a series of circular movements lightly at first, and then pressing down deeper as the child grows used to it; gradually work your way up to the ribs, then across and down the left side to the left groin. This should be repeated twice daily for eight or ten minutes at a time and always at the same time of day, but never directly after a meal.

A mother may safely give a constipated baby from twenty drops to a teaspoonful of olive oil once or twice daily, but do not give castor oil for constipation, as after its first action it leaves the child more constipated than ever.
There are numerous drugs and medicated suppositories that are used, but they always should be ordered by a doctor for each separate case. Try any or all of the remedies here suggested before giving the child drugs that may cause him to vomit or otherwise upset him. Sometimes, when all treatment fails, the trouble will right itself as soon as the child can run about and is old enough to take a more varied diet.

The Special Shoes

THE shoemaker's ideas are keeping pace with those of all the other manufacturers. The public's comfort must be looked after as well as "style and beauty"; and it well behooves them to do so, for it is money in their pocket. The shoemaker has prepared styles for all kinds of irregularities in people's feet, and all the large retail houses have them in their stock. Not every one suffering from enlarged joints ("bunion" in common parlance), so-called rheumatism, etc., knows of these comforts. The shoe specially made for the enlarged joints has a depressed sole in which the joint fits, and is specially cut so as to be broad across the vamp.

Many people who think they are suffering from rheumatism in the foot could correctly attribute the trouble to a broken or injured instep. The remedy for this broken-down part of the foot is a shoe with stiff braces of leather built in the side around the arch of the foot. In the sole, through the arch or hollow, is laid a steel plate, riveted to the sole, and covered, of course, by the inner sole of the shoe.

Then there are shoes that are wider here and narrower there, and higher in this place and lower in that—shoes, in fact, to fit all kinds of irregularities that are not deformities. To the casual observer, these shoes are no different in appearance from the regular shoe. Also, they are made to follow as nearly as possible the prevailing styles in footwear. Many a one complains that "my foot is very hard to fit," and goes about worrying with a shoe from the store-keeper's regular stock.

TWO FOREST PLANTS IN THE HOME GARDEN

OCCASIONALLY one hears of wild flowers and trees being transplanted from their homes in forest and field to cultivated gardens. And it is often successful. However, the many failures are caused by neglecting to study the natural conditions under which the plant grows. If these can be substituted, the plants will grow, sturdy and cheery; for what knows better how to take care of itself than the hardy wild grower, used to battling for itself from baby seed time to maturity?

Perhaps there are not two woodland plants more familiar than the dogwood and the mountain laurel. But they are seldom seen "domesticated" in some body's garden. Yet this has been done, and they have proved to be most graceful and beautiful additions to the garden, be it small or great. Another point—

very important—these efforts in landscape gardening need not cost a penny. The mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), among the most lovely of flowering shrubs, is very hardy. It will "grow almost as well in swamps as in drier locations, and prefers partly shaded situations, but also thrives well in sunny places." It is an optimist, to be sure! It makes a most desirable shrub. Sometimes, if the conditions are particularly favorable, it will attain tree-like proportions.
In the early spring it bears luxuriant bloom; then all the summer and fall and winter its egg-shaped leaves, always fresh and glossy, make charming foliage effects. True, it is "mountain" laurel; but it grows in hilly woodlands, and even has been found in lowlands, though in the latter never growing beyond a low bushy two feet high. It loves rocky, partly shady hillsides. Then there is the sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*). It is a dwarf, with deep rose-colored flowers.
There are many dogwoods. A common variety is the Cornus Florida, which has the greenish white blossoms. It is a strong grower in most any soil, and hardy from the warmer parts of Canada southward. It loves the edge of a wood or a partly sunny spot; remember these conditions, and its graceful boughs, bearing the waxlike blossoms early in the spring before its leaves come out, make a charming effect, peeping from a cluster of other trees. It is a good idea to place this dogwood near the dark evergreens. In the spring the white flowers appear in striking relief against dark foliage, and in the fall the deep crimson of the leaves rivals the brilliancy of the scarlet oak.
Here is a help to landscape gardening that costs nothing but a little trouble.