

FINE ART OF LETTER WRITING NEEDS REVIVING, SAYS M'LISS

Perhaps the War 'll Do It—Then Love Missives Will Sprout to Make Napoleon's and Elizabeth Browning's Look Ill by Comparison

FROM time to time we of the present generation are told that many of the fine old accomplishments which made of our grandmothers the charming creatures that they were are dying out.

The constant cry ascends that we do not even know how to properly couch our R. S. V. P.'s. In fact, in the majority of cases we entirely neglect to couch them at all and content ourselves with a last-minute telephone or verbal acceptance or declination of our invitations, regardless of the panic into which we throw our hostesses.

Time was before this art had become quite moribund that a girl, and quite laudably, too, would have wept herself into a veritable salt lake had her fiancé dared to write her a love letter except in his own firm, virile chirography.

Behold him now dictating his tender sentiments to his fluff stenographer, who will regale them with great glee, substituting her own interpolations to the office boy! And behold madly reciting the sentimental missive, not in the least "jarred" by the cold type that confronts her!

"John is such a busy dear; isn't it sweet of him to write to me at all!" is the complaisant manner in which she explains, if she considers it necessary to explain at all.

Only the other day I was reading an ancient letter. The fine old script of the gentleman who had penned it 60 years ago had almost faded into the yellow notepaper, but many of the dignified, ladylike sentiments were still decipherable.

This belle of more than half a generation ago apologized at the outset for not having written sooner. It was plain to see that she considered it unmanly to answer a gallant's letter until an appreciable length of time had passed. But she declared in true copybook manner:

"Oh, procrastination, what a thief of time thou art!" Then the little maid went on to declare that she could not write letters in the crude light of day because inspiration would not come, and that any mistakes she made would be attributable to the uncertainties occasioned by the flickering candle-light. One could picture her sitting at her escritoire—that's what they wrote on in those days, is it not? A mere desk would have, indeed, been too crude—chewing her pen reflectively and refining her phrases and sentiments to the very zenith of nicety.

But if letter writing is an art, how much more so is love-letter writing? If you don't believe this, read "The Sonnets From the Portuguese," which are Elizabeth Browning's love letters to her husband, the immortal Robert, and which made her quite as immortal as he.

It might almost be said that by one's love letters you may know him. Could anything be more characteristic of the Little Corporal than his brief but, oh, so expressive missives sent to Josephine from the battlefield?

"Josephine, my love—Just killed 10,000 Prussians. A million kisses to you. NAPOLEON."

What woman could ask more than that her lover, weary from the labor of sending 10,000 Prussians into eternity, should take time to think of her, may even write to her.

But speaking of Prussians and killing brings me quite naturally to the war. I have read some gripping letters since the beginning of hostilities, epistles from tourists caught in the maelstrom of mobilizing Europe, letters from poor devils in the trenches who wrote their missives with frozen hands and by the spectacular glare of battle-field rockets. Letters that are literature and which make those samples of a former age seem insipid outpourings in comparison.

If this war is responsible for a renaissance of letter-writing it can be said truly that it will not have been fought in vain.

Something New in House Signs It is curious—is it not?—how some thinking people always manage to inject the artistic into the most prosaic things.

Take, for instance, the question of house signs. Now, to the average person a For Sale or For Rent sign means merely a drab affair of white, or pseudo white cardboard, with unappealing lettering.

A clever real estate man has adorned a West Philadelphia house, of which he wishes to dispose, with a most arresting sign. It is cut in the shape of a cozy bungalow, has its thatched roof done in red, which catches the eye of even the street-car passerby. Beneath the red of the roof is a cross-hatched decoration in futuristic black and white and then come the words making known the fact that the property is for sale.

It stands out from the rest of these signs that I have seen like a red gown in a ballroom, and I'm willing to wager that such a sign will go a long way in helping to sell the house. 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—Will you kindly publish in your column in the near future several names and addresses of Arizona daily newspapers? C. A. A. Lansford, Pa.

The following papers are among the well-known ones in Arizona: Arizona Republican, Phoenix, Ariz., daily and Sunday, circulation 6400; Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, Ariz., evening only, 6000; Arizona Record Globe, Gila County, Ariz., morning except Monday, 1600.

Dear M'LISS—Is there any paint or polish which can be applied to a plain wood floor in order to make its appearance similar to that of a hardwood floor? Is there a book published which involves an entire description of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, telling in the manner in which each nation participated? YOUR READER.

TO AVOID INGROWING TOE NAILS, CUT THEM STRAIGHT ACROSS

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

TWO factors enter into the etiology of ingrowing nail—tight, narrow shoes, and improper cutting of the nail. Of course there is no use in preaching about tight shoes; those who wear them will wear them, come what may. We may dwell upon the right way to trim the nails. The function of the toenails, if they can be considered to have a function in the civilized individual, is to protect the sensitive tips of the toes. This being true, the nail should not be too closely trimmed, and when it is trimmed it should be cut straight across, without any attempt to round the corners. The starting point of "ingrowing nail" (which is a misnomer, in spite of the opinions of chiropodists) is often this very effort to round off the corners.

Supposing prevention has been ignored and an ingrowing nail has arrived. The condition is as follows: The outside edge of the nail appears imbedded in an inflamed, hypertrophied or thickened mass of granulation tissue, from which more or less fluid, watery or purulent, exudes. The granulations have grown over the edge of the nail, and not vice versa, as the name implies.

Exuberant granulations ("proud flesh") in any situation may be cut without giving pain, since granulation tissue has no nerves. But the cutting must be done by a physician, not by the patient or any untrained operator. Ingrowing nail untreated sometimes brings on septicemia (blood-poisoning).

The skin may be drawn away from the edge of the nail by carefully applying Z. C. adhesive plaster strips extending spirally backward outside, under and around the great toe. Of course this maneuver is useless unless the shoes are correct—straight inside sole lines, fairly broad, rounded toes.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thyroidectomy What is thyroidectomy, and is it good for exophthalmic goiter?

Answer—It is a product obtained from the blood of animals which have been thyroidectomized—that is, the thyroid gland has been removed. The product is of doubtful value. Personally, we think it is useless. Still, it is prescribed by good physicians.

A Treatment for Ringworm Is there any new treatment likely to cure a chronic, obstinate ringworm?

Answer—Have the doctor paint the lesion with half-strength iodine, then freeze it with whichever agent he prefers (carbon dioxide snow, ethyl chloride). Freezing destroys the parasite.

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March Winds Bring Freckles My new method removes them—harmlessly, perfectly and permanently.

The kind name established twenty-five years ago stands today as a guarantee of the treatment of face blemishes.

Miss Colburn, Complexion Expert 702 Flinders Bldg., 15th & Walnut Philadelphia, 1915.

Gown & Fur Shop 1206 Walnut Street Spring Opening Commencing Mon., March 20 French Gowns, Suits, Coats and Blouses All Models Copied at Moderate Rates J. ULRICH Exhibitor by appointment in the Walnut St. Association Fashion Show at the Bellevue-Stratford March 22, 1916.

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SEEN IN THE SHOPS



CHARMING HAT AND AN UNUSUAL BLOUSE

IF YOU want a hat of the drooping garden variety for your Georgette frock or a light silk suit, this simple leghorn model will please you. It is natural straw, of course, with a slight droop at the front like a poke bonnet. The upper brim is covered with baby blue tulle, with a band to match surrounding the crown. A bouquet of variegated French flowers, including heather, forget-me-nots, and moss roses, finishes off the front of the chapeau. Price, \$20. This includes comb.

Wonderfully sheer and dainty is the blouse of Madonna blue Georgette, with embroidery and beading for trimming. It is something really different in blouse. The border about the neck, cuffs and hem is done in self-colors of blue with crystal beads. The girle is of silver cloth. In any color, the price is \$35.

The name of the shop where these articles may be purchased will be supplied by the Editor of the Woman's Page, EVENING LEDGER, 608 Chestnut street. The request must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

FOOD VALUES

Should We Buy Loose or in Packages?

By VIRGINIA E. KIFT

FOODS sold in neat-looking packages are usually very attractive, but the printing on the box, the box itself and the inside tissue paper all have to be paid for. This fact causes packaged foods in every case to cost from 3 to 8 cents more than the same article would when sold loose. It is perfectly possible for your grocer to keep these same dry materials in his store, free from all dust and damage, at not only saving to you, but at a saving to himself. Still he cannot do it because you refuse to drink coffee because at your grocery store it is still kept in a neat, clean bin and weighed off as bought by the pound? Do you refuse unwrapped bread from the hands of the man who has been driving his wagon all morning, because of its dangerous exposure to the germ-laden atmosphere? Have you stopped purchasing meat that has been cut on the butcher's counter for a couple of hours or more, because you imagined it to be dusty?

Why, if you think, oatmeal, macaroni, rice, sultana and certain kinds of crackers should be wrapped in dust-proof packages, do you tolerate these other evils? By purchasing oatmeal loose you save 5 cents on every 3 pounds bought. A package of oatmeal weighs 1½ pounds and costs 10 cents. Loose, you can get 3 pounds for 12 cents, which means a saving of 8 cents.

A 2½-ounce package of tea costs 10 cents, while loose you get 4 ounces for 10 cents and save 6 cents. Below is a table showing the comparative cost of various food materials in the package and loose:

Table with 5 columns: Materials, Pkg., Cost, Loose, Cost Saved. Rows include Oatmeal, Macaroni, Coffee, Tea, Rice, Sugar, Flour, Beans, Peas, Lentils, Cornmeal, and Vinegar.

If you feel that these foods when wrapped are so much more cleanly than when kept loose in a neat bin, in a clean grocery, don't hesitate to buy the high cost of food, for your own fancies are the cause of it. Look over the above list carefully. On a weekly grocery bill it would be about 50 cents saved, which in a year is \$26. At least the matter is worth your closest attention. The next time you go into your grocery talk the matter over with your grocer.

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BABY MILK

(Dr. Gaertner's modifications) Ideal at Weaning Time Highest grade milk carefully modified in our special laboratory to suit the normal baby's needs. Fresh daily in 6 oz. nursing cans at 10 cents.

Best and Safest! It will help to keep baby well! Printed matter with valuable hints on feeding mailed free on request.

Ask your physician. Abbotts Alderney Dairies 31ST & CHESTNUT STS. Phone Baring 235.

ASK FOR and GET HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK Cheap substitutes cost YOU same price

STAIRS Interior Alterations Get Estimates Frank C. Snedaker & Co. 9th and Tioga Streets

Removing Grease Stains Automobile or other kinds of grease will come off washable materials with small piece of butter is rubbed into the spot. Wash with soap and rinse.

Pretty Gowns Often Spoiled by Fat Stains which can be removed by Dr. W. H. Montgomery treats you personally for all facial irregularities, Blemishes, Moles, Scars, Ringworms, Red Wines, Rust from Hair and Skin refining. Consultation free. Hours 9 to 6 and by appointment. Phone Baring 1245, write or call. 15th and Walnut Sts.

Dr. Charlotte B. Martin The single electric needle method is the only method of relieving chronic rheumatism and neuritis for the permanent removal of superfluous hair and other superficial growths. 702 Flinders Bldg., 15th & Walnut

Marion Harland's Corner

Patterns to Exchange

"Will some one exchange tating patterns with me? Has any one old sheet music she will send me? I shall be grateful. I will send postage. M. L."

Fancy workers and musicians will please take note of the brief and modest request. Bear in mind that "trubish" means something that is of no use to you, yet which some instinct of thriftiness or sentimental association prevents you from throwing away. When the hoarded article would make life a bit easier for a fellow creature such hoarding becomes a fault—almost a sin.

Old and Deaf

"I should like to ask your kind assistance for a deserving woman, 70 years of age, who is deaf, but otherwise in good health. She says if she could get an ear trumpet she would be able to make a living by selling books, etc. Can you advise me what to do in this case? ALICE F."

We have secured half a dozen ear trumpets made subject to the order of defective hearing within so many weeks. Yet we have none upon our lists for this deserving woman. I hold her address and her pitiable needs subject to the order of the reader who can help her to make a living.

Filling Kerosene Lamp

"I should like to tell Mrs. A. R. M. that the reason it is better to fill a kerosene lamp within an inch of the top is not because the oil will expand if filled to the top, but because the wick carries the oil outside of the lamp. You have probably found oil on the outside of the lamp when you light it in the evening and have wondered where it came from. Having no room inside, it had to come out on the outside of the lamp. You must have noticed that if a wash cloth is left half in a basin the other half draws water out of the basin. A lamp should never be filled to the top. "MARA McEM."

Instructions in Dramatic Art "Should any reader of your Corner desire an education for a daughter or relative in elocution, literature or dramatic art, whereby the girl could earn a livelihood either as teacher or entertainer, I shall be glad to give such instruction if the mother will assist me in making of gowns. The only qualification is that the mother must be an expert designer and dressmaker. M. M. N."

The exchange of the practices of one talent for another is no new thing in our work. We draw the line at barter of articles such as furniture, dresses, books, etc. for other things the owner may be willing to dispose of.

Pattern to Copy

"I am going to ask if you can help me find a crochet hat and jumper pattern. If you can and the owner would like it back, I will exchange it as soon as I can copy it and will pay mailing charges. I have never written to you before, but I am interested in your good work and if I can help at any time I will do so. There are nice things done in your Corner. "M. G."

We have had the pleasure of forwarding so many interchanges of patterns for fancy work that we insert your letter unhesitatingly and bid you be on the lookout for news that a sister craftswoman would communicate with you upon the subject. Your address is registered with

All communication addressed to Marion Harland should enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a clipping of the work of the H. M. Harland. Marion Harland, in care of this paper, for addresses of those they would like to help, and, having treated them, communicate direct with those parties.

acknowledgment of your kind words of the Corner.

Plans Surprise for Mother

"I am a girl of 16 and anxious to give my mother a little surprise. She has been an invalid for some time and had to be away from home. Her one wish has been, as far back as I can remember, to have a nice home for us children. She worked almost all her life trying hard to make us happy, but we lost our father and then mother gave up all hope. If any one should have any old pieces of furniture, pictures, magazines, etc., she or he no longer cares for, I would be glad to call for them. Mother is to come home soon and I should love to see her happy. V. S."

Readers will not accuse me of presumption when I hint to them the propriety of making this girl's pathetic letter the suggestion of a "variety bee" in behalf of the project that lies upon the daughter's heart. Would it not be a pleasant thing to get the address of the girl from us, and each family contribute a trifle toward the surprise party? We have never attempted a concerted action (a frolic, if you will) like this before. We may never do it again. I submit the idea to house mothers and daughters, who can enter into the longing passed down from mother to child "to have a nice home." What can any one of us do to make it nice?

Confined to the House "I want to ask the Cornerites if any of them have music or magazines that I

might have. I can't get out of the house and enjoy reading and music. I think you like Mrs. M. R.—I wish I were a millionaire so I could help them all. "MINNIE M." Cornerites do not count largely upon millionaires to increase their wealth and efficiency. In fact, the Corner is more treasures are built up, little by little, into a seemly whole. The interchange of music and reading matter is by no means the least worthy of our beautiful and growing "little." May your loneliness be cheered speedily by a goodly share

Advertisement for La Daintee For a Better Complexion. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and a bottle of the product.

Advertisement for Bradley Market. Features an illustration of a cow and text: 'THOUSANDS OF TONGUES Fresh Asparagus'. Includes contact information for M. Meriano.

Advertisement for Millinery - Suits - Dresses. Text: 'Dignified, but Distinctive in Style'. Includes contact information for BLYNN, Inc.

Advertisement for Fleck Bros. Co. Text: 'The House Will Do If the Plumbing Material Is Good'. Includes an illustration of a man working on plumbing.

Advertisement for PRESSER Importer. Text: 'New Spring Creations'. Includes an illustration of a woman in a dress.

Advertisement for Franklin Granulated Sugar. Text: 'SUGAR is more than a "sweetener." It is a necessary food. That is why it is so important to use pure, clean sugar.' Includes an illustration of a sugar box.

Advertisement for McCabe & Aldred. Text: 'Announce that they now have ready importations of Hats, Blouses and Novelties'. Includes an illustration of a woman in a hat.

Advertisement for Bell & Schmitt. Text: 'Tailors to the Better Dressed Women'. Includes an illustration of a woman in a dress.