

FUN FOR RAINY DAYS.

An Evening of Frolic in Which the Ladies Drive Nails and the Men Trim Millinery.

It being a popular fiction that no woman can roll an umbrella as it should be rolled, the ladies of the company found themselves assigned to the work of umbrella rolling.

The young men were detailed to thread needles. Five minutes was the



TRIMMING A HAT.

time limit in either case. At the end of this time the gentlemen who had threaded the largest number of needles was said to have won in his particular contest. He received a point toward the final prize.

The work of the ladies in umbrella rolling was examined and pronounced upon by the men. The lucky woman whose rolling was considered superior to that of her associates received a point toward the ladies' prize, to be awarded at the close of the festivities.

Driving nails and making buttonholes proved to be the next number on the programme. The nails were driven by the women, while the men devoted themselves to buttonhole working. Each lady in the company was given a strip of soft wood, a dozen nails and a hammer, the men receiving strips of linen with buttonholes cut in them, needles and thread.

A lively feature it proved to be. The room rang with laughter and good natured chaffing. Points toward the finals were bestowed here as in the preceding contests.

The awarding of these points was followed at once by a brisk round, in which the gentlemen trimmed cheap straw bonnets with flowers and ribbon, and the ladies puzzled over lengthy examples in commercial arithmetic.

The results of these tasks were judged by a committee, formed of persons of the opposite sex. The two most successful players receiving as before a point towards the prize.

The next feature was, if possible, even more gayly absurd and fun provoking than those which went before, for here both divisions of the company were given pencils and paper, the gentlemen being asked to write directions for making fancy dishes, such as angel cake, sweetbread patties and chicken croquettes, while the ladies were called upon to say how they would go about investing in stocks.

A longer time was allowed for this difficult feature than in the foregoing bouts. Each side had 15 minutes in



DRIVING NAILS.

which to do their best. Afterward the papers, signed with the authors' names, were read aloud. They were hugely enjoyed by the opponents.

At the end of this supreme test points were collected and counted. The lady holding most of these received a book upon "The Ascent of Woman," while the male prizewinner was given a workbasket stocked with the instruments of domestic work, his future occupation.

The affair ended with a little dance, in which the ladies asked the gentlemen to tread a measure with them, and in other ways usurped the masculine prerogative. Again it was the girls, not the men, who conducted them into the dining-room.—Boston Globe.

Rest for Nervous Women.

Anyone who is nervous should be careful how she expends her energy. To rest should not be an art difficult of acquirement or one requiring a teacher—yet many know very little of it. If you are physically tired a very few minutes flat on your back is worth as a means of repair, an hour's sitting in a chair, but mind that it is flat, not reclining on a lounge, or with your spine bent out of shape in a deep chair in which your weight rests on any part of your body except the part intended to support it—above all, not in a rocking chair, that special trap for the nervous.—Chicago Daily News.

They Were Both Surprised.

A Delaware man who deserted his wife five years ago returned the other day and said he went away "just to have a joke on her." A few moments later the woman sprung a much richer joke on him by introducing her newer husband.

PRETTY LAURA CONGER.

Like the Princess in Fairy Land She Rewards Hero Who Saved Her at Peking.

Announcement of the coming marriage of Miss Laura Conger, daughter of the United States minister to China to Lieut. Fred P. Buchan, the dashing young American cavalry officer, has renewed public interest in the thrilling experiences which both of the betrothed persons encountered in the Celestial city.

The Chicago Chronicle says that the young man who was fortunate enough to form one of the relief expedition and to play a hero's part in the eyes of the rescued Americans and who has now reaped so rich a reward is lieutenant of troop K, Third cavalry, one of the fighting young soldiers whom the country sent to China.

The time was ripe for heroes when Lieut. Buchan first flashed his sword in Miss Conger's delighted sight. Week after week the distressed foreigners had huddled within their insecure shelter. Day by day slaughter, fire and bullets became more and more familiar spectacles. "Boxer" horrors were as common as summer showers. Daily the specter of death strode near. The food supply was practically gone, hope was dying and communication with home or with any part of the world had long been impossible.

Then, one Heaven-sent day, came the rescue party, and, well to the front of it, a tall, fearless figure of a certain young lieutenant. The way bristled with peril, yet Lieut. Buchan strode over dangers as if he did not see them. While not actually engaged in obeying the orders of his superiors, his only thought seemed to be the rescue of the women of the legation. And such comfort as one young soldier could give them Lieut. Buchan saw to it that they promptly had.

Lieut. Buchan is a Kansan. His father is W. J. Buchan, a well-known



MISS LAURA CONGER.

lawyer and politician of Kansas City. But Frederick Buchan had never a fancy for the dusty stillness of a lawyer's office. Kansas is a state of dauntless men, and young Buchan's particular hero happened to be a doughty little man of the name of Funston, who has since become famous and a general. In Funston's footsteps therefore he was determined to tread. And his heroic conduct at the siege of Peking was the first step toward that career.

Miss Conger was not the only American who admired the lieutenant's bravery. And so, when the horrors of war had subsided somewhat and a few weeks of comparative quiet had made a nearer acquaintance possible between the two, Lieut. Buchan asked for Mr. and Mrs. Conger's sanction to the engagement and it was cordially given.

The Congers have a special reason to delight in the affair, as they regard it in the light of a compensation to Laura for a tragedy which she has already suffered. Miss Conger is 29 years old, tall, graceful, fair-haired, a singularly gracious and lovely girl. But the sad look that you will sometimes notice in her eyes is the result of an unfortunate marriage which she made as a young girl.

Her husband, George Londrum, whom she had loved devotedly, proved altogether unworthy and the marriage turned out to be a deplorable mistake. After several years of misery, therefore, the girl secured a divorce and the right to return to her maiden name. Since then she has lived with her own family. George Londrum enlisted during the Spanish war, was wounded and died in a southern hospital.

Wherever she has been seen Laura Conger has been regarded as a brilliantly accomplished woman. She has been from childhood something of a mathematical prodigy and was for several years head bookkeeper in the Iowa state treasurer's office. She is a close friend and companion of her father and accompanied him on his last trip to Brazil, when he was minister to that country.

Keep Dish Towels Clean.

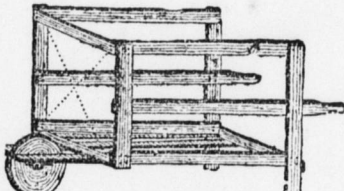
The dish-towel should be washed as regularly as the dishes, and should never be used more than once without a thorough rinsing at least, and if necessary a hot soap bath. This requires only a minute or two, and once the maid is trained to attend to it, it will become second nature to her. Few housekeepers send the dish-towels to the general wash, but make their cleansing a separate matter. About once a week, to keep them from becoming grimy, they should be scalded for 10 or 15 minutes in soapsuds, to which a little sal soda has been added, and then thoroughly rinsed and dried in the open air.



HANDY THING TO HAVE.

Straw and Hay Barrow That Will Be Found a Genuine Time and Labor Saver.

When straw is stacked outside the barn and some of it is wanted in the stable for feeding or bedding purposes, the usual plan is to carry in a little at a time on a fork or in a rope or strap sling. This, in the use of a fork, is anything but a speedy operation, next to impossible on a windy day, and with a sling a very unpleasant job in cold weather. The illustration shows an easily and cheaply made contrivance to facilitate moving the straw, which may also be useful for transporting small quantities of hay from place to place. To make it, procure first some light lath, say three-quarters by 2 inches, and



STRAW AND HAY BARROW.

make an almost square frame, using 11 of the lath pieces, as if making a box with one corner left out. On inside of this frame, at desired height, nail two heavier and longer pieces for handles. A couple of 3x1-inch boards, proper length, and with one end of each narrowed down to fit the hands, will answer for the handle pieces. On the bottom of frame, nail lath or boards, letting the two nearest to center project about six inches in front. These two should be a little heavier than the others, to prevent springing. Between the projecting ends, place a small wooden wheel six or eight inches in diameter. This wheel may be a circular piece cut from a 1 or 1½-inch board, and have a light iron band fitted on to keep it from splitting, or be a wheel from an old barrow or something similar. A light, wire spoke wheel from a toy wagon is excellent for the purpose. Axle on which wheel revolves is attached to under side of the projecting pieces of frame by a staple driven over it into each piece. The two rear upright pieces of frame extend down level with lower rim of the wheel to act as feet. Put braces across front, as indicated by dotted lines, to strengthen frame and hold in the straw. Other light strips may be tacked on side of frame to serve the same purpose. If the contrivance is made of the right material, it will combine strength with lightness, and be very durable. The exact dimensions may be made to suit the wishes of the builder. If made only 2½x3x4 feet, it will hold a considerable quantity of straw, and be found a time and labor saver for the work for which it is designed.—J. G. Allshouse, in Ohio Farmer.

MOISTENING THE EGGS.

The Pros and Cons of a Poultry Problem That Has Aroused General Attention.

We believe that as a rule sprinkling the eggs with warm water which are being incubated by the sitting hen is productive of harm rather than good. If the hen is free to leave the nest as she wills, and is not debarred from a run in the grass during her short respite from her duties, she will return to the nest with feathers laden with dew, and the eggs will not suffer for moisture, says Wallace's Farmer. In our early experience we regularly sprinkled the eggs the third day before the hatch was due. We had read about a cart load of poultry papers, and with a good deal of sound advice which they gave us, we gave undue weight to several articles which got the advantage of our callousness and made us believe that sprinkling the eggs was of prime importance. While still believing that under certain conditions it is attended with advantage it is only occasionally that we revert to the practice. During the late dry spell it occurred to us that something might be gained by returning to it. We had six hens engaged in hatching us out some late chicks. The eggs were due to hatch on the 15th of July. On the 12th we removed the eggs from four of the nests, and after dampening the earth upon which the nest was built, put them back. We did not apply any moisture to the other two nests. The result justifies the belief that under such circumstances as these the application of moisture is attended with advantage. From the four nests we took 38 chicks and from the other two only five chicks. The eggs were the same, and the hens were all about equally attentive to their duties. The exceptional dryness of the air and the absence of dew demanded a change from the usual order of things, and we are well convinced that we are well paid for the time it took to moisten those eggs. But we have sprinkled lots of eggs without gaining anything by it.

The arrival of the first cattle in this country is thus recorded in Gov. Bradford's history of Plymouth colony: "By this ship also came three heifers and a bull, the first of any cattle of that kind in ye land." This was in 1624.

ABUNDANCE OF FORAGE.

Orchard Grass Yields It Year After Year and Requires Hardly Any Attention.

Can anyone tell why orchard grass, one of the most common as well as one of the most valuable forage plants in the United States, is not better known and more appreciated? Many a farmer does not even recognize it at sight, though he has had chance to observe it all his life. A veritable gypsy, it has found a home in every country of Europe and America, in northern Africa and in Asia. Cheerfully adapting itself to all soils and conditions, it flourishes in wet or dry weather, sun or shade, and in a porous subsoil will send its roots to a great depth.

This perhaps accounts for its persistence. When once it has secured a foothold it may be relied upon to yield an abundance of forage year after year with no attention except that it thrives best under cropping. In the spring it is fit for pasturing considerably earlier than other grasses, and five days' growth will give a good bite. Its blossoming season is the same as that of red clover, and they are frequently sown together by farmers who have learned the value of the combination. A Kentucky stock grower who relies upon it for his pastures once said relative to its capacity for sustaining itself when other grasses are dried up: "It will make more growth in one summer day than blue grass will make in a week." Such a commendation from the land of the famous blue grass pastures is surely a great tribute to its good qualities.

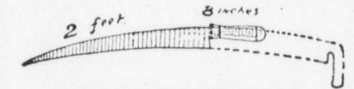
A farmer in northern Ohio has written enthusiastically of a piece of orchard grass on his own farm which seeded itself 26 years ago and which has been cut annually every June since. This season it stood higher than any in the vicinity and was so heavy that it lodged. For early sowing and long pasturage he considers it superior to any other grass, but he utters a caution about cutting it as soon as matured, for if allowed to get dead ripe it is of little account.

Like other drought resisting grasses it shows a disposition to grow in tussocks, but this may be prevented by thorough preparation of the ground before sowing and an abundance of seed uniformly distributed. Two bushels of seed to the acre are usually considered sufficient, or half that amount when sown with clover. It is said to be much less exhausting to the soil than timothy, which is so often grown with clover. It was introduced into England from Virginia in 1764, and is there so highly esteemed that it has taken rank as one of the most valuable forage plants produced in the "tight little island." The luxuriance of its aftermath makes it especially fine for pastures, and stock of all kinds relish it. Sheep, it is said, will leave all other grasses to feed upon it.—Farmer's Review.

CORN CUTTING KNIFE.

Blade Is Made from an Old Seythe and Inclosed with Two Pieces of Hard Wood.

For cutting corn the homemade knife, portrayed herewith, has been found very useful. The blade is cut from an old seythe, as shown by dotted



HOME-MADE CORN KNIFE.

lines. The blade is cut partly across, two feet, and a part hammered back eight inches, to use as a handle. It is then inclosed with two pieces of hickory or other hard wood, which may be held in place with wire bands.—Farm and Home.

Stacking Fodder Out-of-Doors.

An Iowa correspondent wants to know whether we would advise stacking corn fodder out-of-doors. We certainly do not advise such a practice, if the idea is to stack the fodder in the same way that hay is usually stacked in the western states; that is, by building it up in ricks and leaving it exposed to the fall and winter storms. If fodder is cut when in proper condition, and left in the shocks until it is thoroughly cured, it can then be stacked under cover to very good advantage; but a far better practice would be to get a good shredder and run the fodder through it, and then you will have as nice feeding product as you would care to handle; besides in this way you save the expense of husking the corn by hand.—Prairie Farmer.

Turning Pigs Into Pasture.

Harvey Johnson, of Iowa, says: When our litters are of sufficient age to turn out we usually put two and sometimes three litters together in a pasture where there is a good warm and dry building and plenty of good grass. Near where the sows feed is a small inclosure with a low trough in it, and by a little persuasion and some tempting bits of food we expect to have the pigs feeding nicely at three to four weeks of age. The feed is increased as their capacity for handling it is increased, but we are careful to underfeed rather than overfeed—feeding no more at any time than they will eat clean. We allow them to run with the dams till they wean them, unless we wish to breed the sows again.

Keep the Colts Growing.

If the pasture is not what it should be the colts should have a feed of oats daily. A few bushels of oats fed to a well-bred yearling when the pasture gets old and the flies bad will be well invested. A great many horses are stunted their first winter, and a great many do not get a chance to make it up their second summer—their first summer away from their dams. Keep them growing—the buyer wants good-sized ones.—National Stockman.

PE-RU-NA AVERTS DANGER

In That Critical Time When a Girl Becomes a Woman.



MISS BESSIE KELLOG.

Miss Bessie Kellog, President of the Young Woman's Club, of Valley City, North Dakota, writes the following from First street, South, Valley City, North Dakota:

"Ever since I matured I suffered with severe monthly pains. The doctor did not seem to understand what the trouble was and the medicine he prescribed from time to time did not help me. He finally suggested that I have an operation. One of my friends who had been cured of a similar affliction through the use of Peruna, advised me to give it a trial first, and so I used it for three weeks faithfully. My pains diminished very soon and within two months I had none at all.

"This is six months ago, and during that time I have not had an ache nor pain. I give highest praise to Peruna. Every woman ought to use it, and I feel sure that it will bring perfect health."—BESSIE KELLOG.

The experience of Miss Bessie Kellog, of North Dakota, ought to be read by every girl in the land. It is a critical period in a woman's life when she ceases to be a girl and becomes a woman. Very few pass through this period without some trouble. The doctor is

called and he generally advises an operation. Perhaps he will subject the patient to a long series of experiments with nervines and tonics. The reason he does not often make a cure is because he does not recognize the trouble.

In a large majority of the cases catarrh of the female organs is the cause. Peruna relieves these cases promptly because it cures the catarrh. Peruna is not a palliative or a sedative or a nerve or a stimulant. It is a specific for catarrh and cures catarrh wherever it may lurk in the system.

This girl was lucky enough to find Peruna at last. As she says, the doctors did not seem to understand what the trouble was and the medicine he prescribed from time to time did not help her. Peruna hit the mark at once and she is now recommending this wonderful remedy to all the other girls in the United States.

Thousands of the girls who look at her beautiful face and read her sincere testimonial, will be led to try Peruna in their times of trouble and critical periods. Peruna will not fail them. Every one of them will be glad and it is to be hoped that their enthusiasm will lead them to do as this girl did—proclaim the fact to the world so that others may read it and do likewise.

Mrs. Christopher Flehmann, Amsterdam, N. Y., writes:

"I have been sick with catarrh of the stomach and pelvic organs for about five years, and had many a doctor, but none could help me. Some said I would never get over it. One day when I read your almanac I saw those who had been cured by Peruna; then I thought I would try it. I did, and found relief with the first bottle I took, and after two more bottles I was as well and strong as I was before."—Mrs. Christopher Flehmann.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

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MILD BUT SURE Cascarets never grip nor gripe. They act quietly, positively and never cause any kind of uncomfortable feeling. Taken regularly they make the liver act regularly and naturally as it should. They keep the sewerage of the body properly moving and keep the system clean.

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