IS HOUSEKEEPING ROMANTIC?—EXPERT ADVICE ABOUT SEWING

EVERY WOMAN WILL SOON HAVE TO DO HER OWN HOUSEWORK

Alarming Dearth of Servants Due to the Drop in Emigration—Foreign Help Make More in Munition Factories

THE average girl of leisure who wants to prepare herself to keep house scientifically for her future lord and master doesn't go into the kitchen to learn it, as her mother did. She goes to a domestic science school. There she learns to speak familiarly—I might almost say flippantly—of calories, proteins and all the other mysterious things that old-fashioned cooks wot not of. Which is quite as it should be. We certainly can't live without cooks and our chances are considerably slimmer with poor cooks.

Not only the leisure classes study cooking nowadays—girls of wealth, whose idea of real work is to lace up their own shoes and who never have to worry about a dollar—many girls of this class are studying food values and working hard at the artistic drudgery known as domestic science. Why? Just because they know that the day is not far off when the servant will be as scarce as the dodo. Money won't buy her services; she just won't exist. The race will have disappeared from this side of the globe. Those who are in service over here will be so much in demand and so prosperous that they won't need to work and no help will be available from abroad, because better jobs can be found in the munition factories.

There are a hundred and one places open to women in Europe today that would not be available at any other time. If we can't get them to do our housework we must naturally do it ourselves.

This is the situation that must be met in the near future—not the appalling servant problem, but the more appalling "servantless" problem. And the solution of the problem of doing without a maid is offered by Mrs. Mary Fanton Roberts, housekeeper par excellence and editor of one of the big magazines. Since we must do housework, says she, why look upon it as drudgery? Why not make it romantic? This is how Mrs. Roberts makes her work "romantic":

"If the woman at the head of the house is going to make up her mind to do her own work, or a part of it, with the least possible friction and a maximum of happiness, she must also make up her mind to do away with fashion in furniture and in house decoration. She must make up her mind to live in a house that is built attractively in the beginning and will maintain that form of comfort and attractiveness to the end, not a house that will easily submit to alteration.

"For example, much of her furniture will be built in. She will have no heavy divan to lift around every cleaning day, for these things will be built in with the house, two in the living room, perhaps, and one in the dining room. The bookcases will be built in. No straining of muscles to pull them out in order to get at the wads of dirt secreted behind them. The kitchen and dining room will be joined with the adroit skill of the architect in such a way that no sound in the kitchen is echoed in the dining room, and yet both rooms are so close that few steps need be taken in going from one to the other. A tiny hallway, perhaps two feet across, separates kitchen from dining room.

"As to the dining room, the housewife, when she does her own work, will have no tablecloths. I never owned a tablecloth in my life! She will have cross pieces of Japanese runners or other pretty novelty bits and doilies which can be replaced easily if one of them meets with an accident or becomes soiled. Thus the laundry bill is reduced or the laundry work, whichever the case happens to be."

No heavy divans! No tablecloths! This would indeed be the millennium. A woman could do her own work and still remain a lady.

Letters to the Editor of the Woman's Page

Address all communications to Editor of Woman's Page. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear Madam—Can you tell me how to can peaches? WEST PHILADELPHIA.

Peel, stone and halve the peaches, dropping them into cold water as you do so. Allow a cupful of sugar to four quarts of fruit. Pour a cupful of water into the preserving kettle, put in a layer of peaches, sprinkle with sugar, add more peaches and more sugar until all the fruit is used. Bring slowly to a boil. Do not cook for more than fifteen minutes. Can and seal immediately, boiling hot.

Dear Madam—Having read your advice in the EVENING LEDGER, I have decided to ask your advice on the following subject.

Please be good enough to advise what will promote the growth of the hair and what will prevent the hair from falling out. DAILY READER.

The growth of the hair depends upon the amount of nourishment it gets. Massaging and manipulating the scalp also promote growth. You can combine the two by using a good hair tonic nightly and rubbing it vigorously into the scalp. Part the hair into strands and apply to each part. Castor oil, coal oil and quinine and cocoanut oil will also give good results. Many of the best hair tonics are composed chiefly of one of these ingredients.

The treatment I have already described keeps the hair from falling out. Keeping the scalp scrupulously clean is another aid.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS

SMART SERGE STREET DRESS

THIS stunning model shows the Russian blouse with fur trimming. The sizes range from 16 to 42. The white satin sailor collar has a border of fur. The sash terminates in balls of the same. The cuffs are of white satin also. The waist and upper part of the skirt are accordion plaited, being joined to the deep border by the natural fur trimming, which has a good deal of body and holds out the wide flare of the skirt. A frock of this kind is invaluable. It comes in black and navy blue. Price, $16.98.

Velvet as a hat material is never amiss. This has a large brim, with a mere suggestion of a droop on either side. A tailored bow completes the trimming. Price, $6.98, in black or colors.

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.

The Woman Who Sews

SOMEONE said that color is the salvation of the impecunious. I might also add that, by the same token, it is the ruination of the self-same class. Those who can afford few clothes, and those who are in the habit of making the few do service for many and varied occasions, are the very ones who offend most grievously the great law of color.

Vivid colorings are smart this season. You can revel in weird shades of orange and purple, and chartreuse and mauve—if you know how. Your simple and girlish evening gown of last season—if it was all pale blue taffeta and soft silver lace, for instance—may be rendered distinctive by a broad band of violet or old rose velvet, worn across the front like a diplomat's red ribbon. Everything's very gorgeous, with beads and ruffles and brocaded or sequined trimmings galore.

Dear Madam—I have made myself a dress like inclosed green sample. The skirt is rather full, with two tucks having a two-inch accordion pleating at bottom of each tuck. The waist has rather large "fichu" collar, edged with same pleating (the pleating is of goods), with a small chemisette and turnover collar of white georgette. The dress is pretty, but seems to need a touch of color near the face. It makes me look old and sallow. My skin is clear and pale, hair dark brown. Pink seems to be the color required. How can I introduce it? I have a small quantity of silk like inclosed pink. Could that be used sparingly in some way? I also have yards and yards of jet beaded trimming, the beads bright as new and all shapes and sizes, but foundation faded. I notice beads are used in trimming. Could I use them in some way? I will appreciate any suggestion you offer. Will look for a reply in the Fashion Expert Column. MRS. M. J.

The pink you inclose is rather vivid to use with dark green. It would make a glaring combination and one that you would soon tire of, I fear. You could use it as a pleated edge on your georgette collar and chemisette, though, with very good results. But I would not use the color in a solid mass.

A soft flesh-pink collar and chemisette, edged with the pink pleating, would also be pretty. It would insure you against looking pale and old, for nothing is more flattering to clear skin than flesh pink.

Your beads should come in very handy this winter for evening gowns. If I can be of help to you in planning one, let me know.

Marion Harland's Corner

World's Largest City

"YOU are usually so willing to print both sides of a question that I have no hesitation of sending in a word that may modify your statement in reply to a recent query: By the recent election in Los Angeles the districts of Westgate and Occidental were annexed to the city. Westgate added 48.67 square miles and Occidental 1.04 square miles, bringing the total mileage to 337.92. The area of Greater New York is 314.75 square miles. Los Angeles, then, with an area of 23 square miles greater, is today the largest city in the world. GUY W. S."

Tansy for Fleas

"A remedy for fleas is asked for by K. S. Tell her to get tansy, (Tanecetum vulgare), and put it into her beds and on the floors. Some years ago I was in a country boarding house in the mountains. The boarders were scratching and rubbing different parts of their anatomy. I was told it was 'not the itch, but fleas, and plenty of them.' I went into the roadway and brought back some tansy—an armful of it. That night all the boarders slept, and there were no more fleas in that house that summer. K. W. O."

A Rose Pillow

If you wish to fill a pillow with rose leaves alone, spread the petals in the shade, on a sunny day, and dry thoroughly before stuffing the pillow. Then scatter a tablespoon of powdered orris root among them and add 10 drops of real attar of roses. Make the inner lining of glazed cambric, the outer of silk or satin. To wash blankets, put into a tub half a pint of ammonia and lay a blanket over it; pour lukewarm water over it immediately. This sends the fumes through the blanket and loosens the dirt. The blanket should be stirred about with a stick and pressed down until the dirt all seems to be in the water. Rinse in water of the same temperature, doing the work thoroughly. Run through a wringer and hang to dry. FAITHFUL READER.

Pieces for Recitation

"In response to Miss Florence S.'s plea for recitations, I am inclosing a list of several popular ones, which are mostly metrical and have seen service on the stage. If the young woman will send me her address I shall be glad to mail her copies of those she may wish to have: 'Asleep at the Switch,' 'Face Upon the Floor,' 'Gunga Din,' 'Tommy Atkins,' 'The Vampire,' 'Casey at the Bat,' 'Casey's Revenge,' 'How Little Johnny Saw the Show,' 'The Polyglot,' 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew,' 'Phil Blood's Leap,' 'The Dukite Snake,' 'Ain't It Great to Live and Learn?' 'The Murderer,' 'Ostler Joe,' 'Little Johnny,' 'Lasca' and 'The Last Words of Robert Emmet.' P. S. F."

How to Stiffen a Panama

Referring to the inquiry on how to stiffen a Panama hat, I always use sugar water. To a cup of hot water put as much granulated sugar in as it will dissolve. Thoroughly saturate the hat, bend into shape, and leave until dry. This treatment lasts nearly all the season. It will not injure the hat and does not get sticky in damp weather. MRS. R. G. C.

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