

AROUND THE HOUSE

MISCELLANEOUS ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST.

To Remove Scratches from Polished Furniture—Cleaning Mother-of-Pearl Bric-a-brac—Comfortable Position for Sewing.

A scratch on polished furniture can be almost obliterated by rubbing vigorously with linseed oil. If an iron is not at hand when marking clothes with indelible ink, hold the writing against a lighted lamp chimney or gas globe.

Bric-a-brac containing mother-of-pearl should never be cleaned with soap and water. Instead, it should be rubbed with a cloth dipped into whitening and water.

If, when using lemon for flavoring, you need only half a one, put the other half on a plate and cover with a glass tumbler. This excludes the air and prevents it from drying up or getting moldy.

If some of your country friends have sent you a box of flowers that are the worse for a journey, do not throw half of them out before plunging the stems in hot water in which has been put a few drops of ammonia.

Let the flowers stand in hot water for about five minutes, then cut the ends of the stems and put them in cold water. The blossoms and leaves will be found to be wonderfully revived.

Hair brushes should be cleaned always once a week, if not oftener. Men, especially, are apt to neglect this duty, not from untidiness, but because they have no time to think about it. I know of one mother who gathers up the combs and brushes of her four sons regularly once a week and washes them in borax and water.

A woman who sews a great deal of the time has found that her back does not become so tired if her chair is low, or if she has a stool upon which to rest her feet. It is surprising what a difference the comfortable position makes and how much more work she can do.

Benzine is also good to clean the keys of a piano, but denatured alcohol is quite as satisfactory, and much cheaper, besides not having a disagreeable odor. Make the rag just damp enough to remove the soil, when too wet it runs into the cracks and injures the wires.

Spinach and Hot Water.

If housewives and cooks would only remember to wash spinach in scalding water, they would not only get it much cleaner, but kill all insects and worms which may happen to be clinging to the under part of the leaves.

Also the process is a much quicker one than when cold water is used, and the spinach itself takes on a fresh greenness that is unexpected considering the temperature of the water. It should not, however, be washed until immediately before putting into the saucepan.

Pie Crust for One Pie.

Six tablespoons melted lard and 3 tablespoons warm water, a good pinch of salt, flour enough to make a stiff dough. Take one-half of the mixture for lower crust, then roll out top crust, spread with melted lard. Sift a very little flour over top. Before putting in the oven cut a slit in the top crust, put it under faucet and wet with cold water. This makes the crust flaky. This recipe will make one pie.

Carrot Pie.

Sift two cups of stewed carrots, add one and one-half cups boiling milk, one cup sugar, one-half teaspoon salt, one teaspoon cinnamon, one teaspoon cloves, one-half teaspoon ginger, and two eggs, beaten lightly. Mix in order given. Line pie tin with paste, put on rim, fill with the above mixture and bake in moderate oven. This is an excellent substitute for squash pie.

Celery Tops.

In the winter, when celery is plentiful, one housekeeper cuts off the leaves and light green ends and puts the leaves into a pasteboard box to dry. When dry she packs them in a glass jar to be ready to use for flavoring soups and dressings later on.

Cleaning Engravings.

When houses are being refurbished this autumn it might be well to know that yellow stains on the margins of engravings may be removed by sponging with a solution of hydrochloric acid of soda.

Best China.

Majds should be periodically cautioned not to allow too hot water to be used with gold decorated china. Soap should be used sparingly. Rinse thoroughly.

Two Good Models

Of all the costumes in a woman's wardrobe, the evening gown and street dress are the ones that receive the most careful attention. In the former she wishes to look her best, for it is then that she meets her friends; and the latter must be chosen wisely, for all the world that passes her in the street may read at a glance whether or not she has good taste and an educated eye for color.

The regular tailor-made coat and skirt is always a safe choice, but there is little room for individuality, while the cloth street gown offers every opportunity for original ideas.

The dress in the sketch is an excellent model for an early fall walking gown, and is just the thing to wear under a fur or heavy cloth coat in the winter. If one happens into a tea-room while downtown shopping, and slips off the heavy coat, a dress of this sort looks much more attractive than a plain shirtwaist and skirt.

The model shown is of navy blue serge, braided with black silk souché. The sash is of black satin, faced with



amethyst satin. The Oriental embroidery on the waist is done in black and gold. A delightful fresh and dainty touch is given by the little, hemstitched white lawn frills on the sleeves and lawn tucker.

The hat is a lovely amethyst beaver, faced with black satin. An amethyst feather is held in place by an old gold buckle.

The planning of an evening gown is no simple matter, especially if the income allows only one or two a season. In that case it is best to select

MADE UP IN VELVETEEN.

Costume of Cherry-Red for Girl from Four to Six Years of Age.

Velveteen in a rich cherry-red is chosen for this illustration. Irish crochet is used for the yoke, and



strips of it are taken down the front; the velveteen is then slightly gathered and set to it, the little puffed sleeve is finished by a band of Irish crochet just below the elbow.

Materials required: 4 yards velveteen, 3/4 yard Irish crochet.

For Light Hair.

Anything that is used to lighten the hair is apt to dry it too much. Try wetting it with a very weak henna tea, perhaps a quarter of an ounce of the leaves with a pint of boiling water, to stand till the water is cold. The leaves are strained out and rejected, the tea being put on the hair evenly, and drying on. It must then be washed off. It is not impossible that the wash might give the least reddish tinge to your hair, and in that case the tea should be made weaker. It must not be used oftener than once a month.

Filet Net Scarf.

Among the prettiest of the new edge-trimmings is a scalloped filet net buttonholed with a colored floss. This is from a quarter inch to an inch wide, and is used at wrist, down sleeve, at edge of yoke and top of collar.

a color that is beautiful, but not so pronounced that the woman herself and all her friends will tire of it after seeing it half a dozen times.

A model for an evening gown that combines all the latest features, and is at once practical and beautiful, is shown in the sketch. It is of the lovely new shade of gray satin—silver mist.

The hem of the skirt is faced with flannel, to weight it, and give the long, clinging lines. The bodice and sleeves are composed of little hand-made straps of the satin-on a foundation of net, and edged with gray silk



fringe. The long sash ends are of black chiffon velvet, finished with black tassels and lined with silver.

A cloak or wrap of some sort is indispensable for evening wear. No matter how lovely the gown or how many hours are spent on the coiffure, a woman will not appear well dressed in the evening if she wears a day coat.

Besides looking so much more distinctive, a regular evening coat has another advantage; it is cut and hung so that it will not crush the most delicate fabric worn under it. The lining is usually of a light color to protect the dainty gown.

Warmth should above all things be considered. One of the most unwise things a woman can do is to wear one of the fashionable low necked almost sleeveless ball gowns, and over that a light-weight wrap, often cut of the Japanese kimono lines, that never were intended for warmth. There really is not the least danger in wearing the thinnest of gowns if the wrap is warm enough. It need not be padded or heavy; but made of good winter material.—Boston Herald.

IF ONE WOULD GROW THIN.

Oranges Form One of the Best of Dietary Articles.

Oranges will lend pleasant aid to the woman who wants to grow thinner. She must take the juice of at least two at every meal and these must not be sweet ones. She must also give up oil with her salad and substitute lemon juice for vinegar. She cannot have cream or sugar in her coffee and the coffee itself, save at breakfast, must give place to sugarless and milkless weak tea. She can have all the acid fruit she wants, but if it be stewed no sugar must be added. Grapes, peaches, melons, prunes and bananas are tabooed, as they are flesh producers. No cereals for her no hot bread save dry toast, no pork in any form, no veal and no water with her meals, and just as little away from them as she can endure, mineral water being taken by preference. Dr. Weir Mitchell advocates copious draughts of skim milk for the safe reduction of flesh. He states if it be taken plentifully at and between meals it will positively cause a patient to lose half a pound of flesh a day. Baths must be taken in cold water and a hard flesh brush must be piled vigorously.—From the Housekeeper.

Wrist Watches.

There is quite a revival among fashionable women of wearing a tiny floss watch inclosed in a flexible bracelet. The French jewelers are making the bracelets of links of enameled gold with a tiny gold-faced watch in the center set around with enamel. Although the watches are small, they are said to keep perfect time. They are convenient indeed for women whose hours are filled with many duties and who want to be constantly aware of the time.

Sling Sleeves on Wraps.

The wide sling sleeve, which takes its name from the fact that an arm in it always looks as though it were in a sling, is the one adopted for evening coats and wraps. It gives great comfort and is quite artistic.

The material is put into wide folds around a very large armhole, and the edges are finished with braid.

Black Striped Satin.

There is a new material out for directoire gowns which has a colored satin foundation and is striped with black. It is wide enough to cut to advantage, and is very good looking.

BEAUTY IN A DESERT.

How One Person's Persistence Transformed Great Falls.

MONTANA'S FINE PARK CITY.

Trains Run Through Avenue of Trees to Vine Covered Railroad Station. Paris Gibson's Enterprise in Starting Its Parking System.

Great Falls, Mont., has several points of distinction that can be copied by other towns and might well excite the envy of the largest cities. The succession of cascades through which the Missouri river flows in passing its site affords the town an aggregate available water power greater than any other in the country. These falls, together with the Giant springs, comprise one of the wonders of the west, but their beauty, like that of Niagara, is destined to gradual destruction as the application of the water to commercial purposes extends. In educational facilities this comparatively small town is rich, and it contains nineteen churches, being one to every thousand of its population, which is proportionally twice as many as Chicago has and two and a half times the number possessed in New York.

But the feature in which Great Falls takes the greatest pride and that which justifies its claim to being the most beautiful city of the northwest is its parking system, says the Craftsman for November. After passing through hundreds of miles of treeless country the westbound traveler comes with delighted surprise upon this orderly little town in its leafy setting. The railroad station and yards, which are usually the ugliest part of a new settlement, here have been converted into a place of beauty. The train runs through an avenue of trees and deposits one at a vine covered building that is in striking contrast to the usual grimy structure. The approach to the station on the town side is rendered attractive by well kept grass plots and flower beds, through which are broad carriageways.

This approach is but an introduction to the sylvan beauty of Great Falls. Extending along the river front is the principal park, its natural loveliness enhanced by well tended lawns and artificial lakes. This wealth of woodland in the desert is strongly significant of the spirit of homemaking, and the tree lined streets, with their pretty villas set on terraced grass plots, seem to extend silent welcome to the stranger.

It is only in the present generation that the idea of raising trees on "dry" land was seriously considered and put into practice. Great Falls was a pioneer in the movement. It has no precedent to encourage or guide it, but it has definitely solved the problem and proved that a desert city may be made as beautiful and comfortable as any situated in the humid states.

Twenty-five years ago, when Paris Gibson and his family migrated from Minneapolis to Montana, the land upon which Great Falls now stands was a barren tract of sand, thinly covered with buffalo grass and patches of sagebrush. For miles in every direction the country was devoid of human habitation, except perhaps the rude shelter of a sheep herder or the solitary shanty of a squatter.

It was from the park system of Minneapolis that Gibson derived the inspiration which prompted him to attempt tree planting in his new home. He broached the subject to his fellow settlers, but they treated his suggestion with derision. The thing had never been done; therefore it could not be. This attitude they maintained until it was absolutely proved to be erroneous, and several years elapsed before the effort of this one individual developed into a municipal movement.

Failing to find sympathy or support for the enterprise among his fellow townsmen, Gibson determined to undertake alone what he believed could and should be done for the benefit of the infant city. Regardless of the gibes of skeptics Gibson planted a number of young trees upon the ground along the river, covering a tract which is now included in Margaret and Whit-tier parks. He bore unaided the expense and care of looking after the young shoots, and many a cynical jeer was aimed at the cumbersome tank wagons that laboriously supplied them with scarcely sufficient dole of water.

They grew, these first plantings of cottonwood and box elder, and Gibson ventured to add to them young elms and ash. No such trees had ever been seen in that part of the country, and so the scoffers were encouraged to predict that they would never grow. But they did, and birch and maple and oak were added to the list and flourished like the rest. Before this, however, the courageous founder of the Great Falls park system received the recognition that his enterprise and persistence deserved. The city council at length responded to his appeals, and a gradually increasing number of the citizens lent their aid to the movement. The sums appropriated for the purpose were for many years pitifully small and even now are none too liberal, but compared with the limited resources of one man the municipal grants were magnificent and permitted a considerable extension of the work each year. If during the past decade the citizens of Great Falls have been commendably active in beautifying their town it should never be forgotten that its position as the pioneer park city of Montana is due to Paris Gibson.

PROFITABLE AGES OF FOWLS.

First Laying Year of a Hen Gives the Best Profit.

As a general rule it is found that pullets are the most profitable fowls to keep for the production of eggs. Some experienced poultry men may claim that they have just as good results from older animals, but the experience of the many does not seem to bear out such a statement. We would like to know what our readers think about it. What age fowl has given you the best returns? Has your experience been in accordance with the following report from the Oregon experiment station, as presented by Prof. Dryden of that station?

It is a point in management that I wish to speak of here, one point in many that must be taken into account if poultry keeping is to be made a success. It is a question of the most profitable age of the hen. Poultrymen who have kept in touch with poultry investigations during the past few years are pretty well informed on this point, but the importance of this subject is not yet generally appreciated. The writer carried on for several years at the Utah experiment station a line of experiments with the object of determining the value of the hen at different ages for egg production. The same hens were kept year after year under similar conditions, and a record kept of production and of food consumed. These experiments proved that the hen is different from the cow, which retains or improves her productivity with age. The first year was the most profitable, and there was a gradual decrease in productiveness each succeeding year. It is safe to figure this decrease at 25 per cent. each year. With average prices for food and for eggs, it is not profitable to keep hens after they have finished their second year of laying. The first, or pullet year is very profitable, the second will give a satisfactory profit, but during the third year the egg yield will seldom pay for the food consumed.

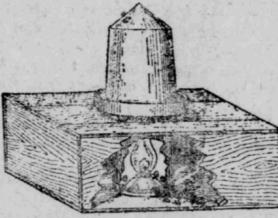
These conclusions, of course, apply only where the eggs are sold at market prices. Fowls that have a special value as breeding stock should be kept longer, but the notion that "the old speckled hen" is the good layer should not be cherished unless she is caught in the trap nest. The fact that she sings a joyful lay, paints her comb a brilliant red, and scratches a vigorous scratch should not be accepted as sufficient grounds for commencing the sentence.

It is safe to say that poultry keepers would be many thousands of dollars in the pocket by rigorously killing off the hens every two years and replacing them with new stock—with the exceptions noted above.

WARM WATER FOR HENS.

Device Which Will Help to Provide Comfort for Hens in Winter.

The drawing shown herewith taken from the Orange Judd Farmer illustrates a simple device for providing fowls with warm drinking water, which is believed to be more conducive to egg laying than cold water. A shallow box forms a chamber in which a small lamp is placed and surrounded by a tomato can with some holes punched near the bottom for



Warm Water Device.

draft. The top of the can is cut out evenly and the can itself is placed immediately below the hole cut in the top of the wooden box. A couple of thin pieces of wood are nailed on opposite sides of this hole, and a common drinking fountain placed on top. The warm air coming from the lighted lamp prevents the water from freezing.

CEMENT IN POULTRY HOUSES.

Its Use Makes the Cleaning of the Poultry House an Easy Task.

Cement is particularly adapted to the construction of poultry houses, except, possibly, the floors. If the cement is made smooth it will be easily cleaned at all times, and a stream of water can be thrown onto it without doing any injury. It is not a harbinger of lice, mites or disease germs.

In the form of grout it is now being used in the construction of the lower parts of poultry houses, and can be made of almost any thickness, where stones are abundant. When such foundations are laid they are rat proof and vermin proof. Usually they go so deep into the ground that no animal will burrow under them.

But with the use of cement a man must know his mind before the poultry house is constructed. Once constructed, it cannot be changed, as can a house made of boards, without destroying the material out of which it is composed.

But if a man has so carefully laid his plans that he knows he will not change his mind as to his plans he can safely go ahead in the use of cement in his poultry house construction, and the more of it used the better.

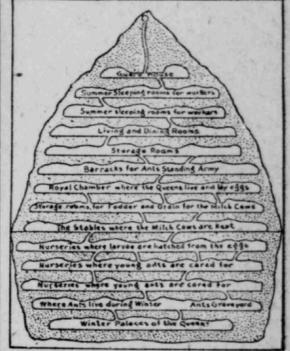


OBSERVE THE ANT.

Life, Work and Methods of the Wonderful Little Creature.

The world looks on in wonder at such engineering feats as the building of the Panama canal, and the wild talk sometimes heard of a tunnel underneath the Atlantic ocean is laughed at by all of us. Yet armies of ants are doing work every day which, for them, is much more wonderful than what man is doing on the Panama canal, and certain kinds of ants have been known to dig tunnels three miles long; a work proportionately greater than for men to build a tunnel under the Atlantic from New York to London.

Not only are ants great constructionists, but they have their cities and governments just as men do, and, like the human races, civilized or otherwise, they carry on wars. The most densely populated municipalities are those formed by millions and millions of ants. The loop district of Chicago does not compare with the congestion in some of their cities, yet their police force has no trouble in adjusting traffic difficulties. In some parts of the world these little creatures seek



Section of Ant City.

out places in the forests and found their cities, made up of dozens of hills which reach up four or five feet and are from 20 to 30 feet in circumference.

On the outside these hills or ant palaces look rough and crude, but order and decency reign within. The hills have as many as 12 or 15 floors, connected by staircases, and here, divided according to their station, the various grades of ants live, work, die and are buried. Every ant hill has its cemetery.

The ant municipality has in it three grades of people; the kings and queens, the aristocrats and the workers. Some of the ants act as soldiers, some as police, others as household servants or as working civilians. And every one does his or her duty or pays the penalty, even the aristocrats. If one of the workers tires of his or her task a fat ant policeman, or he may be thin, comes along and off goes the head of the sluggard. Up at the single entrance into the ant hill will be found a sentry, day and night, keeping watch lest some sudden attack be made on the citadel. When a hostile body of ants is seen marching in his direction the alarm is given and the soldiers are immediately mobilized to go forth and give battle to the invaders. Woe betide even as powerful an enemy as man if he approach too near some kinds of ants.

The door of the ant hill opens into a passage about a quarter of an inch in diameter, and this leads downward into the house proper. Galleries branch off in every direction, connecting with all sorts of rooms, which vary in size, according to the purpose for which they are built. The construction can be better explained by the illustration, taken from the Pathfinder, than by word pictures.

The compartments for the milch cows, however, may be a little confusing to the uninitiated if not explained. Ants have their aphids, milch cows, and dairymen look after them very carefully. When springtime comes the attendants drive the aphids out to pasture on the blades of new grass, each day taking them to a new place. Then at milking time the milkmaids take the ant-cows and stroke them with their feet until they yield a drop of milk.

There is always a nursery full of children, as the queens lay thousands of eggs, which are hatched by other ants. The infants and their nurses are interesting specimens of the race. When the little fellows are about four weeks old they spin around themselves a soft kind of blanket, in which they lie dormant for several days, and the nurses take a rest. When they awake they must be helped out of their blankets, given a bath and prepared for a trip outdoors. The young ants have wings and the queens lead them into the open air for a short fly. After the flight their wings are torn off and they settle down to become industrious.

Eddie Quoted a Fan.

Eddie, not quite three, wanted to ask his mother for a fan one very warm day, relates the Delineator. To think of the word "fan" was too much for his little brain, so with his hands he went through the motion of fanning himself, and said:

"Mumsy, tin Eddie have one of them things to brush the warm off with?"