



MISS VIOLET OAKLEY.

America's Woman Mural Painter and Her Ambitious Work.

For the first time in the history of American art a woman is intrusted with the mural decorations of a great public building.

Violet Oakley is to be the creator of this work. The room in the capitol which Miss Oakley is to decorate is 70 feet by 30 and 16 feet high.



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who undertakes to carry out this scheme of decoration is not hampered by tradition, as is the case with the subjects, the old stock ones.

It is in mural design and in stained glasswork that Miss Oakley especially excels. Her decorations in the Church of All Angels in New York placed her name foremost among the artists in that line of work.

Just how many years it will take to complete the present work Miss Oakley has no idea. As a preliminary she went on a tour of Europe, visiting Assisi, Venice, Naples, Rome and Florence, studying the work of the Italian masters of mural decorations and treasuring a wealth of suggestions.

Then she went to England to obtain the historical data which were only to be obtained there. At the Kensington museum, Oxford and elsewhere Miss Oakley found the necessary groundwork for the compositions and then returned to her studio at Villa Nova, Pa., to begin the designs.

The young artist who is thus honored with work that none but a master would be intrusted with was born in New Jersey, but lived the greater part of her life in New York, where she first started her lessons at the Art league, working for awhile under Carroll Beckwith.

Then she went for a year abroad, studying with Raphael Collin and Aman Gean at the Academie Montparnasse during a winter and spending a summer under Charles Lasar in Rye, Sussex. The following year she spent in Philadelphia, taking lessons at the Academy of the Fine Arts under Cecilia Beaux, Joseph de Camp and Henry Thouron.—Boston Globe.

The Plain Woman. "The pretty woman hasn't all the good things in life," said a plain woman. "She misses one thing certainly—the comfort of ugliness. To be sure, she has to be old enough to have philosophized a bit about life before she finds this out, and before that time she is certain to have lain awake nights crying because the skin deep gift of the gods has been denied her.

In the long migrations of the birds from north to south; in the journeys of the blacktail deer of the Rockies, when death lurks by the pathway to their summer or winter homes; in the wild stampede of the buffalo that once ranged the mighty plains—we never hear of a "weaker sex." Queer.—Washington Times.

For a Child's Cot. A good mattress for a child's cot may be made of torn paper. Old letters or any clean paper which is not too stiff may be torn into strips for this purpose. Make a stout case of the size required and fill it with the torn paper. Over this mattress lay a folded blanket.

How well an old cookbook was dedicated when it was signed "To those plucky housewives who master their wifery" instead of allowing it to master them!"

Don't think it enough to be a beauty. In order to approach perfection a woman should improve herself intellectually as well as physically.

A Japanese bride gives her wedding presents to her parents as a slight recompense for the trouble they have had in rearing her.

Women make their own opportunities nowadays without waiting for opportunities to come to them.

times out of ten he doesn't know what they are himself.

Don't try to ape your rich neighbors or nag your husband for the money he cannot afford to give you. Have the courage and independence to accept your life as you find it and make the most of it.

No one ever realizes her most brilliant expectations of happiness. You will never be quite so happy as you expected to be, but you must not grieve over that. Take the goods the gods provide and be thankful.

The average man expects a good deal of his wife. He wants her to stay at home when he is out. He doesn't know why, neither does she, but it is so. He wants her to be there when he comes home. It doesn't seem right if she is not.

Don't stand on your dignity with your husband, for it doesn't pay. Your husband is a man, and men have many and varied peculiarities which are totally incomprehensible to women. Do not try to understand them, for you cannot, and that is all there is about it.—Boston Traveler.

Floor Cushions. Large floor cushions are as convenient as they are ornamental. Their manufacture and arrangement admit of much variety of taste, and they are not difficult to evolve out of homely materials.

Even common sacking and the ever present excelsior can be pressed into service. The usual size is 27 by 36 inches. They may be simply stuffed, tufted or untufted or even fitted with springs. For the first named sort cut two pieces of stout, unbleached sheeting the desired size and set in a piece four inches wide for sides, just as a mattress is made.

To Clean Smoky Paper Hangings. Take a piece of wood of the shape of a scrubbing brush, nail a handle on the back, then upon the face nail a piece of dried sheepskin with wool upon it, or flax or tow will do, or cotton fannel of several thicknesses will answer very well. Dip this brush in to dry whitening and rub the smoke lightly with the brush on the upper parts of the room first, protecting the carpet with matting or newspaper, as the whitening dust is hard to sweep off a carpet. The whitening that remains on the wall is easily brushed off with a soft cloth attached to a stick. It is very effectual if the room is not damp and the whitening is dry.

Monotony in the Sick Room. When persons are ill a long time they naturally become tired of seeing just the same things in the same identical spot in the room week in and week out. The nurse has it in her power to relieve to a large extent this horrible monotony of view by occasionally taking the pictures down and replacing them with others from various parts of the house. Remove the bric-a-brac, which becomes wearisome after a time, and put in its place vases of sweet, bright flowers. Bring the bird in for awhile, if the patient is not suffering with headache, and so direct the attention to things cheerful and pleasant.

The Finishing Touches. The girl who is careful to have her collar, cuffs, belt and other trifles harmonize and who chooses them with an eye to their appropriateness to the dress and to the occasion upon which they are to be worn will also see to it that her gloves and shoes are neat and clean, while her hair will be arranged in a simple, becoming style, without any attempt at exaggeration or desire to follow the latest fad or fancy.—Success.

Tarragon Vinegar. Tarragon vinegar may be inexpensively made at home with cider or white wine vinegar and dried tarragon leaves bought at the druggist's. Allow half a pint of leaves to a quart of vinegar and allow the leaves to steep for about two weeks. Strain carefully, using a flannel jelly bag. Bottle and keep in a cool place.

Queer. In the long migrations of the birds from north to south; in the journeys of the blacktail deer of the Rockies, when death lurks by the pathway to their summer or winter homes; in the wild stampede of the buffalo that once ranged the mighty plains—we never hear of a "weaker sex." Queer.—Washington Times.

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THE PUZZLER

No. 393.—Easy Metagrams. 1. Beheld a kind of rod and leave a person given to unlawful arts.

No. 394.—Postman's Puzzle. A youth received a letter which made him a guide to navigators.

No. 395.—Charade. Take the same little word for my first and my third.

No. 396.—Word Building. 1. A vowel. 2. Part of an irregular verb.

No. 397.—Novel Diagonals. 1. 2. 3.

No. 398.—A Famous English Building. From 1 to 2 and from 3 to 4, a celebrated novelist; from 3 to 2, arrays.



No. 399.—Enigma. My whole's of sound a quality; Tailless, a hundred weight.

No. 400.—Word Square. 1. Face of the sun, moon or planet.

No. 401.—Numerical Omissions. I am composed of eleven letters and am a garden cross.

No. 402.—Annus We Know. This Ann lives very far off.

Easy Enough. "Johnnie," asked his father of a little kindergarten pupil, "do you know how to make a Maltese cross?"

The Custom of the Country. A traveler met a man barefoot and asked, "Is it the custom of this country for the men to go without shoes?"

Key to the Puzzler. No. 396.—Word Square: 1. Elbow. 2. Larch.

No. 398.—Enigma: Honest. No. 399.—A Thanksgiving Dinner: Fish (Hamilton Fish), Turkey, Lamb, Potato, Corn (Cornwallis), Beet (beat), Pumpkin Pie, Hickory (nuts), Oranges (East and South).

DRESS HINTS.

Pale blue is considered a becoming color to wear with gray hair.

To clean a taffeta silk skirt take equal parts of water and ammonia and rub on with a brush.

A somewhat shabby shoe may be wonderfully freshened by the addition of new strings of wide ribbon.

Mud stains on dark dresses which will not yield to the clothes brush will generally disappear when rubbed with a cut raw potato.

If you wash and iron new gingham before you put it into garments you will avoid the inconvenient letting out process which usually follows the first washing.

Soft wool gowns are most becoming to older women and should be worn in place of the rather harsher smooth cloths with the shiny surface or the rough serges.

Restore creased ribbons by laying them evenly on a board or table and dampen them with a clean sponge and a little clear water.

Women as Architects. It is a great temptation to a young woman architect to undercharge for her work.

Instead of trying to convince a woman, the wise man proceeds to coax her.

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