

M'LISS DISCUSSES CHILDREN WHO WEAR SILK STOCKINGS

Mothers Are Really to Blame for the Absence of Girlishness in the Average School Child

IT WAS recess time and I was passing one of the big public schools in the northern section of the city.

A group of eight girls, ranging in ages perhaps from 11 to 15 years, had assembled in one corner of the yard. Seven of them wore silk stockings—or at least stockings that gave a fictitious impression of having been spun from the product of the silkworm's activity.

It has been said that there are no grandmothers any more; that, seen from the back and judged from the apparel she wears, the dowager of 60 cannot be distinguished from her debutante granddaughter of 18.

This may be true, but one can be tolerant of a woman's endeavors to keep herself young. There's always an element of humor in that, but when a girl scarcely out of the doll-baby stage begins to emulate her grown-up sister and to don the French heels, silk stockings and other concomitants, sensible or otherwise, of womanhood, one is apt to wonder just what mothers are thinking of or whether they are thinking at all.

An son or two hence, when some sour-faced historian sets out to demonstrate how the extravagance of America in the 20th century was responsible for its decadence, he will doubtless point to the silk stocking as the most important factor in that decadence.

"But," you will argue, "the silk stocking is not an extravagance, if you get the good kind; they wear really better than the other kind."

Granted. But the little girls I saw had their skinny legs clad in the kind of hosiery that lasts about four days. Put the same money into a cotton or a flax and you get a grade that is warranted to live a life of average length, at least.

But the question of the extravagance of permitting 12-year-old girls to wear silk stockings to school did not so much impress me as the execrable taste of the thing. It is so much less expensive to dress in good taste than in bad.

Furthermore, the sleazy silk stockings on the schoolgirls seemed to me symbols of the kind of rubbish that was probably in their minds. The mother who doesn't censor her 12-year-old child's wearing apparel probably doesn't guard her mental realm. Indeed, I have the word of one of the most experienced librarians in the city that what the children of today read is of no more concern to their mothers than the man in the moon.

Little girls with their hair frizzed and dressed high come in and slip out their desire for "love stories" of the Laura Jean Libbey and Augusta Evans Wilson type. What they really need is an old-fashioned spanking. Or perhaps it's their mothers, after all, who should be made to "hold out their hands."

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 please give me the correct pronunciation of Geraldine Farrar's name? Some say it is Far-rar. I thought it was Far-rah.

I am told by a man who knew the Farrar family in Boston that the opera singer's real name is Geraldine. That accounts for her name on the last syllable. She likes it plain Farrar, accent on the first syllable.

Dear M'Liss—Will you please publish a recipe for making good tea? I never seem to make it the same way twice, and it is always too strong.

First of all, the secret, if it can be called such, of successful tea making is to use a good brand of tea. I use the "H. W." brand, which is artificially colored and when brewed tastes metallic and harsh.

When you have decided on a favorite brand you may make up your mind to use it. The first is regarded by experts as producing the better tea, the second is more palatable and quite satisfactory, if only several cups are to be made.

First, wash! Allow a small teaspoonful of tea

Marion Harland's Corner

Government Whitewash

WILL you please give the formula for Government paint or Government whitewash? I am not sure what the name is. I have lost the formula, but I know one ingredient is whitewash. Should you know of any other formula for it I would be glad to know of it.

I hope you saw the recipe printed at length two or three weeks ago in reply to another query. It is too long to be given again so soon. If, however, you cannot obtain it, let us know and we will try to accommodate you. The recipe is for Government whitewash. I have none for Government paint. Will somebody contribute it?

Eggs in Water Glass

In reply as to eggs put up in water glass by an Old Time Housewife I should like to say that this is the first winter I have tried it, but I found them satisfactory. I bought eggs last July and put them down in large crocks with tight-fitting covers and put the crocks in a cool spot as I could find my way. The eggs are quite firm, enough so that I could separate the yolks from the whites. The mixture does not smell. It seems to form a coating over the eggs. By piercing a small hole in each egg and they may be boiled, and we have found them good. I have splendid success in baking with them, when whites and yolks are required, and to me it has been such a saving that I shall try it again this year. I have had a great many helpful suggestions from the Corner, but this is the first time I have come with my experience and opinion.

As a member in good and regular standing—your excellent contribution having enrolled you thus—you are invited to use the pass key to the Corner whenever the spirit of good fellowship moves you to talk with us. We are looking closely into the question you handle so ably and mean to let both sides have their say. The subject is of vital importance in housewifery. For immemorial ages good housekeepers have been devising means of keeping the indispensable egg fresh and eatable. I well remember seeing my mother put eggs down in salt for winter use, also in a mixture of brine and lime, and that a neighbor varnished hers all over with like purpose. If water glass be what you and the majority of those who write to us of experiments with it attest it solves a mighty problem in cookery.

Pure Vanilla Extract

In reply to a recent query in the H. H. C. I am sending an easy and practical method of making pure vanilla extract at home. Cut up two ounces of vanilla pods (from drug store) and three cloves, using shears for the work, and add a pint of brandy or pure grain alcohol. In case alcohol is used care must be taken that it is not the denatured product or wood alcohol, as both are poisonous. Put his in a quart jar and let it stand in a sunny window for two weeks. Then pour off carefully all the clear part of the sediment, strain through cheesecloth and put in a little tightly corked bottle or bottles. A word of caution, don't let the

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SEEN IN THE SHOPS



COMPLETE BOUDOIR COSTUME

HERE is a charming boudoir outfit for the prospective bride, or any woman who loves dainty things. The robe is a seminegligee, being suitable for breakfast wear as well as the boudoir. Made of shell-pink Georgette crepe, it is trimmed at the neck and sleeves with snowy swansdown, while French roses effectively finish the V-neck and catch up the sides in draped effect. A satin sash of the same color with a smart bow in the back is run through piquoted eyelets and tied in front in streamers. Floating and hemstitching are used for finishing the front and hem as well as the slit sides. It comes in pastel shades at \$19.75.

The petticoat, also shell-pink, is of crepe de chine with a self-colored chiffon border. Silk net hemstitched bands are run with pink satin ribbons finished in front with bows and wreaths of French roses. It comes in various colors at \$8.95. For the cap or bandeau is used. It has a net top and has its ruffled edge trimmed with valenciennes lace and piquoting. The moire band ending in looped streamers is trimmed at either side with French roses. It may be ordered in any color. The price is \$5.75.

The mules, which complete the outfit, are of taffeta trimmed with double lace frills and finished with French wreaths of roses adorning the other garments. Likewise, they may be ordered in various colors. Price, \$3.95. The name of the shop where these articles may be purchased will be supplied by the Editor of the Woman's Page, Evening Ledger, 408 Chestnut street. The request must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

GOOD FORM

Good form queries should be addressed to Deborah Rush, written on one side of the paper and signed with full name and address, though initials ONLY will be published upon request. This column will appear on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's Evening Ledger.

While on the subject of children's manners, a correspondent has asked if I would have something to say on the behavior of children and young girls when introduced to older people. A very pretty custom, which is prevalent at present, is that the child introduced to an older person should make a little curtsy when taking the older person's hand, if it is offered, and the curtsy should be made in any case. But it should be remembered that this practice, while most charming in a small child, becomes ridiculous in a girl of 16 years or more. Only last week I heard two ladies laughing over a girl of 16 years who had made the regular child's bobbing curtsy on being introduced to them. As one of the ladies was just about 20 herself, she did not appreciate the deference shown to her age.

Another question which is often asked about children's manners is whether it is still in good form for a child to say "Yes, sir," or "ma'am." This is considered to belong to the courtesy due from serving maids; children who are well-bred say "Yes, mother," or, if they do not use the person's name, the answer "yes" or "no" should be made in a tone of polite deference.

Country Walks Dear Deborah Rush—In a letter written to you last week signed "Pia," I read the question, "Is it permissible to take walks in the country in the evening with a young man?" I saw that you answered, "It is not conventional nor according to good form," but you must remember, Marjory, that circumstances may vary as I have often and often reiterated in this column. "Pia" asked me if it was permissible to walk in the country with a young man, and she did not designate him any further than that. To a general question one can only give a general answer. Of course, there are exceptions, but it would never do to give a general rule about

these matters, except that as a rule it is not to be done. Of course, a girl may walk with a person she knows very well, who is sure to act as a gentleman. The trouble about this, as about so many other things, is simply the mark of the world is an ugly place when it comes to gossip and the making up of stories about others out of whole cloth. It is therefore not advisable for young girls to take the risk of being talked about by doing imprudent things which are perfectly innocent in themselves. Another thing is that a man who has not much respect for girls might take advantage of a lonely walk in the country, away from other people, and make himself very unpleasant by offering unwelcome and familiar attentions.

Tuxedos at Dance Dear Deborah Rush—Will you please answer the following question: 1. Is it permissible for a young man of 18 to wear a tuxedo to a dance when accompanied by a lady? 2. How is a dance program used correctly? 3. How is a dance program used correctly? 4. How is a dance program used correctly?

Informal Invitations Dear Deborah Rush—I expect to invite about

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

I hate malicious gossip And insinuating looks I'd rather spend my leisure time In reading story books



stent or ten friends to my home for some evening, and would appreciate it if you would kindly send me the address of your home, which I expect to send to my friends inviting them. Do you think it would be better form to call them on the telephone and invite them, since this is such a small informal affair?

Puzzled Dear Deborah Rush—Will you kindly answer the following questions through your "Good Form" column? 1. I expect to attend a formal dance in a city where I am entirely unacquainted, though the young lady I am to escort is, how should I dress?

2. Are the multi-buttoned silk shirts still proper with evening dress suits? And would black expanse serve instead of tulle? 3. In warm June weather, what outer covering should be worn over a dress suit in evening to and from a dance? 4. As you are not acquainted in this city you speak of, you cannot be expected to have the program in advance. If it is a private affair you would not be expected to know. If she knows many people in this city where the dance is to be, she will probably be asked to dance by those she knows. You could not be responsible for it.

5. A stiff shirt is more correct for formal dances. The two-headed ones are still worn, and are certainly more comfortable in warm weather. A lightweight summer overcoat is the only garment I could recommend.

DEBORAH RUSH.

Good to Know

A small seat, such as the motorman on the cars uses, attached to the kitchen sink in such a way as to swing out when needed, and still be out of the way when not in use, is a great help. It saves many a backache and thereby a disposition.

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Informal Invitations Dear Deborah Rush—I expect to invite about

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Skirts Must "Fluff" Frilliness is the keynote of the season's newest undergarments. May sales show slips and petticoats of white net, ornate, fluted, the steepest of Valenciennes. Cluny, Irish, and even the cobwebby Chantilly lace may be seen on flounces. The be-ruffed petticoat is quite in vogue, of course. It may be as stiff as possible, or wired out in unexpected places, or it may depend for its effect upon a bustle at the back—but it must be frilly. Girdles Again Taffeta girdles are worn on many occasions, finishing with a loop at the back of the frock. They may be half-tones or carrying out the color scheme of the costume. Some of them even agree in a Bahet-like fashion with the rest of the whole—just blossom out in apple green, purple, or corals bows with any reason or any relation to the outfit.

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