

HOME INTERESTS

THE HOUSEKEEPERS CORNER

Although a large amount of information has been circulated on the planting and freezing of the potato crop, so far very little has been said on the storage question, which is quite as important a piece of work as any so far carried out.

A certain amount of waste is unavoidable from one cause or another, but the grower must realize that unless care and forethought are exercised he may find that the whole store has been lost.

When large quantities have to be dealt with things must be done on a larger scale, but this article is for the housewife who puts away her own individual winter store.

The best place to store potatoes in small quantities is a dry, frost proof shed. The floor should be covered with straw or sacking and the potatoes must not be stacked more than two and a half feet deep.

A layer of straw or sacking should be laid on the top to keep out the light. The shed should be ventilated on all suitable occasions and during a hard frost additional straw should be added on the top.

When no shed is available, the potatoes may be stored in thick bags and kept in the pantry, but it is advisable to sprinkle flowers of sulphur among the tubers. During the late autumn the potatoes should be picked over every two or three weeks and any diseased ones removed. During hard weather extra covering should be put over the sacks at night and removed during the day, or kept on continuously if the frost is unusually severe. A cellar can be used for storage. If special attention is paid to the ventilation, particularly during the first months of storage, the door and window being kept open when the weather is dry.

OLD COLLAR RETURNS.

The old fashioned berthe has come back in many years since it was last in style and the vogue then was so pronounced that it remained in fashion for several seasons.

It is Lanvin who has revived the becoming ruffle of lace to be worn across the front and back of the dress and over the shoulders. Originally, the lace berthe was worn principally as an accessory of the evening dress, but now we may employ it to outline the square or round neck of the afternoon frock.

By courtesy the berthe may be square cut as well as round, although it really loses its early characteristic when shaped into anything but round or oval contour, formed by the gathering of the flounce or by circular shaping a piece of the material of which the dress is made.

Nowadays the berthe may be edged with fur. If that seems too weighty a finish, the fur may be transposed to form a heading.

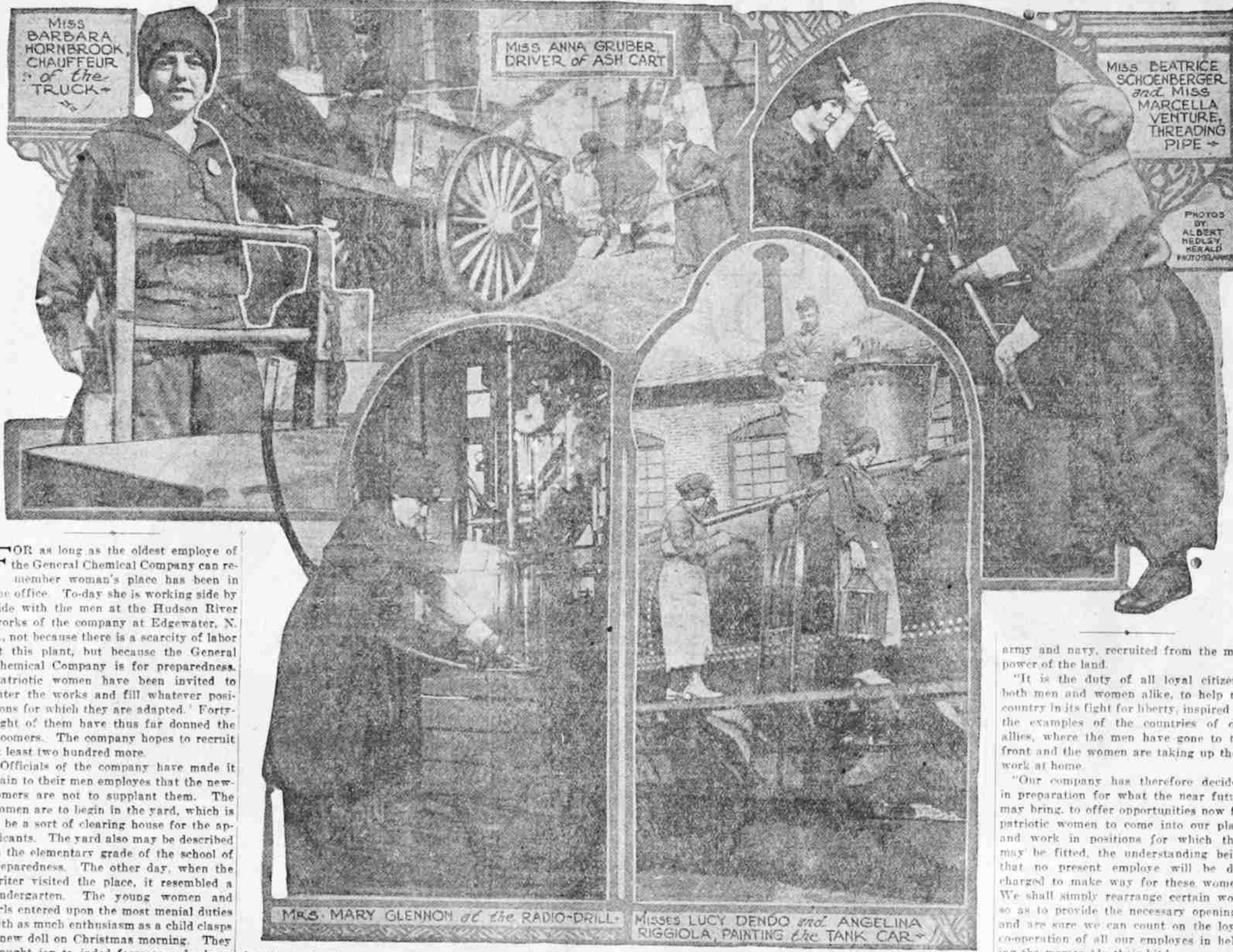
A PLAY COSTUME.

In any group of children the envied wearer of a "play suit" is leader and director of the moment's business. And what more ecstatic happiness for the small boy than to march out among his companions in a spic-span new cowboy outfit or Indian suit or Jack Tar tux.

The child becomes for the time what he imagines he is, and half a dozen play suits will make him half a dozen different individuals in as many mornings—and incidentally keep him busy and happy and out of mischief in his own back yard.

Some of the delightful costumes that are all ready for the little lad are—Military uniforms, and baseball suits. The small girl may have a cowgirl suit, a nurse's uniform, a military uniform or a square outfit.

Women Performing Hard Tasks of Men in Big Chemical Plants



FOR as long as the oldest employe of the General Chemical Company can remember woman's place has been in the office. To-day she is working side by side with the men at the Hudson River works of the company at Edgewater, N. J., not because there is a scarcity of labor at this plant, but because the General Chemical Company is for preparedness. Patriotic women have been invited to enter the works and fill whatever positions for which they are adapted. Forty-eight of them have thus far donned the bloomers. The company hopes to recruit at least two hundred more.

Officials of the company have made it plain to their men employes that the newcomers are not to supplant them. The women are to begin in the yard, which is to be a sort of clearing house for the applicants. The yard also may be described as the elementary grade of the school of preparedness. The other day, when the writer visited the place, it resembled a kindergarten. The young women and girls entered upon the most menial duties with as much enthusiasm as a child clasps a new doll on Christmas morning. They brought joy to jaded foremen, who have tried in vain to inspire men workers with a feeling that the work they were doing was worth while.

The result of this enthusiasm has been apparent in less than a week. A woman who was carrying stock from one place to another when she began a week ago is now operating a radio drill. It is true that she had had machine shop experience, but she had to go through the clearing house first. Other girls were helpers to armature winders and machinists; still others were painting, packing, shipping and the like.

Often the workers are too willing. W. J. Shortall, master mechanic and responsible for so much of the work in the yard

that he needs the long legs with which nature has endowed him, said that his principal task was to hold them back from the tasks that are suitable only to men of considerable strength. He laughed as he made the comparison between Monday morning and Saturday noon, when all hands were glad to quit for the half holiday and Sunday rest. On Monday the superintendent presented him to prove that twenty girls and young women, all attired alike except for their shoes, and told him to find work for them.

Mr. Shortall looked at the girls, taken aback for a moment, although he knew that the problem was to be submitted to him for solution. They returned his stare, hardly less abashed than he.

"How am I going to boss this crowd?" he mused. "It's tough to order a woman to go to piling brick and shovelling ashes. But I s'pose it's got to be done."

While he was trying to get a grip on himself the newcomers relieved the situation for him. As if by prearranged signal they clamored in chorus:—

"Well, what do you want us to do?"

In five minutes they were scattered over the yard. One girl was placed on a small motor truck for instruction. Others went into the new stockroom with paint brushes and pails. There was a shortage of help on the ash heap and here others found employment. A girl who said that she knew how to handle a horse found a seat on a cart. While men lifted carbons

into a freight car two energetic young women set them back into the corner of the car. This was soon after half-past seven o'clock. At noon there were some unusually healthy appetites to be satisfied.

This, in a general way, is a description of what has happened in a week at Edgewater, N. J. Officials of the company were satisfied that they knew what they were doing when they issued this notice:—

A Patriotic Announcement.
"To the employes of the General Chemical Company, Hudson River works:—
"Our country has been forced into a war which, on account of recent developments, may last a number of years. The longer it lasts the larger must grow our

army and navy, recruited from the man power of the land.

"It is the duty of all loyal citizens, both men and women alike, to help the country in its fight for liberty, inspired by the examples of the countries of our allies, where the men have gone to the front and the women are taking up their work at home.

"Our company has therefore decided, in preparation for what the near future may bring, to offer opportunities now for patriotic women to come into our plant and work in positions for which they may be fitted, the understanding being that no present employe will be discharged to make way for these women. We shall simply rearrange certain work so as to provide the necessary openings and are sure we can count on the loyal co-operation of all our employes in helping the women 'do their bit.'"

"Please inform any woman you know who would be interested that applications in this work will be received beginning Wednesday, November 14, 1917."

The officials had expected results from that notice. It is doubtful, however, if they were prepared for the flood of applications which followed. Three or four times as many girls and young women could have been put to work than actually were employed, but the company held true to its policy of careful investigation. Every day finds new bloomer employes in the yards and shops. Applications have been received from women from all parts of the country. Some of the women who are doing their "bit" are shown in the photographs herewith.

WAYS and MEANS IN WAR TIMES

Every one knows the far reaching effects of cheerfulness, of what it means to be associated in business or in the home with a happy, optimistic individual, and we all know, sadly and only too well, what such an association is if the person is pessimistic and "grumpy."

The fact is well understood in ordinary, every day times, but in these days, while under the shadow of a war cloud, this fact should be taken into consideration as unusually important.

KEEP CHEERFUL

It is important when life is at such a tension to look upon the bright side of events, to try and see all things optimistically. It may be in some cases that this is all one can do to help win the war. All cannot go to the trenches or to the hospitals, and to some it must seem that no matter how willing and anxious they may be to be of service there is little or nothing for them to do.

That idea is false. If nothing else is open to them always and every day the great spirit of enthusiasm and interest can be kept alive and added to—interest in all that the country is doing, interest in the public events of the city, the parades, the flag raisings, the camps, the food regulations.

Enthusiasm is a great gift that spreads in ever widening circles from individuals until it is like a great wave that cannot be stopped and that rushes far up the beach of the world to wash away the ugly debris which has collected there and to make the world cleaner and purer for the generations to come.

It is a force that can accomplish the seemingly impossible. Not that the winning of the war is an impossibility, for it is one of the most certain things to which America has ever turned her hand, and she will do it at whatever cost the task may demand. But enthusiasm will help the winning, will quicken the day when the shadow of the war cloud will pass from our lives.

There is the cheerful acceptance of whatever trials the war may bring, the self-forgetfulness in big or little sacrifices, the remembrance of the devastated homes, the sufferings of the people of Europe in contrast to our comparatively easy lot.

Above all there is the inspiration of the ideal for which we are waging the war, and in the thought that this country, disregarded by Germany because she thought we were too money loving and easy going to endure loss, has accepted sacrifices and will accept them for the sake of that ideal for which our forefathers fought—liberty.

CO-OPERATIVE INTEREST.

Surely there should be enthusiasm, interest and a fine fervor in all that one does these days. Each one who helps win the war by such encouragement will be doing his or her part and doing it nobly.

None should feel that they can't help, for they can, not in actual, tangible things, perhaps, but not one person need lack the stirring spirit of enthusiasm which will help nerve those who are sacrificing in the midst of this war cloud itself and will help bring the glad day when the world will be free and at peace.

The Outer Appearances

The house was very neat and bare and seemed to those who passed it the outward expression of a beggerly spirit, either of the tenant or the landlord, so uninviting was it with its straight boxlike lines, its crying need of paint and its cheerless windows and tightly closed doors that offered no friendly welcome to any who might come within its radius.

And then one morning, overnight as it were, the house seemed to have turned in its sleep, to have shaken itself in some way out of its rigid lines and to have put on an entirely new face to greet the passerby.

EXPRESSION OF SELF.

It was not any larger. It was not any cleaner, on the outside. It was not any newer as to paint or any less straight and box like. Yet, somehow it seemed to smile at one, as if wishing to make friends with the world.

The shades were up, for one thing, and a different kind of shade too, it seemed they were. They did not look dull and dead, but were green—a soft and restful shade, that gave a certain dignity to the wife, old-fashioned windows.

Then it seemed almost as if there were pleasant secrets back of these windows, behind the red curtains of the drawing room, the each curtain of dotted awning, all carefully befrilled, and the more pretentious curtains of velvet that added a tone of elegance to the library. From one of the windows a big box of Christmas ornaments challenged the admiration of those who gazed upon their brave beauty, and from another ferns sent out a suggestion that summer's wealth had not yet been absorbed by winter.

The door was still closed, but it was shining clean, and through its plain glass one could see the dainty handiwork of the curtain.

A fuzzy dog, thin but large with friendliness, barked at the laughing baby that suddenly appeared in the rejuvenated house, and the notes of a piano could often be heard, sometimes accompanied by a singing voice, in ragtime or lullaby, fresh and clear.

It was difficult to realize that the house was not different. That it was no newer, that it was no larger, that it was no cleaner, that it was no more dignified, that it was no more cheerful, that it was no more inviting, that it was no more friendly, that it was no more smiling, that it was no more smiling at one, as if wishing to make friends with the world.

Capable Women and Their Doings

Women are helping to save crops in Rhode Island.

Colorado has forty-nine women county school superintendents.

France has a woman blacksmith.

New York is the twelfth State to give women full suffrage.

England has an excess of over 200,000 women agricultural workers.

More than fifteen per cent of the munition workers in Lyons, France are women.

Queen Helena of Italy is housing hundreds of children in the royal palace.

Mrs. O. W. Napier is acting as porter in the Cleveland depot of the Nickel Plate Railroad.

Farmers in Southern Indiana are paying women as high as \$2 per day to help harvest their crops.

Several of the larger department stores in New York City are employing women to act as floorwalkers.

Nearly thirty-seven per cent of the female wage earners in this country are employed in stores, mills and factories.

More than 10,000,000 women now have Presidential suffrage in the United States.

Women school teachers in Japan receive from \$5 to \$7.50 per month salary.

Statistics show that female wage earners lose more time on account of sickness than do males.

Charwomen employed in the municipal buildings in Baltimore have had their pay increased \$5 per month.

The Laclède Gas Company, of St. Louis, is training women to read gas meters so that they can replace male inspectors who may be called away to war.

Although they have won the right to vote in New York State, women are prohibited from serving on juries, as they do in other States.

France, where everything is being salvaged, even old boots being picked up and made to do duty again.

Women of New London, Conn., have appealed to the Police Commission to authorize the appointment of a squad of women to keep children off the streets after a reasonable hour.

A million women to act as home guards and take the places of men who are in the army is the aim of the Women's National Home Guard of America, just organized in St. Louis.

One of the first moves in the interest of women in New York, where they recently gained voting recognition, will be the establishment of club houses for them in each Assembly district.

The practice of medicine is much in favor among the women in Japan, and already there are more than three hundred of them who are practicing medicine in that country, where they earn as high as \$30 a month.

The wages paid women workers in the French munition factories are graduated according to the character of the work and to their capacity. The average varies between the minimum of eight cents an hour to the maximum of twenty-eight cents an hour.

Mrs. Anna C. Ladd, a sculptress, of Boston, has offered her services free to the government and will devote her time to restoring disfigured faces of soldiers maimed by gunfire.

The Duchess of Aosta, cousin of the King of Italy, is inspector of the Italian Red Cross nurses.

French women employed in the various industries of that country have proved to be more efficient than the men.

Miss Pat McCoy, of Omaha, Neb., claims to be the title of world's champion drummer. Although she is only twenty-one years of age, she has in the last few months sold more than \$100,000 worth of concert shells, valves, fuller balls and packing gaskets to construction officers at various cantonments now being built throughout the United States.

FOR EVENING WRAPS.
For those who do not care for the gorgeous metallics and the luminous velvets there are self-brocades in soft satin or in satin and velvet, which are decidedly worth while for the wrap.

In some instances these come in dull gray, which combines beautifully with chinchilla or with better grades of squirrel. And right here it is worth noting that Austrian opopassum is back and is being used alike for evening and day coats.

Kolinsky is another fur to which the Paris and American designers have been partial in its association with rich wraps. Ermine, of course, is considered the fur par excellence for evening wear.

It is wonderfully alluring when associated with the beautiful velvets or with dark "cades." It does not seem to be as effective when it is used to trim the metallic garments, perhaps because the latter need a dark fur to bring out their special beauty.

Wonderfully nestle are the new chiffon slipovers, which immediately add a dressy touch to a simple waist and skirt costume. The chiffon slipover is a way of a thing in the hand; donned over a blouse of white silk or net—or one of darker silk or net, if its wearer prefers—it resolves itself into a gay bit of feminine finery indeed.

The neck is cut out in a shallow square edged with hemstitched plain chiffon, and there are very wide armholes also finished with plain chiffon hems. The front extends itself into long, broad cash ends, which are tied at the back of the waist in a big "bustle" bow.

One of these pretty slipovers, say in flowered white and rose chiffon, will dress up amazingly an ordinary white Georgette shirtwaist, worn with a separate skirt of dark mohair, serge or satin.

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Canning and Preserving

Pickling is an important branch of home preparedness, and it is still not too late to make use of a few belated vegetables in that way. Following are some recipes coughed for by the National Emergency Food Commission, each of which has been asked for by our readers:—

Sauerkraut.
The fermentation process of making sauerkraut is simple and is preferred by many to the salting method. The outside leaves and the core of the cabbage should be removed and the rest shredded very finely.

Either summer growth or fall cabbage may be used. Immediately pack into a barrel, keg or tub, which is perfectly clean, or into an earthenware crock holding four or five gallons. The smaller containers are recommended for household use.

While packing distribute salt as uniformly as possible, using one pound of salt to forty pounds of cabbage. When the container is almost filled, press the cabbage down as tightly as possible and apply a board cover which will go inside the holder.

For this cover select wood free from pitch, such as basswood. Glazed plates make excellent covers. On top of this cover place stones or other weights (using flat or granite and avoiding the use of limestone or sandstone). These weights serve to force the brine above the cover.

Allow fermentation to proceed for ten days or two weeks, if the room is warm. In a cellar or other cool place three to five weeks may be required. Skim off the film which forms when fermentation starts.

Whole canned tomatoes make a very satisfactory winter salad in combination with lettuce and mayonnaise.

Combinations of tomatoes, onions, peppers, cabbage and spices are endless in plentiful variations to monotonous winter menus.

Green tomato pickle is one of these delightful dishes. To make it take four quarts of green tomatoes, four small onions and four green peppers. Slice the tomatoes and onions thin. Sprinkle over them one-half cup of salt and leave overnight in crock or enameled vessel.

The next morning drain off the quart of vinegar, one level tablespoonful each of black pepper, mustard seed, celery seed, cloves, allspice and cinnamon and three-quarters cup of salt.

Bring to a boil and then add the prepared tomatoes, onions and peppers. Let boil for twenty minutes. Fill jars and seal white hot.

THE RED HAT.
Every one knows that it is only a daring woman who will put on a bright red hat. Only those who are utterly careless and entire negligent of their appearance rush into the field of red millinery.

In the new hats, however, these dark shades of red predominate and they are not to have the danger signal over them. Nearly every woman in the world can wear a velvet hat in the tones called beetroot and redwood.

There is a touch of that rich mahogany in one and that earth brown in the other that makes them suitable to the texture of the skin and the color of the eyes.

and repeat daily if necessary to keep the film from becoming scum. When gas bubbles cease to arise the fermentation is complete.

If there is scum, it should be removed. As a final step pour melted paraffin over the brine until it forms a layer from one-quarter to one-half inch thick to prevent the formation of scum, if the weather is warm or the storage place is not well cooled.

This is not necessary unless the kraut is to be kept a long time. The kraut may be used as soon as the bubbles cease to rise.

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HINTS FOR PIE BAKERS.

The next time you bake pies, especially juicy pies, try adding a little corn starch to the crust. One teaspoonful to a pie will prevent the under crust from being heavy.

Try mixing the sugar and flour and adding it to the fruit before putting your pie together. The pie will be more evenly sweetened and you will not bite into any lumps of flour.

Do not stretch the top crust tight. In pressing the edges together push the edge of the top crust toward the center of the pie. This allows plenty of room for the fruit to cook and prevents the crust from bursting open and the juice escaping.