



ETHICS OF WIDOWHOOD.

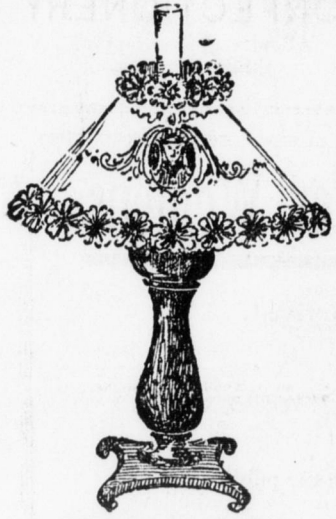
Mourning Reduced to a Fine Art by New York Women of Wealth and Leisure.

One frequently hears that the wearing of mourning is no longer fashionable. They who doubt should visit among the smart set in New York. On the day of the funeral a long English crepe bow is attached to the knocker, with white Japanese chrysanthemums arranged at intervals down the streamers. For the first period of mourning the coachman and footman are obliged to appear in black.

The New York widow is graceful and quiet. She understands the chief effect much better than her western sisters. She has an air of individuality which enchants even the casual observer. She always uses correct materials and appropriate trimmings. Her veil is draped with a coquettish effect, but it is only in the first weeks of her sorrow that it is ever permitted to hang over her face. Soon she discards it, and a becoming short veil of Brussels is used instead.

The New York widow is never seen with that narrow edge of white set in her bonnet. She looks on it with repugnance, because it attracts attention. It tells all the world that she is a widow in the second stage of grief, and that is not consistent with the ethics of unhappiness. All the toilets of her first black are trimmed with English crepe, an expensive melancholy material that clings to the figure in a most graceful way. She believes in being eminently proper and doing all that etiquette desires of a mourner.

When second mourning days arrive she wears soft folds of white crepe lisse at the throat; then come lav-



THE MOURNING LAMP.

ender and all the attendant shades of violet.

There are many eccentric ideas in regard to the relations in New York, and in search for some of these novelties the correspondent has come across a most unique bit of furniture. It is in the shape of a mourning lamp. In the New York home of a well-known society matron, whose sister died abroad a few years ago, there is a room furnished in remembrance of the deceased relative. Everything in the room is black, save the carpet, which was made to order and has a violet background, with black flowers standing out upon it in somber relief. The furniture is of richly carved ebony. The curtains are black satin brocade, and all the ornaments are black.

But, says the Chicago Record-Herald, the oddest bit of decoration is the lamp, the only light producing ornament in the room. It is black enamel, and stands 18 inches high. The shade is made of China silk, and a miniature of the sister is painted upon it.

Each year at the anniversary of her relative's death this New York matron has memorial services held in the room, which is the only time that it is ever entered.

What Neurasthenia Means.

No word is so common in these days as neurasthenia; yet it is not easy to define, and many of those who use it have only the vaguest idea of what it means. The word originated with a New York physician and the malady indicated thereby has usually been regarded as a distinctively American one, though it is found in most countries of the civilized world, and the unfortunate Mrs. Carlyle is now declared by Sir James Crichton Brown to have been "neurotic." Wear and tear, storm and stress, a badly regulated life, in short, are the causes usually assigned for this derangement of function resulting from the exhaustion of nervous energy, but defects of nutrition have much to do with it, and the solution of the problem, as in many other cases, may rest ultimately with the cook.—Chicago News.

A Change for the Better.

"Farewell, then," he cried, melodramatically, "you will regret your refusal of my proffered love. I shall take to drink, and then—suicide!" "Oh, don't say that!" the fair girl pleaded.

"I am resolved," he said. "I shall not change my plans unless—"

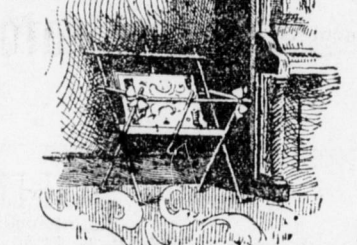
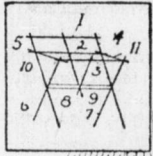
"Oh, change them just a little. I should hate to think I drove you to drink; try suicide first."—Philadelphia Ledger.

UNIQUE MUSIC RACK.

How a Bright Woman Utilized Broomsticks and Brains to Excellent Advantage.

What a perplexing combination it is, that of luxurious tastes and consumptive pocketbooks, and how many of us suffer from it in different degrees! To the very poor it is, of course, a tragedy, but to that great army of people whose moderate incomes supply them the necessities of life, but to whom the luxuries are a forbidden joy, it is formidable enough. How often the wife or daughter sighs for some dainty addition to the parlor or sitting-room, which the many demands on the purse make impossible. To such a timely suggestion, together with a small amount of confidence and clever fingers, is invaluable and will work wonders. Broomsticks and brains are especially a happy combination.

I have in mind a long cherished dream of my own, now brought to full realization.



IMPROVED MUSIC RACK.

Sticks marked 1, 2 and 3 should be 28 inches long; 4 and 5, 29 inches; 6 and 7, 22 inches; 8 and 9, 23 inches, and 10 and 11, 18 inches.

tion through the above medium, the telling of which may benefit some ambitious sister. I had the parlor and the piano, which are necessities, but I wanted a music rack or case, which in the condition of my finances then was a luxury, so I set my wits to work, and this is what they evolved—a music-rack which answers every possible requirement of utility and beauty.

Having collected 11 broomsticks, I cut them to the lengths desired—three of them 28 inches long, two 29 inches, two 32 inches, two 23 inches, and two 18 inches, and whittled the ends round. Then with a gimlet I bored holes, and fastened the sticks together with screws in the manner illustrated. At the center crossing of the sawhorse I fastened a thin, smooth board about two inches wide, and another on each side, making a sort of trough for the music to stand in. When completed it is just three feet high and two feet two inches long, and when painted white with a coat of enamel, it makes a pretty piece of furniture. A dash of gold paint or a bright ribbon wound between the sticks would further improve its appearance.

Now, I am only a girl, neither mentally brilliant nor physically strong, but the idea is original with me, and my own hands did the work. The result was a piece of furniture that invariably calls for the remark: "Where did you get such a quaintly pretty music-rack?" Try it, sister, and I think you will be pleased.—M. Estelle Smith-Hymers, in Farm and Fireside.

VALUE OF SOUND FEET.

Beauty Don'ts for Women Who Want to Have Trim Feet and Best of Health.

Don't neglect the care of the feet. There is an intimate connection between the feet and the complexion. It is only when the former are in good condition that a woman looks her best.

Don't fail to put on a fresh pair of stockings daily. A single night's exposure to the air is insufficient to free stockings of moisture.

Don't wear woolen stockings. Cotton ones are always preferable, except for persons who suffer from perspiration.

Don't wear tight, stiff or ill-fitting shoes or boots. They are the common cause of corns, causing pressure or friction on the projections of the bones.

Don't wear rubber overshoes in the house. Remove them at once. They interfere with the proper ventilation of the feet, as they are air-tight. If worn too much they cause tender feet, dizziness and headache.

Don't spend so much time learning the art of manicuring that there is no opportunity to practice pedicuring. Take a few lessons from an expert chiropodist.

Don't attempt to treat a corn without first bathing the feet in warm water.

Don't use the chisel when a bit of pumice stone will answer the purpose.

Don't cut the nails round. Make them square. If rounded like finger nails there is danger of their growing in, and nothing is more painful than an ingrown nail.

Don't go to bed with cold, damp feet, if you wish to preserve your health. From a hygienic point of view, a wet back should be less shunned than wet or cold feet.

Don't stand for any length of time on snow or ice or the cold ground. Many diseases may be traced to cold suddenly applied to the feet.

Don't think that a foot is beautiful because it is small. It must be in proportion to the stature—the instep moderately high, the toes regular, the heel non-protruding and the general outline graceful.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

White Spots on Furniture.

White spots on polished furniture may be removed by rubbing the spot with spirits of camphor until the color is restored.

What a Question.

Maud—I drove 'way over there to get him and then he was gone!

Alice—He couldn't have seen you coming, could he, dear?—Town Topics.

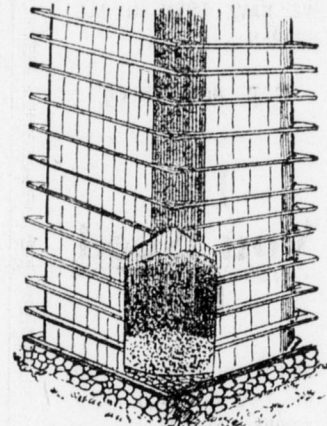


CHEAP PRACTICAL SILO.

Hints Given to the Connecticut Dairy-men's Association by Edward Van Alstyne.

The silo must be practically airtight. It must be strong and durable, and should be constructed as economically as possible. I believe a good silo is the round silo, but whether the round silo is going to give the satisfaction that some think, I am not so sure. In the stave silo the lumber being uneven, it may be inclined to rot out in some places, and give more or less trouble. One thing is certain, if you build a round silo, you must build a good deal better one than if you build a square one.

For hoops, five-eighths-inch wire rope is very satisfactory. It can be bought for the same price as the rods, but the



PLAN OF CONSTRUCTION.

tensile strength of the five-eighths-inch rope is very much greater than the tensile strength of the iron rod, and it has this advantage, that it gives and takes the expansion and contraction of heat and cold better, and only needs one buckle or coupling, and it is very much more easy to put around. The round silo is best in one respect, and that is because it has no corners.

The picture shows a silo that anybody can build, who has the lumber. It is economical, strong and tight. I have three of this kind, and speak whereof I know. One has been filled, this is the thirteenth winter, and another one has been filled for nine winters. Anyone can build one of this sort who can handle a level and saw, or use a hammer and nails, and a good thing about them is that they can be set anywhere and made to conform to the size of the barn, if you want to put them inside.

The picture shows clearly how the silo is built. The foundation is below frost, made of stones laid in cement mortar. On this is placed sills of two by six or two by eight. Matched pine siding is stood up and braced by two by eight or two by ten-inch scantling, placed as shown. The corners are put in on a bevel to avoid the square corner, and also to allow of braces to strengthen the silo.

A second thickness of siding should be put on to break joints. Do not use paper between the boards, as it will rot out. I have a silo built of single boards of six-inch matched pine. The lumber was as dry as I could get it, and put together as tight as possible, but I found after the first year that those boards would shrink apart a little, and that many places would never get tight again. That is the danger of the single-board silo, and also the danger of the poorly constructed round silo.

TEMPORARY GOOD ROADS.

The "Dragging" System Has Many Points in Its Favor and Certainly Is Worth Trying.

Even the most ardent advocate of road dragging can claim only that it is an excellent makeshift. Its chief exponent, Mr. D. W. King, of Maitland, Mo., has written at length on the hows and whys of this system, and his article, "The What Next of the Good Roads Problem?" has been published in a bulletin by the Missouri board of agriculture. The matter is receiving considerable attention throughout the state, and many smooth hard stretches of road testify to the efficiency of this system as a substitute for the permanent stone road. The stone road requires attention. Let no one think that a pike once made takes care of itself. The writer knows of several miles of excellent macadamized and graveled roads in St. Louis county, which, under the pressure of excessive heavy hauling during the freeze-and-thaw period this spring, became cut through so disastrously as to require considerable expense in repairs. It is fair to say that in this case the drainage, while good, was not perfect. Whether a similar expenditure of time and energy devoted to grading and smoothing our common dirt roads at exactly the critical moment will justify the claims of the adherents of this system is a question easily disposed of, as the equipment is inexpensive. An eight-foot eight-inch log split in two, the pieces fastened together with the flat sides to the front, is all. We are not apt to be troubled with muddy roads for awhile, but the results secured by smoothing the roads after each spring rain are so satisfactory as to warrant a trial of the split log drag. As a Missouri man said recently: "You cannot talk long enough or hard enough to a man to make him believe what it will do. The only way for him to comprehend it is to build a drag and use it."—Rural World.

BETTER ROADS WANTED.

Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress Favorably Impressed by Brownlow Bill.

The Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, which held its fourteenth annual session at Seattle, Wash., not long ago, took up the subject of good roads for consideration for the first time. It was a noticeable fact that whatever difference of opinion there might have been as to other questions under consideration, there was absolute unanimity prevailing as to the good roads question, and the necessity for a general cooperation between the United States and the different states or civil subdivisions thereof, to hasten their permanent improvement. The subject was thoroughly discussed by R. W. Richardson, of Omaha, Neb.; James W. Abbott, of Nevada, Col.; Hon. Martin Dodge, director of the office of public road inquiries, Washington, D. C., and many delegates from different states and territories.

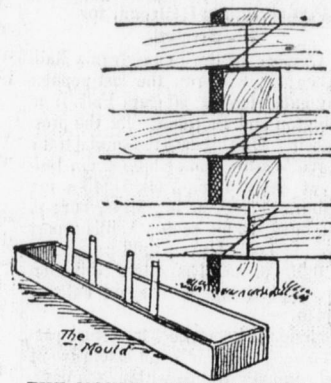
Director Dodge has just returned to his desk in Washington. In an interview with a representative of the press Mr. Dodge has the following to say regarding the sentiment for better roads at the Trans-Mississippi congress:

"The point was clearly made that many of the interior states and territories, especially in the mountain districts, have no navigable rivers and harbors, and that, therefore, they receive only remote and indirect benefits from the expenditure of the vast sums of money appropriated for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and that it would be just and equitable if the general government should lend its assistance to the building and maintaining certain public highways through such states and territories. It was not contended that the United States government should bear the total cost of building such roads, but that they should pay a contributory share not to exceed one-half, as provided for in the Brownlow bill. This was thought to be more just on account of the fact that the burden of raising the enormous revenues of the United States government rests as much upon the people in the rural states and districts as upon all other classes combined. The revenues of the general government approximate ten dollar per capita per annum, whereas the revenue of the state governments is only about one dollar per capita. The revenues of the general government are so large, and are raised in such a manner by indirect taxation, that there would be neither hardship nor inequity if the United States should bear a considerable portion of the costs of improving some of the principal highways in the various states and territories. It would seem that the best and most equitable method would be to require the United States to pay a portion of the cost, the state a portion, the county a portion, and the property owners in the vicinity of the road a portion."

A STONE FENCE POST.

Where Permanent Improvement is Desired It Might Be Well to Give It a Trial.

The idea is worth trying. A stone fencepost will not rot. On ground alternately wet and dry, wooden posts do not last long. Make an open box for a mold, of the shape and size de-



THE MOULD AND THE WALL.

sired for the posts. Bore holes in the bottom where holes are desired in the posts. Insert long wooden pins, as shown. Make the sides and ends of the mold slightly flaring, that the post may be gently turned out. After the box has been filled and the cement "set," the pins can be pulled out, leaving the holes in the post, through which fence wire can be passed to bind the boards or stakes, as shown. Dry gradually, out of the sun, to prevent cracking.—Farm Journal.

Good Roads and Schools.

Good roads are absolutely essential to the development of good schools in the rural districts, and both together are necessary to the progress of civilization in this country. Good roads are scarce, partly because the need of them is not sufficiently recognized and partly because so few know how to make them even when they try. Good schools are scarce for precisely the same reasons. When a country schoolhouse looks like an abandoned outbuilding and has the worst piece of road in the neighborhood leading up to it, that district may always be considered an excellent district in which not to buy a farm.—Prairie Farmer.

Water Required by Horses.

Less water is required when the ration consists largely of concentrated feeds than when large amounts of coarse fodder are consumed. Of course when green, succulent feeds are given the amount of water needed is comparatively small. Horses consume from 25 to 90 pounds of water a day, depending upon the amount of labor they perform. At the Oklahoma station a pair of mules during hot weather drank 250 pounds in one day. The feed at that time consisted of kafir corn, ordinary field corn, oats and bran.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Easy to Get.

Pierpont, O., Oct. 5th.—Remarkable indeed is the experience of Mr. A. S. Turner, a man now over seventy-one years of age, and whose home is here.

For many years this old gentleman had suffered with a very unpleasant form of kidney trouble, a kind that very often bothers aged people. He would have to get up four or five times every night, and this very tiresome disease was last wearing him out.

At last after having almost made up his mind that he would never be able to get relief, he stumbled over a medicine which relieved him almost immediately, and has cured him permanently. It is so very easy to get and so simple that Mr. Turner thinks everybody should know it. Every dealer in the country has it, and all you have to do is to ask for Dodd's Kidney Pills. Mr. Turner says:—

"I can heartily and honestly recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills, for they cured me. Several others in the family have used them, too, and always with the best results. I think they have no equal."

"Tried to skin me, that scribbler did!" "What did he want?" "Wanted to get out a book jointly, he to write the book and I to write the advertisements. I turned him down. I wasn't going to do all the literary work!"—Baltimore News.

A Good Thing.

Every issue of The Four-Track News makes it easier for ticket agents and ticket sellers to secure passengers for distant parts of the country, for the reason that every article and every illustration in The Four-Track News is an inducement for readers to travel and see what a marvelous variety of scenery and climate our own country possesses. The more these facts are impressed upon the average person, the more certain he or she is to have a desire to travel. Therefore, The Four-Track News is not only in the interest of all the transportation lines and hotels, it also bears out the legend of its title page of "An Illustrated Magazine of Travel and Education."—From the Buffalo Commercial.

When a man's sunstroke he faints, but when he's moonstruck he proposes.—Chicago Tribune.

Stops the Cough.

and works off the cold. Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Price 25 cents. Luck is important. But for luck, the fool might never have any money to part with.—Puck.

Three trains a day Chicago to California, Oregon and Washington, Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line.

He—"And at last they agreed to marry." She—"Yes, and it was the last thing they agreed on."—Denver Republican.

Do not believe Pisco's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—J. F. Boyer, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1900.

The trouble-peddler will never lack customers in this world.—N. O. Times-Democrat.

Three solid through trains daily Chicago to California. Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line.

He who begins low can go up higher.—Farm and Home.

Economy is the road to wealth. Putnam Fadeless Dye is the road to economy.

The affluence of a life may be known by its every man fondly thinks he is a little odd.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.

He laughs best who sees the point of the joke first.—Chicago Daily News.

Mr. Borem—"I can't imagine why she was out when I called." Miss Pert—"Why, didn't you just tell me she knew you were coming?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

The leading literary man of this community informs us that he will not make enough on his cotton to pay off the mortgage on his latest novel.—Atlanta Constitution.

Fond Mother (who is sure the visitor would like to hear her infant prodigy on the violin): "Johnnie is so far advanced that now we can almost tell whether he is tuning or playing."—Punch.

Mrs. Billing—"My husband is immoderately fond of poetry." Mrs. Folair—"That is what I was thinking when I saw him reading one of his own poems this evening."—Boston Transcript.

"Yes," said Miss Howells, after her solo. "I intend to go abroad to finish my musical education." "Huh!" snorted Miss Growells. "Why not finish it right now, and save the expense?"—Philadelphia Press.

Stranger—"Are the waiters here attentive to you?" Pretty Cashier—"Sir-r-r-r!" Stranger—"Oh, no offense, I assure you. I was only carrying out the instructions as printed on the bill of fare, which says: 'Please report any inattention of waiters to cashier.' And I thought if they were inattentive to you I would report them—that's all."—Baltimore American.

Keep Their Jaws Free. Twenty-five years ago college students cultivated the hair on their faces more than do the students of to-day. A picture of the Columbia college boat crew which won the Henley challenge cup in 1878 discloses the fact that not one of the young men had a smooth face. Two of them wore mustaches, two mustaches and side-whiskers, and one had side-whiskers only. The present-day student cultivates the hair on the top of his head, but leaves his jaw and mouth unencumbered for the college yell.—Youth's Companion.

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