MIDSUMMER FASHIONS.

Blouse Waists of Every Variety and Material—Borrowing Men's Fashions—Hoop Skirts Are Becoming Popular Again—Hints for School Misses.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

To keep cool and clean is the prevailing study from now until the end of August. Such of humanity as are fortunate will be found the east side of a big boulder on the New England coast somewhere, or facing the Pacific rollers. Life elsewhere is mere endurance. The hair is dressed high for coolness, turned straight up from the nape of the neck and coiled in a figure of eight on the crown, or in a broad Bulgarian braid pierced by huge filigree gold or silver pins.

Jet is too heavy for summer. The braid or the twist dispense with the use of the crimping iron, or care lest the damp take the crimp out afterward. Really the straight hair with a little feathery finish on the brow looks very pleasing, except for people with high foreheads, who must adhere to the curling tongs. The light frame which fits on the chimney of a kerosene

New Style of Arranging Hair.

lamp does away with pocket stoves, which oblige one to buy alcohol continually, or else to heat irons by favor at the cook stove in summer boarding houses where the landlady is an angel unaware. The kind is not too common. Wherefore this wire rest which costs a quarter and allows you to do your hair wherever kerosene is burned will be hailed a relief by vexed maidens under summer disadvantages.

BLOUSES OF EVERY SORT.

Now the sun enters the sign of the blouse in the social zodiac and remains there. Print and linen blouses for people who have old-fashioned notions about sweet, clean laundry work; washing silk blouses striped, plaided, polka-dotted, that you wash round the collar and cuffs with a rubber hand-brush, rinse and dry in the sun on the window pane and press in a big book; white silk and wool blouses which hesitate at catching dust, and the lace at throat and wrists takes the soil anyway, and that wash and iron with any sort of care like new; pale pink, blue or maize blouses in veiling, in thin crepe de chine, in silk muslin, which looks prettier than anything when fresh and loses its freshness sooner than anything.

Really plain pink or blue zephyr or linen lawn in the light colors are more useful and comfortable than anything else, and the linen lawn, ironed carefully on the wrong side, is fresh and clear as expensive silk muslin. The silk blouses have the merit of being light and warm for cool seaside mornings, but are also warm for noon. The finely-tucked blouses which entail such work to make them give place to the silk and wool blouse with the fullness just gathered a little two inches each side under the collar and in the belt, or for thin figures it is gathered on the shoulders.

SOME OF THE PRETTIER EFFECTS.

A few nice waists have inch pleats laid each side and in the back, but the simpler French gathered waists are preferred by nice dressmakers or artistic blouses in pink or cream Liberty silks or crepe wool. The shirt sleeve or the bishop is the only thing allowable in washing waists. Some of the nice thin wool blouses have sleeves of fine satiny surah or India silk the same color.

Summer Mantles.

Yoked blouses are fashionable, but not becoming, and so are not considered in our list of styles. Very few figures look even tolerably in waists gathered with a standing frill above the yoke, as the fancy is, which makes the wearers look sunken-chested.

Most of washing dresses are spoiled with over-trimming, or the trimming is too obvious. A blue zephyr with white embroidery or lines of white braid lacks blending; but take darker embroidery in self color on a mixed ground, or half cover the white braid by wider blue a little deeper than the shade of the gown, and the result meets lasting approval. Stylish cotton gowns are a combination of plain and figured material, which dispense with trimming. A favorite design is a gobelin blue percale, with side panel and blouse front of red cotton, with large rings or polka dots.

Blue gowns trimmed with red seem rather the fancy, but are hot looking in any fabric. Redfern lately showed a brilliant yachting dress, of dark blue fine cloth, with side panel, cuffs and facings of deep military red, edged with two rows of narrow gold galoon. The whole effect was imposing as uniform of a captain of a Cunarder, or officer of artillery. But on deck in a gray mist one is thankful for brilliant color.

SUMMER CORSETS.

Corsets of silk bolting cloth, thin as veiling, but strong, are a novelty for summer, and next to these are the fine pongee, thin and firm, the whalebones cased in satin stitched on the outside of the corset. These are very light, but define the figure well, though hardly as cool as the lace or skeleton corsets, with a band of coutille at the waist, and straps of silk or linen holding the bones together. Summer corsets are cooler for having a large curve cut out on the hips where material is superfluous. The knitted corsets for nursing and for Greek or Josephine bodices are found very elastic and comfortable, and wash easily. Fine pongee corsets are $8 each, the bolting cloths are made to order only, lace mesh corsets and the knitted are $2.

Stout linen bands are made to compress the hips of persons who have large figures, and materially add to the firmness and dignity of the step. Silk and satin corsets are not recommended hygienically, as they heat and injure the chest, especially in summer. They should only be worn with thin evening dresses. Summer chemises are made of nainsook, sacque shape with no sleeves but a trimmed strap and the neck drawn up with narrow ribbon, and small embroidered frills.

THE HOOP SKIRT AGAIN.

This is the style for use, the fancy V shapes in lace and fine needlework being discarded through the warmest weather. The slip bodice, jersey fitting, woven of white cotton is an easy substitute for chemise and corset in one, with scant white skirt attached of thin stockinette. This is recommended for tourists and campers out who study to reduce wardrobe and washing. The slip can be washed with cold water and soap in a hand basin at night and dried by morning, ready to put on. The hoop skirt makes its appearance again, with welcome. Spite of the ridicule visited upon it years since, it has its good points, as it is cool, keeps the skirts from clinging about one's knees in summer.

Really, the thin challies and India silks look skimpy without it, unless one wears a load of petticoats, which are a burden at 95° in the shade. The hoop is the old skeleton arrangement without bustle, being only belt and straps for half its length, and is sold without cover. A cover and tusson silk skirt with two flounces edged by trochon make all the under drapery necessary for warm days.

THE STOCKINGS TO WEAR.

Lisle and fine cotton stockings replace silk for prudent wearers during the heated term, as silk loses its luster when two or three times worn, and can hardly be told from cotton. Deep ecru balbriggans are worn with walking boots and with tan shoes, which they suit in color. Black cotton stockings with white feet are worn with boots, as they do not blacken the feet. New

A Graduating Dress.

hose are spliced at the ankles, where the edge of the low shoe rubs most. A novel idea is to cut off the toes and heels of worn black stockings, hem the edges, and wear them over very thin white lisle. The effect with any shoe is that of a decorous black stocking, but the injurious effects of the dye on the skin are prevented. Handsome embroidered silk hose do duty in this way much longer than ordinary. The black silk underwear is not favored for health or refinement and is only worn by women who make a display of personal charms, the first point even in undress. Black next the skin, especially when perspiring, is anything but sanitary.

New colors are cornflower blue, larkspur, quite vivid shades, cowslip and daffodil yellows, fuchsia red, holly and hop green, very light and pretty. Peachblossom is again favored. The vegetable colors, tomato red in two shades, which gardeners recognize as "Acme" and "Livingston's Perfection;" carrot red and yellow and red cabbage shades are too hot looking for summer.

BLACK LACE DRESSES.

Black lace dresses are made over watered black silk, or bright colors; copper, daffodil, gobelin or cactus green, with ribbons to match the lining. The colored fishnet or Russian net over silk of the same shade is newer and gayer. The last novelty is the printed washing net, with a mesh like fine old thread net and white medalions in lacework, with flowers stamped on the lace around or between the ovals. Shot silk teagowns or evening dresses with lace fronts are cool and elegant looking. Daffodil crape de chine or dull silk are the fashionable teagowns.

Masculine articles are appropriated for feminine wear unscrupulously. The Henley shirts are ridiculous copies of men's with linen fronts, stiff collars and four-in-hand ties. Ladies' vests in black armure silk pin-dotted with the color of the dress have the drilling back and buckled strap, and the last novelty is the ladies' lounging jacket, a facsimile of the richly lined ones affected by dudes. The model was mulberry broadcloth with ashes of rose lining in gros royale and frogs of thick silk braid on each front. The price was only $40 to keep it from becoming common. Men's dressing gowns of quilted silk or brocade are metamorphosed for feminine wear by ripping the lower seams half way, and facing them, to open above a surah skirt or slip. A china silk night gown was turned to use, by a clever owner, by adding a long, loose lace front with primrose crepe frilling to the waist, opening the back seam of the skirt to show a full box-pleat of primrose, and arranging a primrose scarf to pass from the shoulder seam on each side around the armhole and fall just back of the hips to the hem with deep fringes.

THE GRADUATING DRESS.

Anxious mothers and girls are planning and sewing the hot days through on graduating dresses, without which a young woman of to-day would consider her five years' course virtually ineffective. The illustration shows two of the prettiest, because simplest, of the new designs, equally suitable for bridesmaids' dresses. The sheer washing materials are preferred for their diaphanous beauty and usefulness. White organdy, Quaker grenadine, sheerest of all woven cottons, or the soft India lawns are well used, or the very thin white wool bareges and silk muslins, where expense is not considered. The gathered French waist is the best style for girlish, incomplete figures, and the gathered skirt with white satin or moire ribbons in two widths is much more graceful than more elaborate styles, and may be worn at any of the summer hops following.

The long dress is nice in sheer veiling, or white wool muslins or batiste over a plain white surah slip, and a very pretty trimming can be arranged of smilax, myrtle or jasmine in straight, slender lines, two-thirds the way up the seams and half way between them, the vines knotted with small white flowers, new rosebuds, jasmine or white myrtle buds and blossoms, not to destroy the lightness of the decoration.

HOT WEATHER HAIR DRESSING.

For hair dressing, always a question with young girls, the plain but refined style of the Viennese coiffure shown in the picture

The Belora Hat.

will recommend itself to fresh, full faces. The jeweled bandeau may be replaced by a narrow picot ribbon tied in a pert little bow or two on the hair, or a thread of flowers, or the narrow openwork jet fillets, which any girl can make for herself. The glossy hair, kept in place by a touch of bandoline well crushed in, really needs no other relief than the feathery curls at the brow, and is the only style of hair dressing that is not hideous for summer. This thing of having to crimp one's hair three to six times a day in perspiring weather is too exclusive a claim upon life, when women expect to live only 50 or 60 seasons at most.

The dust cloak in black surah, silvery or fawn "gloria," thin and lustrious as a new coinage, or very fine mohair in light tints, is dressy enough to substitute for elaborate toilets mornings and middays. Abroad they are thrown over a morning dress without corsets, and the velvet or passementerie girdle, trimmed collar and cuffs, make the whole ornamental enough for general acceptance, a sort of

CHARMING STREET NEGLIGEE,

which the old-fashioned duster never was. The Bolero hat, in fancy crinoline or mixed Neapolitan and Tuscan straw, is one of the newest and lightest of the midsummer hats. The brim is wide enough to shade the face, but not to flop in a breeze like the enormous shade hats. The trimming is silk or ribbon pompons, or bunches of large flowers in similar effect, huge bluets or carnations, guelder roses, or the new feather aigreetew of close-shorn quills.

I must speak of the latest invention to give relief to women's souls and keep the hems of their dresses nice. When you go away for the summer don't forget to buy a wire dress brush, like the wire hair brushes, with a strap for a handle, which will take the dust out of a cloth dress, brush the mud off and lay the nap sooner than any implement known. The long skirts are traps for dust and soil around the hems, but this handy invention erases spots with less effort than brushing one's hair. Further, it smoothes serge gowns and lays the pleats of tailor gowns in place almost as if they had been pressed. Such a brush costs 50 cents and is invaluable for women's and children's clothes, and the way it takes the mud off boys' trousers is remarkable and refreshing.

SHIRLEY DARE.

DRESS FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

The Ever Vigilant Fashion Makers Have Not Forgotten Them.

The little ones have no reason to complain of neglected dress requirements. Dress makers and needlewomen are alike vieing with each other in providing them with charming summer toilets. First we have a pelerine mantle of gray pasha for the changing seasons. The pelerine is loose from the mantle, which is bordered with a light grey embroidery like that forming the pelerine yoke. The hat worn by our young lady of 12 or 14 years of age, is dark brown trimmed with one blue and one red rosette. Little girls are provided with an Eiffel-red (rust color) waterproof mantle with broad white alapaca facings which

give it quite an especial character of its own. When the umbrella matches the mantle the small wearer is eqipped in the newest fashion. New varieties of style are also brought to bear for the benefit of young boys, though the English suit with cap to match is always the leading principle. The short, tight-fitting knickerbockers buttoning below the knee, and ribbed or ringed stockings are as comfortable as they are convenient and useful wear.

IT WOULD ALMOST FLOAT.

A Very Pretty Ball Gown Reported From Merrie Old England.

Pall Mall Budget.]

One of the prettiest ball gowns I have seen this season—it looked light enough to float in the air—was covered with white gossamer stuff flowered in mauve; stripes of narrow ribbon carried from the waist ended in a bunch of loops at the foot. The dress had full, wide sleeves, cut open at the top.

Another ball gown was of eau-de-nil green silk veiled with embroidered lisse. The edge of the skirt was finished with a dainty frou-frou of lisse. A pair of large butterfly wings made of velvet and silk set off the back of the skirt.

BEAUTY BEWILDERED

In Her Mad Search for Recipes to Enhance Personal Charms.

ALL GREAT MINDS DON'T AGREE.

Oatmeal Makes Faces Rosy, Says One, Like Putty, Says Another.

A SAD EXPERIENCE WITH A FAD

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Not so much what to do to be beautiful, as what to do to look beautiful, is the question of all others that seems to be agitating the mind of the feminine public at this time; and as many varied and diverse prescriptions are given as there are so-called remedies for seasickness. To follow the advice of these would-be physicians to the outer woman would be to rush from one extreme of folly to the other, and in some instances one would be doing well to get off alive.

To make a review of the contradictory advice given for the care of physical charms, let us begin with what Solomon, in his wisdom, denominated woman's crowning glory, the hair. To brush or not to brush is the question. First we read: To insure a luxuriant growth we must bestow at least 100 brushes each night, and brush vigorously and thoroughly through the day as often as rearranging, and keep it up while time and patience holds out. The patient must sleep in a cap, too, if she would have the silken tresses of our grandmothers; wash frequently if she would promote the growth and render the hair soft and lustrous.

THEN THE OTHER EXTREME.

Of course, she makes up her mind at once to do this and do it thoroughly, though nothing else in life be accomplished, when about this time she reads: "Never brush your hair, nor comb with a fine comb, but use the very coarsest comb available and arrange as loosely as possible. Never sleep in a cap, as that heats the head and causes the hair to fall out. Too frequent washing weakens and fades the hair, destroys luster and renders it altogether unmanageable. If our foremothers had observed these rules the present generation would have better hair."

So much for treatment for the hair. For the complexion, that corner stone of woman's beauty, who can remember the diverse and numerous gratis remedies for its imperfections and the care of its perfections. To insure the clear skin of the Scotch or the near approach to it one must make oatmeal the staple article of diet; and the nearer she can come to literally living upon it the more nearly will she approach the Scotch perfection of clearness, etc. Just when she has decided to live upon oatmeal porridge or starve in the attempt, she hears from another especially authentic source the encouraging remark: "Keep up the porridge diet if you want a putty-colored, pasty complexion."

RULES FOR PLUMPNESS.

If one is thin to the verge of what Bessie Bramble calls "scragginess," how gladly she reads that a cup of warm milk night and morning, taken with regularity, and as much as she can drink in the interim, will certainly produce the coveted degree of plumpness. That's easy. Yes, she will take milk, take it often and take much internally, and bathe in it, and she leaves an order for an extra supply of the lacteal fluid to be left night and morning, and settles down to the first principle of diet, when lo! her evil genius again appears through the columns of a newspaper, and she reads: "Milk is ruinous to the complexion. It is conducive to biliousness. Persist in the use of it and you will grow yellow as a kite."

The last prop seems knocked from under her, for, of course, she has not only just this moment awakened to the fact that nature has dealt stingily with her; she has been painfully conscious of her sallow, ill-favored leanness these many years and has spent both time and money trying to remedy the evil, but she had not heard of the warm milk before—and it is so easy to take!

At this juncture she finds it easier to accept the onward flow of a lean existence by remembering that all women credited with the most personal magnetism, from Cleopatra and Helen of Troy down to the magnetic Bernhardt, have been thin women; and that this charm, this trick of manner, of speech, or whatever it is, is the best of the Creator's gifts to a woman. Its component parts cannot be analyzed; nor can a prescription be given for it; but whatever else it may be she can be sure it is largely gentle breeding, fine-grained courtesy and pure womanliness; and that it is a charm beyond any physical endowment that could be given, and that these women are credited with the lion's share of such bewitchment.

WHAT IF SHE IS FAT?

But what if, with undue favor, nature has given her two women's share of flesh and blood? Well, then, she is to walk, walk, walk. Walk early and walk late. Walk off this "too, too solid flesh." Yes, and eat less; and eat the very things we most dislike and leave all the luxuries of cream, butter, salads and pastries for the thin women. Hard lines, but there is no other way for it if she would become petite. So with the heroic determination to do and dare anything for the satis action of once again wearing a 21 inch corset she gets up with the lark and begins to tramp off flesh; and already she is eating like a plebeian when a halt is called on such cruel regimen after this fashion: "Let fleshy people not imagine they can reduce their size with satisfaction; the skin having been stretched to the containing capacity forced upon it by too abundant proportions, rarely or never shrinks to its original dimensions, and the result of reducing flesh is an unenviable state of flabbiness."

Horror! Of the two evils, fat or flabby, the former is certainly the less, and, with a mind made up to endure what she cannot cure, she bows to the inevitable and resumes riding and eating, since there is nothing certain by walking and fasting.

GETTING RID OF WRINKLES.

But about wrinkles, poetically called "the line tracery of time." So written they sound better than they look. It may be a lady is clear-skinned enough to escape criticism; or she can bear with her complexion's imperfections if she only could hit upon a remedy to efface the hoof marks of time that has ridden over her rough-shod. Theoretically there is a remedy for all evils. Here is an oft repeated one for wrinkles: "Never bathe the face in tepid or cold water; but in water as hot as can be endured. Also steam the face over boiling water; best done by holding a steaming cloth close to the face. This will shrink the skin, and the wrinkles are caused by the wasting of the tissues under the skin, leaving the latter loose—too large for the remaining flesh underneath."

Sounds reasonable, doesn't it? Impressed with this philosophy she decides to cook the wrinkles until done to death, when again her endeavors are thrown into chaos by reading: "What a jealous hatred that woman must have of her sex to recommend the steam face bath as a sure defeat for wrinkles. A notice of the poor washwoman's hands will prove the maliciousness of such advice, and the effect of too hot water upon the skin. My dear sisters, take my advice and if you don't want to look all off the same piece with your new accordian skirt never bathe your face in water heated above the tepid degree."

THE MUCH LAUDED BATH.

But ho! The fad of the day is the bath you know and the kinds are almost literally "too numerous to mention." However, the latest bath is the very one everybody has been looking for. "Under it the obese lose flesh and the lean gain it." (A poor rule that will not work both ways). "For toning up the system there is nothing like it—this double bath, or electricity and massage combined; and there is nothing like it for beautifying." In addition we are assured it will steam out and rest out all the tired wrinkles and lines about eyes and mouth; put a spring in the bottom of our feet that will make dancing, regardless of time or place, well nigh irresistible; (dangerous bath, that!) and more important than all, it will make the face "gloriously bright," and "several shades whiter."

Think of that! While under the intoxicating effects of this bath the patient calls upon public benefactors to erect fewer monuments and bestow public baths a la Roman. After reading of this trip to Blissland via bathtub the thought suggests itself that it would be a good idea to have the necessity of such bath called to the notice of Andrew Carnegie. But here comes honest Nell Nelson's experience at the hands of the mistress of the bath at the Hoffman House, New York. Up to the time of the electrical-massage bath, all that is now claimed for it as enjoyable, healthful and beautifying was claimed for the wet pack. To the pack popular actresses, society women and professional beauties in general owed much of their attractiveness, and Nell, like the rest, coveted these things and selected the pack as a sure route.

NELL NELSON'S EXPERIENCE.

First the patient must consent to a light diet: Graham rolls, prunes, lettuce and hot water. This diet to rest the digestive organs, and the sweating process to draw out the waste material collected in the various tissues that line the vital organs. Nell Nelson was requested to fast for several meals previous to the pack in order to have the stomach perfectly rested. This she claims she did and "went in as hollow as a pipe stem," and the proverbial cat was muscular compared to the general goneness of her interior. But she was comforted by being told she would be the color of a lily when she came out. The color of said lily was not specified, but after the first sight of herself in the mirror she knew it was the tiger-like variety that was meant.

She declares she lost 20 pounds of flesh and the power of locomotion for 24 hours; that she laid under a weight of clothes that would have broken the shoulders of an Atlas, and that every pore streamed like a town pump. She tried hard to persuade herself she was having fun—but failed. The mistress of the bath kept cheering her on to greater endurance by the assurance that she would be perfectly beautiful when the ordeal was over. After enduring the parboiling three hours, and just when she thought there was nothing left of her but the last breath she was permitted to view the remains which she describes as closely resembling *Camille* in the last scene. Then, too, she "looked like a resurrection, and was mentally as idiotic as the ushers in the Bible wedding." Her "lips and eyelids were electric blue and complexion a pale green with ecrue mottlings." To regain lost flesh she went back to her diet of "roast beef, boiled onions, rice pudding and vegetable soup," and for the temporary damage to her good looks I suppose she had the consolation of having one less fad in the gamut of fooldom to run.

MEG.

ROUGH ON THE BABIES.

Treatment to Which They Are Subjected by Patagonian Doctors.

When a child in Patagonia is sick a messenger is dispatched for the doctor, and never leaves him until he comes with him. As soon as the doctor arrrives he looks at the sick child, and then with much ceremony rolls it up in a piece of skin. He then orders a clay plaster, and by this time the child has ceased crying, soothed by the warmth of the skin, and so rendering still more solid his reputation as a wise man. Yellow clay is brought and made into a thick cream with water, and the child is painted from head to foot, causing him to cry again. "The devil is still there," says the doctor sagely, and undoes two mysterious packages he carries; one contains rhea sinews (ostrich) and the other a rattle made of stones in a gourd decorated with feathers.

He then fingers the sinews, muttering something for a few minutes, then he seizes the rattle and shakes it violently, staring very hard at the crying child. Then wraps it in the skin again and it ceases crying. Again it is painted, rattled at, and stared at, and again it cries. This is done four times, and then the cure is considered complete. The doctor leaves the child quiet, enfolded in the warm skin, and goes his way, having received two pipefuls of tobacco as a fee.

Strange to say the child generally recovers, but if it does not, the doctor gets out of the difficulty by declaring that the parents did not keep the medicine skin tightly around the child and so let the devil get back again. This is the only treatment sick children in Patagonia are ever known to receive.

PERSIAN PLAYING CARDS.

The Jacks Are Painted by Hand and Are Pretty Expensive.

A Persian hand of cards is complete with a set of four, all face cards. They are called respectively the prince, the baby, the hunter and the courtesan. These characters are represented as on our cards with conventional figures; but the Persian pictures may vary considerably in design and are far more exact to nature than the grotesque figures on our cards; this is doubtless due to the fact that Persian cards are painted by hand on little tablets of papier mache 2 inches long and 1¼ inches wide.

The design is executed in water colors, sometimes on a gold ground, and protected by a glossy coat of thick varnish. The back and edges are always black. Some of these cards are very expensive, a pack costing as high as $10 to $45, although, of course, such expensive sets are for the wealthy. But whether for rich or poor, Persian playing cards are made by hand.

NOT SUCH A WICKED WORD.

People Who Say They Don't Care a Dam Aren't Guilty of Swearing.

"You need not have looked severe because I said that I didn't care a dam," said a gruff old Senator in conversation with a Washington *Star* reporter. "That is not swearing. The expression has a very different meaning from what is popularly supposed, and was originated by the Duke of Wellington. A dam in India is the smallest piece of money known, and not to care that much means simply that one is very indifferent. That was all the phrase was intended to signify.

"The word 'damn,' from the Latin verb meaning 'to condemn,' is a very different thing. Curiously enough, it seems almost invariably to be the first word in our language acquired by foreigners."

BEAUTY AFTER NIGHTFALL.

A Great Deal of Loveliness Due to Attention to the Lighting.

Illustrated American.]

The secret of preserving one's bloom after nightfall lies in using wax or even paraffine candles as much as possible, and so distributing their soft glow that it will all shine from about a level with the face.

"How exceedingly pretty the girls always look at your house," remarked a casual observer, never guessing that one-half the credit was due their hostess, who enhanced instead of ruthlessly dissipating her guests' loveliness by the manipulation of illumination.

Lost.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

My lady's eyes are flowing
With tears like opals showing
Against her fevered cheek.
In midnight glooms that pale her,
Disheveled love-locks veil her
Like storm clouds wild and bleak.

Would it were gold's lost shining,
Or love's, that sets her pining
Like Carthage's old queen!
Oh, would she longed for honor—
To shed its joys upon her
The very stars I'd glean!

But—judge me without blaming—
Inert I am yet flaming
Like yon great fireplace log.
What hope have I of finding
In all this city's winding
A three days' lost pug dog?

EVA WILDER MCGLASSON.

NICE PLACE TO LOAF.

A Pretty Little Retreat for Tired Women to Enjoy at Home.

TWO SINGLE BEDS FOR A DOUBLE.

Odds and Ends That Help in Making an Interior Beautiful.

DON'TS THAT IT IS WELL TO OBSERVE

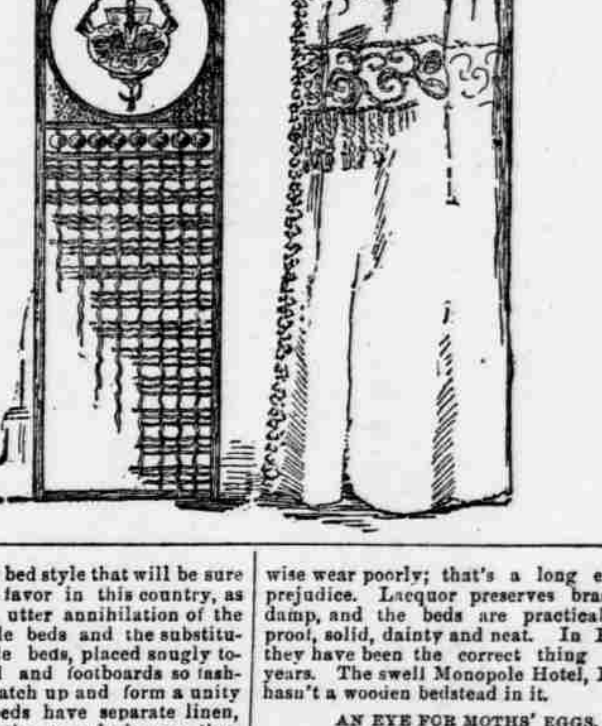
[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Half the miserable, tired-out women in the world would feel better, look better and be in better temper if they only had some retreat in their house where they could occasionally lay down and recuperate. The trouble is that when one feels exhausted and in need of an hour's sweet restorative, one has no place to go to. You don't wish to disturb the bed and its prim dressiness, and the average lounge or sofa is far from restful, so the needed cat nap isn't taken, more's the pity.

The most popular room I have in my house is one that has a box plaftorm on the floor of the bay window alcove. It is raised about a foot from the ground, covered by a mattress, upholstered in plain denim that has been washed to get the stiffness out of it, and with five or six pillows and a few rugs, and shelves placed within convenient reach to hold coffee pot, novels or pipes, you have surroundings to complete the charm of a most delightful loafing spot—and cheaply constructed, too. One spends a good third of one's life reclining, so the subject is well worth discussing.

THE BED OF THE FUTURE.

The French give us charming styles in beds, dreamy canopies and exquisite upholsterings, but the Germans give us comfort, and they have our grateful consideration



just now for a new bed style that will be sure to come into big favor in this country, as it points to the utter annihilation of the cumbersome double beds and the substitution of two single beds, placed snugly together with head and footboards so fashioned that they match up and form a unity of design. The beds have separate linen, and, although to the casual observer they look like one structure, in every other particular they are two beds. In sweeping they can be more easily moved than one big bed; they are more easily turned, and, furnished with separate coverings, the fat spouse can sleep as nature made her, while her thin mate can bury himself in blankets and snooze without fear of pneumonia.

The other day I saw a pair of antique curtains which John Jacob Astor paid $200 for. Within half an hour and a stone's throw I saw almost identically the same thing, just as fine, as complicated and as good stock, for $15. The reason was this: The making of antique lace curtains dates back to about ten years prior to the Franco-Prussian war.

TAUGHT BY THE EMPRESS.

The poor of Luxouil, France, were in wretched circumstances, and the Empress Eugenie conceived the idea of educating them in lace work. She taught them the peculiar fish-net stitch of the "antiques" and sent them the stock and patterns to work up. Of course any charity of the good Empress soon became a fad, and, as she used the products liberally in the draping of her own parlors, society did likewise. And the demand was soon far in excess of the supply. As the time went on, however, the lace workers became more business-like and proficient in their methods. They now buy their twines cheaper and put all hands at work, child, adult and aged, and, as the fashions relaxed and supplies accumulated, prices found their level, and hence you and

I can get the same thing to-day for $15 which cost the old gentleman Astor $200.

A wide folding doorway can be given a charming relief by running some of the innumerable sorts of fret work, which you can now obtain so cheaply, across the top and down one side. The fret work can be broken in upon by shelves or places wherein to suspend a lantern or drape a scarf. One's fancy can take many liberties with this style of work, and it always breaks the regularity and monotony of an ordinary doorway.

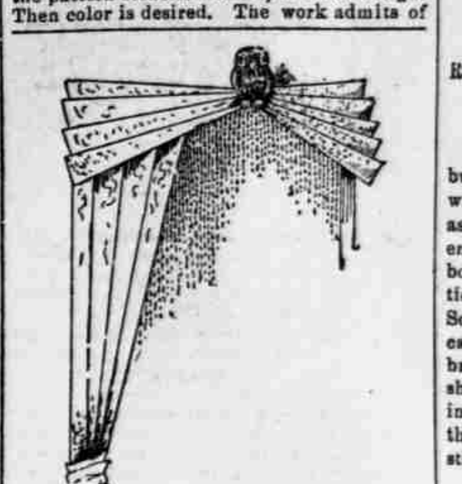
FAIRY LAMPS IN THE TREES.

Everyone knows what fairy lamps are. We have them now in forms to hang up, and this summer we'll see them suspended from tree boughs, on lawns and piazzas, pleasure boats and in cozy nooks—all colors, the size of tea cups, and lit by broad flat candles, specially made for them. They are cheap and charming and sell for about 25 cents apiece.

The time was, and not many years ago, either, when stylish house furnishing was an expensive luxury; taste and high prices seemed inseparable. To-day we have the most refined colorings and designs copied in the most inexpensive articles. Take the box divan—a woman's supreme delight—for into it she can dump the litterings of a sewing room, the babies' toys, shoes, slippers and the hundreds of odds and ends that she hasn't the time to put away. Well, the box divan is no longer a common looking, cretonne-covered affair, but quite an elaborate article. The top or lid is edged with a border of molding forming a simple frame. Into this frame, which is about a half inch deep, is set a cushion top, such as you see in church pews; from the corners heavy tassels are suspended; the sides of the box are treated in plastic and here one's ingenuity runs riot. The plastic composition is made as follows: Three parts whiting, three parts ochre and one part plaster of paris mixed with white lead, turpentine and japan.

A CHANCE FOR THE ARTIST'S SKILL.

Apply it to the surface of the box as thickly as desired, and with the fingers or the pattern stencils work up a relief design. Then color is desired. The work admits of



keen artistic skill. By gilding the pattern in its relief parts you can give to your divan a distinctively Oriental effect.

An excellent doorway treatment for the chamber is made by crossing any of the muslins, drapery prints or cretonnes into odd folds, and applying stiffly to the doorway top and sides, with a Chinese ornament of some sort to set it off—an owl, kite or anything of that kind.

I've a few "don'ts" to impress on you: Don't use a feather duster on your furniture, for you only disturb the dust; you don't remove it. Use the nap side of canton flannel. Don't be afraid that a well-made brass bedstead will tarnish or otherwise wear poorly; that's a long exploded prejudice. Lacquer preserves brass from damp, and the beds are practically bug proof, solid, dainty and neat. In England they have been the correct thing for ten years. The swell Monopole Hotel, London, hasn't a wooden bedstead in it.

AN EYE FOR MOTHS' EGGS.

Don't think because you put your woolens away in a tight box that they are moth-proof. Would cheese be unmolested if you put it away with a caged mouse? No. So if your garments are locked up in a close case with moth eggs the grub or worm will hatch, and when you look at your things next fall they'll be riddled. These eggs are the size of a pin point, white and take six days to hatch. Put your garments away where no moths can lay eggs on them, and then every day or so watch for the worm. Two or three weeks' watchfulness will discover it, if it exists— or in that time it reaches its full size, a quarter of an inch long, and can be easily seen.

Don't go out and buy a bottle of furniture polish and think you know it all. Some furniture needs varnish, some needs oil, some polish, some water. Have a cabinet maker come in and look over your house, and use on the various articles just what he tells you; lots of trouble and ruin is thus saved.

Don't buy blue in your carpets, if for nursery or bedroom; blues are almost all fugitive.

C. R. CLIFFORD.

OUR WELL-READ WOMEN.

Mrs. Kendal Passes High Compliments on Americans—A Gift at the Mint.

"Americans are wonderful people," says Mrs. Kendal," in an interview published by the *Pall Mall Budget*. "Nobody can have the least idea of their real qualities unless they have crossed the Atlantic and seen for themselves. What astonished me most was the extraordinary cleverness of the women. You mention any remarkable book to them and you find that they have got every word of it in their heads. To call them 'well-read' is hardly doing them justice. All over the States, too, they did their best to kill me with kindness.

One of my biggest admirers was the master of the mint at Philadelphia. When we were playing in that city he wrote to me and asked me if I would like to visit his dollar factory. Well, we went and saw everything. But I was especially attracted by the specimens of the now obsolete $3 piece. I asked my friend if he could not let me have some of these to take back with me to England, and he actually granted my request. Here is one of them." And Mrs. Kendal showed me a grace ully-designed gold coin, rather larger than a half-sovereign. "A few of these were struck on purpose for me, and I am going to give them to my friends as a memento of our tour."

INTOXICATED CHICKENS.

They Gobble Up Brandied Cherries and Then Wobble About the Yard.

St. Louis Republic.]

A fellow citizen threw a handful of wild cherries steeped in brandy out in his garden the other day and was surprised to see his chickens eagerly gobble up the fruit. More surprised were the cacklers themselves when, for the first time in their lives, they needed more than two legs to stand upon.

The hens looked foolish enough, but the most comical sight was a big Brahma rooster, who would sidle up to the hens, made a flat failure of trying to look dignified, blink a few times, when his head would sink lower and lower, till over he would tumble, and after a struggle he would get up again and go off with a sidewheel motion for all the world like a lord of creation under similar distressing circumstances, but with this difference in favor of the Shanghai—he did not knowingly make a fool of himself.

He Lives on Water Alone.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Gilhooly: Have you read about Succi, the Italian faster, who lived 40 days on nothing but water?

Gus de Smith: Yes; but there is nothing remarkable in that, I know a man who has been living for years on water alone.

Gilhooly: That's impossible.

Gus de Smith: Guess not. He got his money invested in a water works company, and he lives on the dividends.

ALEX. E. SWEET.

CUT FROM THE LOAF.

An Old German Custom That Settles the Stale Bread Question.

CLARIFYING FAT FOR COOKING.

A Treatment for Butter That Will Keep It Sweet for Half a Year.

RECIPES FOR THE HOUSEKEEPERS

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

The edict has gone forth that the homely, but sensible, German custom of bringing the whole loaf of bread to the table and slicing as needed is entirely proper. At the present time there is a demand for carved breadboards, and although simple in construction, they are unique and curious in design. Some are highly ornamental, with quaint carvings and appropriate mottoes. The bread is placed on the board (with a very sharp knife) near the hostess, who shaves it into thin slices. This innovation settles the question, "What shall we do with the stale bread?"

Clarified fat is much used by economical housekeepers for pastry, frying, greasing, etc. It is more wholesome and much cheaper than the rancid butter and the many spurious articles sold for cooking purposes. For clarifying one can use the gravy from roast beef, the fats from soup stock, boiled corn beef, boiled ham (or fried), the fat from chicken and veal, and suet from beef, which is best of all fats, and so excellent for puddings, pies and apple-dumplings. Many excellent housekeepers, of unlimited means, set grea store by their crock of drippings, always ready when butter is scarce, and the lard is rancid. Ham or bacon drippings are much used to give flavor to fried potatoes and fried parsnips. Beef drippings are invaluable to the housekeeper, and are not only used for frying, but for a variety of purposes in cooking. In clarifying it is well to separate the fats. Strong flavored ones, such as ham, bacon and corn beef, should not be clarified with the delicate fats of veal, chicken and beef.

HOW TO CLARIFY FAT.

The process of clarifying is as follows: Put in a saucepan the trimmings of meats and the suet, cut in small pieces. Add a little water and place on the range where the contents will cook slowly. The gravies can be added to this, and when a sediment forms at the bottom the fats are clarified. Strain through cheese cloth. The same fat can be used over and over again if strained each time. The fat used for frying fish must be used for no other purpose. In frying oysters, croquettes, potatoes, etc., do not immerse in the fat until a blue smoke arises from the center. To test the fat for cooking throw into it a piece of stale bread, which should brown in one minute. If not quite ready to use the fat when it has reached the cooking stage throw in a piece of raw potato for it to work upon.

Butter for cooking purposes should always be clarified. The German method is an excellent one. If 10 or 12 pounds is to be clarified it will require four or five hours of slow cooking and frequent stirring. It should be strained into perfectly clean crocks, closely covered and tightly tied. The butter at the end of six months will be found sweet and pure. Many prudent housekeepers clarify butter when it is good and cheap, so that it may be preserved for future use.

CARE OF FRUIT JARS.

Just as soon as a jar of fruit is used, thoroughly wash the jar and the cover. Put both in a pot of cold water with a piece of sal soda. Let come to the boil and boil well. Rinse in hot water, drain dry, put on cover and place in the fruit closet, ready for future use.

Serve jelly glasses in the same way. All vials, bottles, jugs and crocks that are fit for use should be thoroughly cleaned and boiled. Mops are very good to clean fruit jars and jelly glasses, and can be bought at some stores for 5 cents. The mop is so useful for many things, and so facilitates the cleaning of vessels too small for the hands to enter, that to use one a single time will insure it an ever-welcome place in the kitchen.

To the woman who does her own work, much time and labor will be saved by caring for the jars, glasses, etc., in the manner I have described, and there is certainly great satisfaction in viewing a closet full of sweet, clean vessels, just ready for use, when the trying season of putting up fruit is at hand. To keep the jars and glasses from breaking, when filling with hot fruit, place on a folded towel wrung out of cold water, or put a spoon in the jar or glass while filling. It is not necessary to warm the jars or glasses.

Here are some economical recipes:

LAYER CAKE.

One egg, one cup of sugar, one cup of milk, one teaspoonful of soda, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, two cupfuls of sifted flour, butter the size of an egg.

Flavor to taste.

APPLE PUDDING.

One cupful of milk, one egg, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda, add flour enough to make a stiff batter.

Pour this over quartered apples and steam for two hours.

Serve with sauce.

FRUIT JUICE SAUCE.

In canning fruits reserve the juice left over.

Add a little more sugar, and let boil for a few minutes.

Pour into small vials or bottles and seal.

This juice is most excellent for pudding sauce, which is made as follows:

Cream together one tablespoonful each of butter, flour and sugar, and stir into it some of the boiling fruit juice until thick and smooth.

A little hot water may be added, if necessary.

RUSSIAN ICED TEA.

This is a delicious summer drink. Prepare the tea after the recipe given in a previous number.

Squeeze into a tumbler the juice of half a lemon.

Fill partly with the cold tea.

Add pounded or cracked ice and sweeten with lump sugar to taste.

RUSSIAN TEA.

Steep the tea after the usual rule.

Pare carefully a fresh, juicy lemon and cut into thin slices.

Lay a slice in the bottom of each cup, add a lump or two of sugar, and pour over these water freshly boiled.

This is a delightful and refreshing beverage.

POTATOES SAUTED.

One quart of raw potatoes cut into cubes or made into balls by a vegetable scoop.

Cook for ten minutes in boiling water; drain and add four level tablespoonfuls of butter.

Shake over a hot fire until they are nicely browned, or put into a frying basket and immerse in hot lard or drippings.

Sprinkle with salt.

SOME USEFUL HINTS.

COPPERAS dissolved in boiling water removes instantly the impurities from drains and sinks.

HONEY should be kept in a dry, dark place. If exposed to damp it becomes thin and watery.

HAY WATER is a purifier of tin, iron and wooden ware. Boil a handful of hay in new iron pots and teakettles. In Ireland hay water is used in the dairies to sweeten the milk vessels.

SOAP scraps can be utilized by filling a small flannel bag with them, not too full. Sew it up, put on a loop and hang where the children can get it to wash with. The bag will have no tendency to wander off, like the usual piece of soap, nor is it likely to be thrown out.

OPEN a can of lye, place in a large crock and cover with boiling water. Use for rough cleaning, such as floors, board walks, greasy tables, sinks, etc. Put a tablespoonful or two in a pail of warm or hot water. Fill up the crock occasionally. Keep out of the reach of children.

TO CLEAN willow chairs make a solution of spirits of ammonia and hot water. Apply with a whisk broom, and rinse thoroughly. Salt and cold water can also be used with good effect for this purpose, and is also excellent for cleaning straw carpet or matting. Never use soap on willow ware or matting, or they will become yellow.

ELLICE SERENA.