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STAMPS AS WALL PAPER. Philadelphia Girl Has Unique Decoration for "Den." For more than fourteen years, or, to be exact, since March 26, 1891, Miss Sadie Dixon of Keystone street has arduously collected canceled postage stamps, with the purpose of covering the walls of her "den." At last the task has been completed and the room presents an appearance resembling the mosaic tapestry of olden times. The room is 10x15 feet. The paper was made into panels 28 inches wide, on white linen, which were then placed together by a narrow walnut molding. The stamps were accumulated so quickly that by the end of the first year two panels were finished the first containing 6,004 stamps. The ground of the paper design is made up of English penny stamps. By July 1894, seven panels were completed. Almost every country is represented in the center of one panel is a blue triangular Cape of Good Hope, and another a white Royal Mint, London. After Miss Dixon found that there would not be any difficulty in getting the required number of stamps, having one week received through the mail 14,000 little cars was taken in the number stamp on each panel, until the total reached 99,998.—Philadelphia Record.

FARM AND GARDEN

THE CARE OF THE BROOD MARE.

A contributor to Farm and Ranch says: There is probably no animal on the farm which pays the farmer a greater profit than a good brood-mare. If a man is in debt or is trying to pay off a mortgage, I would advise the brood-mare rather than hogs. Some say that the hog has helped pay off so many mortgages, and has so often helped the poor man out, but I know of cases where the hogs have left him still further in. And this is the case sometimes with horses, but not so often. The good brood-mare will help the poor farmer pay off the mortgage quicker than anything. The good mare will do just about as much work, and raise a colt, which will sell for a nice sum at the end of the season. Some will say that they know of men who went into the horse business and lost; but if they tell it all you will know of men who failed in all branches of farming. Failure in getting a profit out of the good brood-mare was certainly on account of neglect of business. Under bad management what profit could you get out of hogs? The farm-team of good brood-mares is the best piece of property which the farmer owns, and with proper care will give a good profit in the way of work, and also in the colts, which will bring in some cash in the fall. But if the mare is expected to do all this, she must have the best care. The mare should have proper feed and daily exercise. The mare is performing a double duty in supplying material for her own body and food for the colt, and it should not be forgotten that this double work requires a little extra care if the mare is expected to milk her own. Where many people miss it is in not feeding the proper feed or grain. In many sections of the country where corn is the prevailing crop, the horse is fed on corn as an exclusive grain ration. This is a great mistake. Corn is far from the best grain; it is too heating for the work-horse and the brood-mare, as both require something besides heat and fat. The best grain for horses is oats, for it furnishes the materials necessary for strength, and you will always notice that the horse fed on oats feels like work and is ready to go. Oats furnishes the needed vitality for the mare and for the colt, and she should have it with the best hay and pasture when possible. Exercise is also needed to keep the muscles developed, and here is another point often neglected. When idle, always turn your horses in the lot to exercise every day. Especially does the brood-mare need this exercise. You will find the best condition powders in a daily supply of oats. The mare can have light daily work, but never over-work her. Provide good water and salt all the time, and keep her in a comfortable stall.

SHOEING YOUNG HORSES. Trouble comes in this work when there is improper handling the first time the colt is shod, so that before the colt is taken to the blacksmith for the first time he should be prepared for shoeing by handling his legs in such a careful manner that he will understand that he is not to be harmed. The rule invariably is to take the colt to the blacksmith first. This is a poor plan. We have found the following method to be an excellent one in preparing the most vicious colts for shoeing. Tie a long strap around the colt's neck, passing it along the near side and between the hind legs, bringing it to fit close to the body; then pass it under the strap which is around the neck; then tighten up the strap gradually, holding the colt by the bridle, lower it to a point just above the hock and gradually pull upon the strap until you have lifted the leg, at the same time pull back or to the side on the bridle to keep him from stepping ahead; then take the leg in your hand. The same thing can be done with the other leg, and after the process has been gone through several times you will be surprised to find how easy it is to lift any of the colt's legs.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

THE MAD ITCH. Perhaps there is no domestic animal known, unless it may be the camel, that will go so long without water as sheep, and when they do drink it is sparingly. But this is no reason why one should neglect sheep, especially if running on dry pasture or fed dry feeds. And to let cattle into stock pasture with insufficient water at hand, is simply ruinous to their health if not decidedly dangerous. What is commonly known as the "Mad Itch" is caused by nothing more than dry feed; corn blades and stalks eaten without sufficient water to soften and break them up, being the most common means of bringing it about. Cattle consume great quantities of water if allowed free access to it, and cows in full milk, or really at any time while giving milk, require nearly twice the amount that other cattle require. So don't forget to provide plenty of water as the times of dry feeding are the times when the cattle will suddenly go wild and die with the "Mad Itch"—Ida M. Shepler in the Epitomist.

MUCK LANDS AND FERTILIZERS. Field tests and chemical examinations of these soils agree in pointing out that the element always lacking in these soils is potash. Where the land will produce no sound corn, 200 pounds per acre of muriate of potash should be used. Where a moderate crop of corn can be raised, 100 pounds per acre will be enough. On the muck lands that contain considerable sand it often pays to use some phosphoric acid in addition to the above amounts of potash. This can be obtained by using 100 pounds of acid phosphate or steamed bone per acre. When it is impossible to reduce the water level to more than two feet below the surface, the use of 250 pounds of muriate of potash per acre has resulted in profitable corn crops. On the L. G. Nice farm, in Tippecanoe County, the use of 250 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre on muck, having a water level at planting of 14 inches and at harvest of 24 inches, gave 42.3 bushels of corn per acre, while the plots on which no potash was used gave 16.2 bushels. On potash plots 90.2 per cent. of the corn was sound, while on plots to which no potash was applied, only 69 per cent. was sound. The muriate of potash should be applied broadcast before plowing or after plowing and before harvesting. Do not apply it in the hill with a fertilizer attachment, since it is so concentrated and so soluble that it may retard or prevent germination, unless it should rain very soon after the crop is planted. While it is not customary to apply potash salts to such lands until their productivity is reduced, some experiments conducted last year on lands that were plowed for the first time, proved that it was profitable to use it on the first crop, the increased value of the crop on the fertilized plots over that on the unfertilized being nearly three times the cost of the fertilizer.

VALUE OF THE "BOB WHITE." In a year book of the Department of Agriculture notes are given on the distribution, habits and economic importance of this bird. The quail is considered as of importance in destroying weed seeds and insects and in furnishing food and sport. A study was made of 801 stomach contents of quails, collected every month of the year in twenty-one States, Canada, and the District of Columbia. An examination of the food showed that 14.93 per cent. was animal matter and 85.05 vegetable. Seeds from 50.78 per cent. of the food for the year. The majority of this seed is from weeds of which sixty species are represented. The author estimates that in the State of Virginia alone quails destroy 573 tons of weed seeds annually. Grain forms only about one-fourth of the food, while large numbers of potato beetles, cucumber beetles, chinch bugs, and other injurious insects are eaten.—Weekly Witness.

LIME AND GRIT FOR POULTRY. Did you ever use old plaster and lime mortar, for poultry? If not, try it. It can generally be had for the mere gathering of it up and contains the two main elements for poultry, especially laying hens—lime for eggs and bones, and grit for grinding their feed. It is easily broken up for use, is cheap and is just what they need.—Lewis S. Alter in the Epitomist.

The seals of Newfoundland are not fur-bearing, but are killed in large numbers for their skins and fat.

growth is retarded. An experiment with onions on muck land at Nappanee, Indiana, gave the following results: No fertilizer, 300 bushels per acre; 400 pounds sulphate of potash, 400 bushels per acre; 400 pounds bone, 240 pounds blood, 500 bushels per acre; 160 pounds sulphate of potash, 400 pounds bone, 240 pounds blood, 400 bushels per acre; while 500 pounds of a mixed fertilizer containing its nitrogen and phosphoric acid in more soluble forms and the potash in the same form as before, gave a yield of 795 bushels per acre. These results indicate that for onions and truck crops on these soils a complete fertilizer containing, in soluble forms, nitrogen 2 to 3 per cent, phosphoric acid, 6 to 8 per cent and potash 8 to 10 per cent will be found profitable. The average amount used per acre has been about 500 pounds, but two or three times this amount could be profitable used. The most successful growers recommended 1,000 pounds per acre.—W. J. Jones, Jr., Associate Chemist, in Newspaper Bulletin No. 118.

TINSEL PICTURES. Tinsel pictures are among the curious and interesting works of art now being unearthed by the thousands of searchers for antiques. The woman who is fortunate enough to have had some of the possessions of her ancestors handed down from the beginning of the last century will find these pictures, with others in which the figures are formed from hair framed in funny old moldings built from acorn or tiny opalescent shells. The tinsel picture is really a quaint, colored or steel engraving, decorated with glittering spots of tinsel, while the garments of the personages figuring therein are treated to insertions of silk and satin, together with ornaments of lace and metallic thread. A clever young woman in England has recently revived this art, and her work is even finer than that seen in the very old pictures. She employs genuine old prints for her backgrounds while the gorgeous raiments of the figures are embroidered and inset with every conceivable form of silk, brocade, lace, net, velvet, cloth of metal, and even ivory and real jewels, the old-fashioned costumes allowing any amount of elaboration. Several of her pictures have been brought over by American tourists. Copies of the old masters, such as Van Dyck and Holbein, and prints of famous early actresses, furnish many of her backgrounds, though curious fashion plates of the 1830 period present wonderful possibilities in this delicate but effective art work. Among the oldest engravings is one dated 1540, which shows the mayoress of London in calling costume. The background is left undecorated save for a wash of water color on the stiff "Noah's Ark" trees. The mayoress, however, is arrayed in dead rose silk over green, her brown and gold bodice being practically concealed by a lace tippet and her head adorned by a silken hat. An 1830 print shows Mrs. Andrew Jackson in hooped skirt and voluminous sleeves. The double-floated skirt of pink silk has a front panel of satin brocade in pink velvet roses, and each flounce is edged with gold thread in leaf design. Over these flounces, but not covering the panel, is an all-lace skirt of fine Brussels net finished with wide lace edging. This net also covers the pink silk sleeves and bodice, and forms a deep circular bertha edged with gold thread about the square low neck. The big picture bonnet is built of Brussels lace edging, trimmed with tiny green and pink flowers and wee satin bows tied under the chin with green satin streamers. Considering that these prints are usually not over 16 inches in length, their decoration is a work of infinite detail and marvellous delicacy.—Bridgeport Telegram.

Another aid to beauty, however, may be seen in the present style of footwear, and that is the narrowing of the toe. The bulldog toe, the shape which was affected to such an extent by nearly all women several years ago, has gone, never to return, says a shoe dealer, and in its place has come the daintier, more feminine, narrow toe. Little folks dresses. The princess petticoat is an important item, and is made in linen or white silk. The simplest princess petticoat is cut with gores all in one, from neck to hem. Another model has an added flounce, and a third way to make it is with a long, plain waist sewed to a skirt, gathered at the waist, the garment being sleeveless or otherwise. Overalls in art linen, honeycombed or gauzed, with or without yokes of lace, and colored in cress green, turquoise blue, or raspberry pink, are useful. Little girl below her teens is cut with a stole front into which is gathered the actual fronts and back of the coat, the stole being stitched at both ends and fastened with small buttons put in in gumps of three. The sleeves are full and conclude in frills. With this is worn a little bonnet. Never since embroidery was invented has it been more used for any purpose than for adorning the garments of the little ones. Borderie anglaise is proper for little girls, a collar being absent or present, according to preference, while the shape of the yoke is now round, now square, and the edge scalloped or plain. Bishop sleeves and short puff sleeves are the two leading vogues in connection with frocks for little children. Nothing of its class has superseded in favoritism the long waisted French frock with a sash drawn down to the hips and tied into a big bow at the back or a knot at the left side. A simple dress of this sort of pale blue china silk has an insertion yoke of lace to match, the cuffs to the bishop sleeves being also of lace.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

DRESSING TABLE MOTTO. "Fasten the ends" is the motto which the tidy girl hangs over her dressing table. She never suggests a frayed or mussed ribbon, nor matters how exquisite its coloring. Even the men are quick to note trifling carelessness in grooming, while the untidy girl is severely criticised by members of her own sex. For this reason inventors and shopkeepers are constantly offering first aids to tidiness, and any little appliance and trimness of a woman's appearance commands a good sale, says the Philadelphia Press. As the face naturally attracts the first glance, the arrangement of the hair and the adjustment of the hat and veil are points upon which the tidy girl expends infinite pains. Next to the importance of keeping the hair in good condition ranks that of dressing it neatly, and the present fashion of arranging the hair low requires an exceptional number of combs. The best arrangement calls for four combs of uniform size about two inches square. Two of these are used to keep rolls in place, and two in good order the many stray locks which persist in falling about the forehead and over the ears. The comb of the hour among girls who prefer simplicity in dress is of light amber, severely plain, but highly polished. To match these come very long hairpins with knob ends like balls. The fancy comb of celluloid and the cheap jeweled comb are not considered good form, and only for dressy occasions does the girl who possesses such an extravagance bring forth her comb of real tortoise shell or amber, studded with gems. Never would she wear such a comb with a severe tailored gown or shirt-waist suit. WALKING SHOES. Warm days make some think of low shoes, and this year they are lovelier than ever. The latest thing are walking pumps. These come in black patent leather, Russian calf, and white canvas or linen, and are a sort of compromise between a dainty slipper and a common sense low shoe. They have the Cuban heel and medium-weight sole, and are cut out like a slipper, leaving the instep exposed. A flat made ribbon bow or the same color as the pump is the only decoration, says the Boston Traveler.

WOMAN'S WORLD

The walking pump, it is seen, is of real use for semi-dress wear, but it should never be allowed to fill the place of the blucher. These alone are correct to be worn with simple everyday woolen walking skirts. Of the two the blucher is undoubtedly the more popular, although it differs from the Oxford only in having an open vamp. The black and tan are favorites in this style in the heavy-weight class, and come with two, three or four holes, laced up with wide silk strings or ribbons. In the lighter weight Oxfords and kid bluchers there are patent leather and kid in black, white, dark brown, tan and champagne. In the evening slipper one finds dozens of colors besides the standard black and white, which, with the hosiery, must match my lady's gown. None of the seasonable footwear, with the exception of the daintiest slippers, has the true French heel. The Cuban heel rules this season, and thankful indeed are the majority of women, for few of them can balance gracefully on the slender curved sticks which are supposed to make the foot look pretty and small. Another aid to beauty, however, may be seen in the present style of footwear, and that is the narrowing of the toe. The bulldog toe, the shape which was affected to such an extent by nearly all women several years ago, has gone, never to return, says a shoe dealer, and in its place has come the daintier, more feminine, narrow toe. Little folks dresses. The princess petticoat is an important item, and is made in linen or white silk. The simplest princess petticoat is cut with gores all in one, from neck to hem. Another model has an added flounce, and a third way to make it is with a long, plain waist sewed to a skirt, gathered at the waist, the garment being sleeveless or otherwise. Overalls in art linen, honeycombed or gauzed, with or without yokes of lace, and colored in cress green, turquoise blue, or raspberry pink, are useful. Little girl below her teens is cut with a stole front into which is gathered the actual fronts and back of the coat, the stole being stitched at both ends and fastened with small buttons put in in gumps of three. The sleeves are full and conclude in frills. With this is worn a little bonnet. Never since embroidery was invented has it been more used for any purpose than for adorning the garments of the little ones. Borderie anglaise is proper for little girls, a collar being absent or present, according to preference, while the shape of the yoke is now round, now square, and the edge scalloped or plain. Bishop sleeves and short puff sleeves are the two leading vogues in connection with frocks for little children. Nothing of its class has superseded in favoritism the long waisted French frock with a sash drawn down to the hips and tied into a big bow at the back or a knot at the left side. A simple dress of this sort of pale blue china silk has an insertion yoke of lace to match, the cuffs to the bishop sleeves being also of lace.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

WISDOM OF THE NURSERY. Children are apt to become saucy and ill mannered when their elders do not set them a good example. A child that learns verses and hymns as punishment is quite certain to take lifelong dislike to such things. Avoid taking children into crowded shops when it is possible, as it not only tires the child but exposes it to impure air and infectious diseases. Remember that medicine suitable for a grown person is too strong for a child, and never try to administer such a dose without the advice of a physician. Have a secure guard round the nursery fire, if there is one, and a firmly latched gate at the head of the stairs when the baby begins to crawl about. And when a child is "fidgety" do not take it with you when paying calls; it causes discomfort, both to the hostess and yourself.—Indianapolis News.

SUITS FOR MORNING WEAR. The morning suit for street wear will be severely plain, especially so in the linen suits, which are finished with a deep hem and stitching. Russet shoes will be a feature of the street attire, but they differ from those of former years, not only in being of a much darker shade, but also in having the flat bow to the instep. With the tailor suit a soft leather belt is usually selected, which may be ornate or plain, according to the taste of the wearer.—Washington Times.

FASHION NOTES. Apricot yellow is playing a prominent part in the costumes found in the fashionable trousseau. The smart bridesmaids' gowns are of some soft, sheer stuff of some brilliant color; and often adorned with sashes.

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