

WANTED: PHILADELPHIA WOMAN WHO CAN DARN, SAYS M'LISS

That There is a Dearth of Expert Needlewomen Is Attested to by Difficulties Encountered When One Tries to Get Mending Done

THERE is just one woman in Philadelphia who knows how to darn. Of the thousands and thousands who professionally or because of home necessity ply the needle daily, only one has come to light who is so expert that she can take a bad tear in your favorite ball gown or in the trouser leg of your best English tailored suit and so mend it that a magnifying glass would be required to detect the stitches.

This is art. The name of the artist, however, is locked securely in the bosom of the secretary in charge of the office of the Woman's Exchange.

I was talking with the latter the other morning about this superior needlewoman, and, alas! alas! discovered that because of the "crying" needs of her two babies she has given up darning, for the time being at any rate.

"She is the only woman that we know of," said the secretary, "and we come in contact with many talented with the needle, who is really an expert. She can mend a rent in the most delicate chiffon gown so that it defies detection. She can darn the finest table linen so that even the closest inspection will not reveal the worn places. Although we are constantly swamped with work for her, she has had to give up on account of the demands of her little children.

"Time and time again we have advertised for women to take her place. Dozens of applicants came to us who think they can darn and mend expertly. But compared to this woman's, their work is crude."

One of the rules of the Woman's Exchange is that the names of their workers shall not be revealed under any circumstances. Therefore, the praises of this supernedeedwoman can only be sung indirectly, but suffice it to say she is foreign, she learned her art in a convent and the demand for her is so great that if she didn't think more of her kiddies than of the money waiting to be made she might now be putting by a tidy sum for a rainy day.

Speaking of the monetary aspect, it would pay women to become proficient in this branch of needlework. For the simplest piece of work 50 cents is charged. Should the tear demand special effort, as high as \$5 is the price considered commensurate with the labor.

When you consider that a ball gown costing hundreds of dollars may be seemingly ruined by a tear acquired at the first wearing, you can realize how imperative it is for Philadelphia to obtain another woman to step into the shoes of the solitary expert who has temporarily retired.

Coming "Up to the Scratch"

Although in the face of the overwhelming accounts of bloodshed that come to us daily from the battlefields of Europe, it may seem a bit unfeeling to make optimistic deductions, it cannot fail to be recognized that this conflict has in less than two years given women the opportunity of exercising capabilities that might in times of peace have lain dormant for hundreds of years.

I do not mean merely that women have proved themselves sufficiently intelligent to go into munition factories and make the shot and shell used in defending their homes and countries.

Nor do I mean to express any surprise that they have demonstrated their ability to perform the carpentering, plumbing and "electricianing" jobs that the men at the front have left behind them uncompleted, to say nothing of their running the trams and cleaning the public highways.

These things require no high degree of skill or mentality. And women, I believe, have always felt that there were few things achievable by men that they themselves could not master, with the exception, perhaps, of adding a column of figures, a thought not annoying in this day of adding machines.

But the real point that they have gained, I think, lies in the fact that they have risen above the kind of labor that has been stigmatized as mere "woman's work." They have come "up to the scratch" in performing man's work. Voluntary service this, too; no conscription necessary.

This war, according to a writer in a current magazine, has proven that "woman is more and not less valuable as a worker because of the slight permanent glow of sympathy which accompanies her capacity for motherhood."

Even Lord Kitchener, who in the Egyptian campaign said if female nurses were sent to them he'd dump them into the Nile, would doubtless sing a song of a different tune if all of the noble women in the Red Cross army decided to "walk out" of the war zone.

Competing With Cupid

Much interest is being expressed in an altogether new kind of marriage bureau in operation at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.

Unlike the sort which has provided at random husbands for the husbandless and wives for the wifeless, the new institution does not provide at all. It merely directs.

You are at the threshold of the altar. In fact, you've almost put your head into the hymeneal noose. Then the thought of all this eugenic talk recurs to you. You write to the bureau, recounting your own history and that of your fiancé. In a little while you get an answer telling you whether or not you ought to marry the person you have selected.

No less a person than Dr. Charles B. Davenport, one of the first to enter the ranks of the eugenicists, is in charge.

"People write to us," he says, in a recent article, "giving their histories and asking advice about marriage. We answer, telling what tendencies are present and are likely to be perpetuated by the marriage suggested. Sometimes we advise couples not to marry. Sometimes we tell them there is no reason why they should not marry and raise children.

"The station is the country's clearing house for scientific race investigation, and from it are sent out pages of advice as to the suitability of certain proposed marriages to any one who wants them."

Looks pretty much like trespassing on Cupid's grounds to me.

Rhythmic, at Any Rate

Flirtatiousness and mendaciousness go hand in hand, says the man who thinks he understands women.

You Never Can Tell Till You've Tried

Lots of bachelors who believe their single blessedness is the result of choice might have a different opinion if they had put the matter to a test.

M'LISS.

Letters to the Editor of the Woman's Page

Address all communications to M'LISS, care of the Evening Ledger. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear M'LISS—Please write me out a good recipe for stuffing a duck.

A. R. J.

A delicious stuffing is made by seasoning mashed potatoes with sage, one onion and sweet red peppers, minced fine.

Dear M'LISS—I am anxious to write a letter to Dr. Hutcheson who writes medical articles in the Saturday Evening Post and other magazines. Can you find his address for me? Is he a Philadelphian? INQUISITIVE.

I suppose you mean Dr. Woods Hutchinson. He was born in England. His address is 234 West 103d street, New York city.

Dear M'LISS—What is the difference in time in Philadelphia and Paris? M.

When it is noon here it is 5:09 p. m. in Paris.

Dear M'LISS—I want to announce my engagement in as inconspicuous a manner as possible. How should I do it? MARY K.

Either give a little tea or luncheon to a few friends and announce it then, or write notes to your intimates telling them, and rest assured the news will spread like wild-fire.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS



THIS good-looking skating costume combines the advantages of being smart, practical and warm. Oxford tweed is the fabric of which it is made, and although it is plain, it is exceedingly trim. A chin-chin collar which may be opened at the throat is a clever innovation on the plan of the popular reversible effect.

A smart way to trim a suit is shown in the numerous bandings of self-material. The borders come in contrasting shades, such as blue, green or red, on a plain background; gray, navy-blue and green, for instance. A linked chain for carrying Milady's skates comes with the costume. This is so made as to be snapped on either shoulder. Of course, it may be removed for street wear. The price is \$29.75.

Purple French felt is used on this little hat, with a simple ornament of fur. Price, \$10.

Full particulars as to the place where this article may be purchased may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Editor of the Woman's Page, Evening Ledger, 608 Chestnut street. Please mention the date on which the article appeared.

The newest feature in needles is the use of leather.

SOMETHING NEW AND UNUSUAL FOR SKATING

LUMBAGO—DON'T DEPEND ON FRIENDS TO CURE IT

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

HE WAS 31 years old, rather too stout, a bookkeeper, a heavy smoker, flabby, disinclined to walk to and from his work. For six weeks he had suffered with lumbago and had been compelled to give up work. The man was afflicted with too many friends, and every friend had a remedy which the poor fellow had to try in order to keep peace in the community. Among other things he tried three kinds of plasters, two kinds of "knee cure," electricity, Turkish baths, aspirin, chiropractic adjustment and a blister. But the back remained "about the same."

Finally some one had a brilliant thought. Why not go down and see the family doctor. It might be something growing in the spine! The patient called on the doctor after six weeks of misery. The doctor ordered him to strip off every stitch of clothing. That was a good beginning.

The spine was not tender. There was no muscle spasm. Seated in a chair the patient could easily bend forward, so that the spinal vertebrae were probably not inflamed. With his knees stiff he could bend forward and touch the floor with his fingertips, showing that the sacro-lumbar joints were probably not at fault. Sciatica was ruled out because there was absolutely no tenderness to pressure along the course of the sciatic nerve.

You see the doctor was trying to find out what was the matter before attempting treatment.

The hip movements were unimpaired.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Feeding a Fever

Is there a new way of treating typhoid fever by allowing the patient certain solid foods? Next day he returned to work, and he has been working happily ever since. Each of his friends assumes the credit for the cure—but the patient, without ostentation, continues to follow the doctor's instructions regarding the proper kind of footwear, exercise and night support.

Answer—Liquids may be more dangerous than solid foods. Excellent results are obtained by feeding a solid diet, such as toast and the like. Too many typhoid victims have been literally starved.

LUNCHROOM INDUSTRY RAPIDLY GROWING IN CENTRAL PART OF CITY

Twenty Counter Restaurants Do Business Now Where One Was Plenty But a Couple of Years Ago

LUNCH BOX DISAPPEARS

30 Lunch Boxes make 50 Meals. 20 Meals make 1 Lunchroom. 10 Lunchrooms make 1 Chain. 10 Chains make 1 Trust.

That is about the situation in the Philadelphia quick-lunch industry, as the leading luncheon magnates view it. The trust stage has not yet arrived, but may soon, they believe. The quick-lunch magnates were trying to explain the recent appearance of 25 or more counter restaurants where but one grew before. In their opinion, the restaurants will continue to blossom in direct proportion to the number of lunch boxes left at home.

"Carrying your lunch has gone," said one man, recognized as a leader in the lunch business in the city. "Lunch boxes are now things of the past."

"When the point arrived that lunch boxes were seldom seen in the cars as they approached Market and Chestnut streets, the feast that remained disappeared also."

"Those who used to carry their lunch have to eat, even though they did omit the lunch box," the expert continued. "What is more natural, then, than the appearance of restaurants to feed them?"

Others with a long experience in feeding Philadelphians at the lunch hour agreed with this diagnosis of the situation. There were a number of factors, but the passing of the lunch box was at the foundation of the increasing quick-lunch industry, they said.

Men in the business are not the only one who have observed the rapid growth of restaurants in the central section of the city. The development has taken place within a year, but the last three months has seen the greatest increase.

New entrants in the quick-lunch field

SHOPLIFTERS' ROAD IS GETTING HARDER, GIRL SLEUTH SAYS

Miss Margaret Leighton, Only 19, Tells How She Protects Store and Shoppers

SHE IS A "LUCKY FIND"

Department Manager Discovered Her By Accident—How the Detectives Work

"Although there is always a man at the head of the detective service of a department store, our force consists of women mainly. Men are so conspicuous in a department store and can't seem to learn how to wander gracefully and saunter about doing nothing," explained the general manager of one of the city's biggest stores.

"A store detective in many instances is a lucky find. Our best woman, Miss Margaret Leighton, was a girl at exchange two years ago. She lost her handbag in the dressing room and in telling me of her loss I recognized the qualities that go so far to make a good detective. Let Miss Leighton speak for herself."

"Eight-tenths of the shoplifters are women," she said, "that is, those who are casual offenders. With the professional the figures are almost the reverse. And after a little practice it's an easy matter to catch them. No matter how experienced the shoplifter, she can't help looking around to see if her neighbors are paying attention to her. She carries a folded newspaper, an empty bag and here are two of the cleverest arrangements we have found."

One was a box, evidently carefully wrapped up in brown paper, and the four corners of one end of the paper were sealed with red wax. But one side of the box opened, and the shoplifter slipped under this flap the articles desired. A more complex tool was a large square box resting on a flat package. The box was easily lifted from its foundation and the thief had only three slides. This was a particularly useful receptacle for books.

Several boxes of photographs with histories attached are filed in this office. Miss Leighton says, "knives, etc., taken from the men. Every shoplifter who is sentenced is kept track of and looked out for on his release."

"I don't think our customers realize how much trouble we take to protect them," Miss Leighton said, "for shoplifters lift from them as well as from us. At sales times the customer suffers most. And we increase our force in this way. We station men with hawkshaw side whisks, and we advise them to act like a story-book detective. They must snoot around and eye everybody. Women are used here in the same fashion. They must watch every one leading against the counters and act so ostentatiously that the most casual observer will discover that she is under a microscope. The real ones you never notice."

"But it's the customer's own handbag that is the object of our care."

"I look after a well dressed woman, who carries a plump hand bag and often asks in time to move off a sneak thief."

"Of course, I would not be able to hold a man or a woman if they tried to run away from me when I asked them to come to the office, but the other day, when a man would not stop, I called stop chief and he took him for me."

"Sometimes I think if the cunning, successful sneak thief's uses were given to another work, he or she would land at the top in a short time. Most of the people who are deterred, in some way, but many of them are unusually clever."

"It never pays in the end, I know. We detectives are co-operating with the City Hall men, and the cities are sending out more and more of the best representative of the shoplifters."

"You might say the average loss for the year is around \$100, but I know of one store which reports a sneak thief. Its losses amount to 25 per cent. of its receipts. But the life of the shoplifter is getting harder every day."

And when one noticed the energy and purpose in Miss Leighton's blue eyes one appreciated the girl's determination, in some way, but many of them are unusually clever.

The Splendid Serb

"By your old men's bones on the mountain, By the blood of your youth in the plain, By the tears washed for your holy dead, By the children of your land, Ye who fought till no flight availeth, O Serbs! 'tis the hour to shield All that is left of your people— The hour to yield!"

Hick! on the hill-winds ringing O'er the thunderous drone of war, From the snowy height of Kara Dash To the swamps of the marshes of Gardar, The splendid Serb has answered From a patriot's soul of flame, "Better to die in honor 'Than live in shame!"

"It is said—it is done. Till we perish We fight and we ask not why, Back from our blacken'd homes and fields, Till we've nothing left but the sky, Till the last last man on the last lone hill Shall cry as death calls his name: 'Better to die in honor 'Than live in shame!'"

O world of men and sorrows! In words of immortal light The whole of the art of living The creed of eternal right Comes down from the Serbian summit, For each man's soul the same: "Better to die in honor 'Than live in shame!'" —James Bernard Fagan.

Marion Harland's Corner

"IN REPLY to query as to whether I as a professional, I submit the following extract from an article upon the subject: 'The gift of song is not general, but almost every one may learn to whistle artistically and satisfy his desire for musical expression. It induces cheerfulness and is beneficial to the health, for the same method of breathing is necessary as in voice culture, with an added advantage that the whistler may be trained for fine expression in much less time than is required in voice development. The study is especially beneficial to children as young as 5 or 6 years of age, as correct breathing teaches at an early age the value of deep breathing.'" LUELLA S."

Oxalic Acid for Cleaning "In reply to a few questions as to how to get the stains out of tablecloths or any kind of garments: Get a box of oxalic acid for 25 cents at any drug store. It is rather expensive, but it lasts a long time. Use it in the following way. Of course, much depends upon the color of the material that you wish to clean free of spots and stains. For dark goods use a weak solution and for light goods use a stronger solution. Do not use one-half cup of lukewarm water. I hope others will like this oxalic acid as much as I. It is something that never fails. Wash the stain, then wash out immediately in cold, clear water." "FAITHFUL READER."

Cleaning and Curling Feathers "In answer to 'Subscriber,' asking how to take out peach stains and saying she was not answered, I have intended writing to the Corner advising her not to use the acids on linens, as they harm, not help, the articles. Such stains always disappear when peach stones are used. Some reader who has had this experience tell us about it? Now, may I ask how I can clean and curl hat feathers? I have been wearing them, but they look yellow, although I have washed and dried them, also tried chlorine of lime (a weak solution), but can't seem to whiten them." "L. K."

Sent to the Cleaner "I can appreciate Mrs. F. W.'s predicament. I have always considered feather pillows as a probable germ catcher, and for years have washed my pillows and some reader who has had this experience tell us about it? Now, may I ask how I can clean and curl hat feathers? I have been wearing them, but they look yellow, although I have washed and dried them, also tried chlorine of lime (a weak solution), but can't seem to whiten them." "L. K."

Author of "Little Feet" "While perusing the Corner I noticed a request for the name of the author of the poem 'Little Feet.' I am pleased to be able to supply the name—Florence Percy (Mrs. Elizabeth Akers Allen). She was born in 1823 in the town of Irons, Me. At an early age the death of her mother cast a gloom over her young life. The grief of her bereavement may be noticed in an undertone of sorrow throughout her writings. I am pleased to be able to offer an answer to the many queries I have read in the Corner." "MRS. H. W. W."

Code Regulating Stamps "I read in the Corner a request for a code regulating stamps, and am sending one which I happen to possess. I hope it may be of some use to the one who made the appeal, and possibly others: A stamp placed in the upper right hand corner, straight up and down, indicates 'sincere regard'; placed upside down in the same corner indicates 'hatred'; cornerwise, 'a kiss'; cornerwise, 'love'; in the upper left hand corner, 'shall always hate you'; in the lower left, 'shall always love you'; in centre at top of envelope, 'I wish you lifelong happiness'; at bottom of envelope, 'I wish you sorrow and unhappiness'; centre of left edge, 'I would rather talk than write to you'; on level with the name, 'growing friendship'; two penny stamps placed in the upper right hand corner, 'I shall always remember you'; placed cornerwise, 'I long to see you'; cornerwise, 'I have never met another like you'; a stamp placed on the back of the envelope, 'I wish you to write no more.' "BETTY G."

Keeps Pipes From Freezing "To prevent pipes from freezing, wash the dust from the pipes, and when clean, apply a coat of equal parts of vaseline and paraffin wax, melted and mixed together while hot. Melt the ingredients in a double boiler and keep the water as hot as possible while doing the work. Put a thick coat of the work required of it fully throughout the cold weather." "M. A. V."

Worms on Rubber Plant "My mother has a beautiful rubber plant. There are little tiny worms on it and she does not know what to do with it. She has taken it to the florist, but they persist in coming back. I have two dresses which are badly soiled. I wish to know how to clean them to retain the colors. One is pink and the other purple flowers. FLORENCE L."

Whistling as a Profession "I notice an inquiry about whistling. Last year a woman appeared on our Chautauque program during our convention at Chautauque, N. Y. Many of our members had said that whistling could not be an art and did not belong on our program. But some of us who had met this whistler were confident that whistling was an art, and we placed her on our program. It was one of the successes of the program and all the artists were delighted." "CAROLINE K. McC."

Author of Poem "In reply to R. B., the poem, 'Alone' was written by Kathleen L. Grier." "M. D. E."

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Lost the Address "I sent a Battenberg pattern to an old lady and promised to send some embroidery patterns and materials to her daughter, but in moving I lost her address and was unable to do so. She is a Mrs. ——. Could you possibly get me the address again? I am sending you a clipping from the paper regarding some one who wanted to get together some young women for sociality. I should like to hear from her, as I am entirely alone in the city and have few friends. I should like to learn how to dance. Just the waltz and two-step. If there is any one in your large

All communications addressed to Miss Harland should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and a clipping of the article in which you are interested. Send to Marion Harland, Evening Ledger, 608 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

Deerfoot

Farm Sausage not only have the flavor but also the nutritive value you require. A tempting and substantial breakfast dish. You'll find that all the best restaurants serve them.

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MILLIE AND HER MILLIONS

