

GLOVE MAKING SECRETS.

SOME STRANGE SKINS MASQUERADE AS "KIDS."

The Frenchman Kneels in Dressing and Dyeing—Barefoot Boys Pat the Hides—Innumerable Tints.

BAREFOOTED boys and hens form a curious partnership in the making of a pair of fine gloves. They work together in preparing the skins for the hands of the fashionable woman who rushes to the stores every time a new shade of gloves is announced.

Thousands of dozens of hens' eggs are used in curing the hides and thousands of boys are employed to work the skins in clear water by treading on them for several hours.

When a woman buys a pair of gloves she speaks of her purchase of "kids." If the clerk who sold her the "kid" gloves knew the secrets of the glove-making business he might surprise his fair customer by telling her that those beautiful, soft, smooth-fitting "kid" gloves came from the shoulders and paunch of a three-week-old colt, whose neck was slit on the plains of Russia, and whose tender hide was shipped with huge bundles of other colts' hides to France, where they were made up into "kid" gloves. Or he might with equal regard to the truth tell her that those gloves in the other compartment once darted from tree to tree in South America on the back of a ring-tailed monkey. And if he made the rounds of the store and could distinguish one skin from another, he could point out "kid" gloves made from the skins of kangaroos from Australia; lambs and sheep from Ohio, or Spain, or England; calves from India; musk rats from anywhere; musk oxen from China and other parts of Asia; rats, cats and Newfoundland puppies.

But the little Russian colt, the four-footed baby from the plains where the Cossacks live, the colt from the steppes of Siberia, whose horses are raised by the thousand, supply the skins which are the favorites at present with the glove-makers. Experts say that the colt skin makes a better, stronger, finer glove than real kidskin, and as the colt is a little fellow, only three weeks old when he is killed, but a small amount of skin can be made into gloves, so that the price is about as high.

But, after all, the real kid, the lively infant of the goats which live in France, Switzerland, Spain and Italy, furnishes the best, finest and most expensive gloves, and nearly 10,000,000 kids are sacrificed every year in order that women and men may cramp their hands in wrinkleless, delicate-hued gloves.

Germans, English and clever Yankees have vainly tried for years to dress and dye kidskins as well as the Frenchman in southern France. Millions of skins are dressed and dyed in this country, but all the workmen who have been brought to this country, all the money which has been spent and all the skill and learning of chemists and inventors have failed to place the American alongside the Frenchman in dressing and preparing skins for the making of gloves. The buyers for the manufacturers in France travel over the mountains of Spain, Italy and Switzerland collecting the kidskins. They pay about twenty-five cents a skin, and packing them in bales ship them to the factory.

The place where the skins are dressed cannot be called a tannery, for oak bark and the other preparations which are used by the ordinary tanner do not enter into the making of kid gloves. When the kidskins are brought to the factory they are dumped into pits which are filled with water and lime, and kept there for two or three weeks. From the minute they are placed in the pits the skins are carefully watched, and the workmen move the skins about with iron tongs, handling them tenderly for fear the delicate skins may be torn. When they are removed from the lime-water pits the hair is easily removed, and then the flesh on the under part of the skin is taken off. After every hair is rubbed from the skins and all the flesh has been scraped away they are placed in clear running water to remove the lime which has soaked in. After this the skins are placed in wheat bran mixed with warm water, which has the same effect on the skins that a mixture of bran and warm water has on the human skin; it makes the skin soft and pliable and removes all the dirt and impurities.

At this stage of the operations the hens come into play, for the dresser or curer prepares a mixture of the yolk of eggs, flour, alum and salt and places it with the skins in a drum which revolves on a shaft or axle. The turning over of the skins in this revolving drum works the egg mixture into the skins, and the process is kept up for an hour. The skins are then hung separately on hooks in a hot room and dried. The next step is to wet them in clear hot water again and work them by hand over a curved, polished tool, on which the soft skin is stretched back and forth and pulled and worked until the skin is wider and longer than it was originally, and exceedingly pliable. The skins are then turned over to the shavers, who with knives as keen as razors shave the under part. This is one of the most delicate operations in the process of curing, and none but the most skillful workmen are shavers. The shaving makes the skin thin and delicate. Then they are coated with a mixture of flour, oil and the yellow of eggs, and are turned over to the barefooted boys. The lads put them in clear water and then walk back and forth over them, patting them with their feet for hours, and then the eggs are used again, for the skins are treated to a coating of the yellow of eggs and laid away for a day or so.

After that they are ready for the

dyer. He first brushes ammonia over the skin and then applies the dye. The color is put only on one side. The dyer is an artist. He is as proud of his art as any painter of landscapes, marines or portraits, and puts on his colors with as delicate a touch as that used by the painter of miniatures. He goes over the surface until his color is perfectly even and uniform of tone. When he is satisfied with his work he sends it to men who go over the skins and remove any unevenness in grain or texture which may have come through undetected.

The sorters next take the skins and assort them according to size and quality. The undressed or suede finish is given to the gloves by shaving off a layer of the outer side of the skin. The smooth, glossy finish is called glace, and is given to the skin by polishing the hair side of it. For cheap suede gloves the flesh side of the skin is used for the outside.

Each kidskin will supply material for about three gloves, one man can cut about three dozen pairs a day. The gloves are first stitched on the back and then the fingers are stitched in on a sewing machine in which the needle moves horizontally instead of up and down, as in an ordinary sewing machine. The best gloves are hand-stitched. It is said that the French dyers can give 330 tints to skins, and new tints are constantly being put on the market.—Chicago Record.

The Adhesive Plaster.

In one family, where there are numerous sideaches, backaches, bruises and sprains, the porous plaster has come to be a recognized institution. Its putting on is generally accepted with delight, but when it comes to the taking off, the "oh, dears!" and "don'ts!" and cries of pain are many and emphatic. Even after the plaster is pulled off, there is a layer of adhesive gum on the skin that is struggled with in all sorts of ways. Sometimes the razor is employed for scraping; sometimes a sharp knife is brought into use, and, again, a soft warm cloth is pressed over the spot, and when this has firmly attached itself, the peeling process goes on. Those who have occasion to use this application, will find immediate relief from their annoyance if they will, after raising one side of the plaster, wet the surface of the skin with alcohol, allowing it to run down as the plaster is pulled a little. If any of the gummy substance remains, a bit of rag wet with alcohol will cleanse the surface almost immediately. This, also, has another advantage, in that the stimulating effect of the alcohol prevents any possible cold that might be taken on account of the removal of the warm plaster. This is but a trifle, but it makes easy something that has always been a bugbear, especially to children, and is well worth trying.—New York Ledger.

Coral Church on an Eastern Island.

The church built of coral is one of the curiosities of the Isle of Mahe, one of the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. The Seychelles Islands, which are supposed by many to be the site of the Eden of the Old Testament, form an archipelago of 114 islands and are situated about 1400 miles east of Aden and 1000 miles from Zanzibar. They rise steeply out of the sea, culminating in the Isle of Mahe, which is about 3000 feet above the level of the ocean and is nearly the center of the group. All these islands are of coral growth. The houses are built of a species of massive coral hewn into square blocks, which glisten like white marble and show themselves to the utmost advantage in the various tinted green of the thick tropical palms, whose immense fern-like leaves give pleasant and much needed shade. These palms grow as high as 100 feet and more, overtopping both the houses and the coral built church. They line the sea shore and cover the mountains, forming in many places extensive forests.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Keeping Trees Awake Nights.

"Electric lights are playing sad havoc with shade trees in towns and villages," says a philosopher. "The effect is to make the leaves appear as though they had been subject to a blighting breath. Arboriculturists say that the light keeps the trees awake, and, consequently, they are tired to death. Trees need sleep and rest as well as any other thing in nature, and the lack of this rest causes the leaves to drop. This solution is probably correct, as it has been noted that similar trees in the neighborhood of those affected, but removed from the exposure of the illumination, retain their strength and color." This should be looked into. If a remedy is not provided for before another spring, the trees near electric lights will probably leave.—Detroit Free Press.

A Test of Eligibility.

A story is told by a Scotch contemporary of a new arrival at the Border Counties' Lunatic Asylum, near Melrose, who was sent out along with some others to work in the grounds. After he had been working for some time, an old inmate, who had been watching him, came up and said—"Unless you delve with the rake and rake w' the spade, ma man, ye'll be no lang here."—London Globe.

Wild Strawberries.

There are only three really good varieties of the wild strawberry, and one of these is the parent of the much-prized cultivated variety. The wild berry is seldom or never seen in this market, but in Canada, where labor is cheap and the berries are abundant, they are picked by country folks and sold in the cities and towns.—New York Sun.

NEWS & NOTES FOR WOMEN

New Orleans has a woman's orchestra.

Susan B. Anthony is proud of her cooking.

The Queen of Belgium is a clever conjurer.

Christina Georgina Rossetti, the poetess, is dead.

Scarlet is mourning color for unmarried women in Brazil.

At a recent wedding in Kansas there were twenty-four bridesmaids.

Superstitious women, prejudiced against green, have been known to refuse lettuce.

Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt has dark hair, which she dresses in a fluffy and picturesque style.

Mrs. Maria Lawrence, of Palmer, Mass., is a member of the fire department of the town.

A Japanese bride's playthings are burned on her wedding day, typifying the end of her childhood.

An association to enable Mohammedan widows to secure second husbands has been formed in Turkey.

Some of the most valuable emeralds in the country are owned by Mrs. Joseph Drexel, of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Humphry Ward has received about \$200,000 from the three books she has written in the last six years.

The habit of drinking vinegar is said to be very difficult to cure. Many women drink vinegar for the complexion.

Miss Susan Fenimore Cooper, daughter of James Fenimore Cooper, died of apoplexy a few days ago at Cooperstown, N. Y., in her eighty-second year.

Froken Hulda Lundin, the well-known Swedish lady teacher of Sloyd, has received a silver medal from the Ladies' Committee of the Chicago Exposition.

Mary Anderson-Navarro says that for the first seven years she enjoyed the life of the stage. Gradually the work became irksome after that, and for the last year it was scarcely endurable.

Bracelets, by the way, are no longer sold in pairs. Only one arm is decorated nowadays, the left or right, as fancy dictates, and this may exhibit as many bracelet oddities as one cares to display.

Mme. Casimir-Perier, wife of the French President, according to private letters from Paris, manifests a disposition to be very gracious toward some social stars of the American colony there.

Charming toilettes are made by Paris costumers for Parisiennes for \$35 or \$45, but let an English or American woman order a similar outfit and she will have to pay a third more on account of her nationality.

Miss Marie Celeste Stauffer, of New Orleans, to whom Samuel J. Tilden left \$100,000, was married a few days since at New Orleans to George Preston Eastwick. The wedding and reception were fashionable affairs.

Another American woman has become an English Countess. This lady, who was Miss Corbin, married Mr. Walpole, nephew of the Earl of Oxford, and the Earl having lately died leaving only two daughters, the title goes to his nephew.

The only woman chemist in Paris is a Vassar girl, Miss Ida Welt. She has distinguished herself at the University of Geneva and at the University of Paris. The Academy of Sciences has just published her "Researches on Dissymmetrical Hydrocarbons."

Grandmother's fashions in tea and dinner sets are now the order of the day, and the dainty treasures of the long ago are shown with great care and pride. Antique mirrors are also highly prized just now, the long and narrow shape being the most desirable.

It is a common belief among women that the moth will not attack any green material, and many of them make it a point to buy stuffs of green dye whenever the color is not incompatible with the purpose for which the material is intended. Green dyes often contain arsenic, and that may account for the antipathy of the moth to the color.

Miss Francis Willard is the third woman upon whom the degree of LL.D. has been conferred, the other two being Maria Mitchell and Amelia B. Edwards.

Miss Morrison, a San Francisco girl, recently graduated from the medical department of the University of California with the highest honors of the class.

Twenty female clerks are employed by a Sydney (New South Wales) insurance office. Their work is noted for being more correct than that of male clerks.

One of the surprising things to American women in England is the number of English women who marry men from five to twenty years younger than themselves.

All the Same.

"Many days you have lingered about my cabin door; hard times, hard times come again no more." All the same Merry Christmas and Happy New Year passed as though the land was flowing with milk and honey. Some bought one thing and some bought another, but one of the best investments for a small sum paid well. It was not for a Christmas bush, but thousands got it and thousands who had suffered long and wearily with rheumatism were made doubly happy in being cured by St. Jacobs Oil. It leaves no trace behind, and all the same, the harder times will come no more to them. The luxury of health is worth a fortune.

How Limburger Cheese is Made.

Limburger cheese is made of fresh milk and rennet, which are heated together in a copper kettle until the milk coagulates. This occurs when the thermometer is about eighty-five degrees. The curd is then stirred into small pieces and the heat increased to about ninety-two degrees in winter and ninety-eight degrees in summer. After it has been heated the proper length of time, the curd is run into moulds. For about three days salt is rubbed into the new cheese which are put on shelves and put away. Twice each week an oily exudation from the cheeses is rubbed into them, and for about four months the cheeses ripen on the shelves. At the end of that time they are ready for use. The process seems simple, but success or failure depends on cooking the curds the right length of time at the proper heat, and afterward in curing the cheeses at the proper temperature.—Trenton (N. J.) American.



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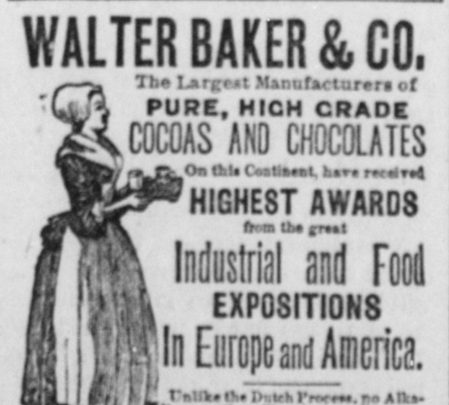
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The St. Louis public school children were also used by Professor Porter for a series of tests of acuteness of vision, the results of which were shown on a chart. The right eyes and left eyes of more than 10,000 children of both sexes were tested separately. They were placed five metres, or sixteen feet, from a point at which were shown in succession a series of test letters ranging in size. One of the results of the test was that it was clearly shown that there was a greater amount of short-sightedness in girls than in boys.

"This seems to be a sort of compensation for the fact that girls can distinguish shades and colors quicker than boys," remarked Professor Bowditch, of Harvard, in the discussion which followed Professor Porter's papers.—Baltimore Sun.

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Yours truly, Mrs. MARY C. AYRES. Send a postal card for Dr. Kennedy's Book.

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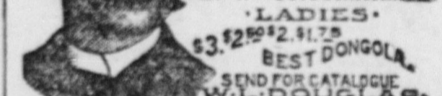
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