

**WOMAN'S RANCH LIFE**

**SERVANTS VS. HIRED HELP—  
THE RETORT COURTEOUS.**

No Sinecure for the Young Matron with a Small Encumbrance or Two to Mind, as well as Housework to Do.

Ranch life for a woman, writes a delicately nurtured English woman from a Wyoming horse ranch, unless the ranch is a rich husband's plaything, is no sinecure, and for the young matron with a small encumbrance or two to mind, as well as housework to do, it is almost unbearable. Servants are not set, for hired help is a totally different thing, and unless one is prepared to pay out some \$15 or \$25 a month it is impossible to induce a Western woman (the girls all prefer being school ma'ams) to condescend to help you, and then you must suggest your wishes, not orders.

For, unlike the English small farmer's daughter, who knows her eldest brother will inherit the lion's share of their parents' death and she will be left, if she does not marry, without a real home, probably even without a penny of her own if the family are not well-to-do, all of Uncle Sam's boys and girls, including the stranger within his gates, who chooses to naturalize, are, at 21 years of age, entitled to "take up" 160 acres of land, as long as there exists this free land. The preliminary fees are but a few shillings. A wooden "shack" is run up, a stove and bed installed; every six months, the would-be owner must sleep at least two nights on the claim or else it is liable to be contested or forfeited. The land must also be fenced and improved to show bona fides. At the expiration of five years comes the final "proving - p." and if the law is satisfied, the property is yours forever, providing the annual taxes are promptly paid—a mere trifle. So the American girl can hold up her head loftily; is not she too, equally with the boy, a landed proprietor? If hard up, she can sell her ranch. Therefore, if she hires out to domestic service, it either because school ma'aming is not to her line, and she wants the variety of a strange ranch, or she requires pocket money, if she remains at home she will be expected to work, to help with outside "chores," too, if the men folks are lousy or away, and no remuneration for it either.

There are points of etiquette better learned by the newcomer; husbands and wives expect to sit side by side at the table and you must at once request lady visitors to remove their hats, even though you know they only intend a visit of a few minutes' duration. But this is a pretty hospital, and intimates you wish them to remain as long as possible.

For Slender Figures. The circular skirt retains its hold upon popular favor because it lends itself to so many stylish adaptations. Not entirely new, yet extremely graceful is the model shown above, depicted in pale blue chiffon cloth

touch to the front of the jacket. The sides are left unstitched over the hips, for the sake of novelty most likely, and sometimes, the little chasm is bridged with loops of passamenterie braid and appropriate pendants.

French dressmakers have no set rules for finishing the lower edges of coats of any kind. Pointed effects seem to be liked better than the cut-away lines for short jackets and the latest models are so contrived that the points are sufficiently long to emphasize the smart curves of the underarm seams.

Salary to Club Treasurers. There is a strong movement on foot just now to pay a salary to treasurers of women's clubs. At two, at least, of the largest of women's clubs and organizations in New York City this subject is to come up for careful and definite consideration at the first fall meeting next month.

At one of the annual elections last year the treasurer's office was offered to ten women before a candidate was finally found who would accept the position. The treasurer's work entailed by office in one of the large New York clubs is terrific. It takes practically all of a woman's time, and in addition requires absolute accuracy and care, and some business training.

The move to give a salary to the treasurer is a wise one, born of necessity, it is true, but a wise and sound one, nevertheless.

Power of Wealth. "Has your daughter made her debut yet?" asked Mrs. Uppson. "Mercy, no!" exclaimed Mrs. Neulich. And what's more, she doesn't have to make it. Her father can afford to have one made to order for her.

A few pulls from the black bottle makes the whole world kin.

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**COAT OF MOIRE AND BRAID.**

**A Dressy Garment Which is in Good Taste all the Year.**

Fashion's disciples remain true to the little coat whose lines vary from the semi-Empire to hip length and we are told that with the approach of spring this dressy little garment will take up its tremendous vogue where it was left off in the late autumn. A famous French design is responsible for the model pictured here; it is carried out in rich black moire silk and stitched handsomely with bands of black braid with the merest suggestion of white along either edge.

The neck is finished in collarless fashion, but revers of embroidered taffetas and cloth lend an elegant



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