

LADIES' COLUMN

A YELLOW LAMP SHADE.
A mellow color to use for the lamp shade to place in a bedroom is yellow.

THE AMERICAN HALF SHOE.

The low cut shoe, with or without straps, is a thing of beauty this season designed to wear with colored hose that match the gown. The shoes, undoubtedly, show a pretty instep and ankle, for the shoe is quite low, and, sorry to say, a trifle hard to wear. The high heel is very much in evidence, one of the Louis XVI styles, though the heel is not badly built at all, and can be worn with a surprising amount of real comfort. The patent leather styles are found everywhere, and so long as they do not break over the toes, they are very trim with some costumes. They are exceedingly hot in summer, and far less comfortably than *vici* kid. Suede is gradually losing favor, for the shoe is hot for summer wear. It is worn, however, in a great many instances, especially with chic one-piece linen suits. There is nothing fluffy this season in big bows and the like. Even the lace shoe, when tied, has a demure little silken bow. Buckles are not worn, but many toe slippers are embroidered or jetted on the toes. Many leather shoes have suede ties. The low bronze shoe is quite the rage at present. One of the fads this season is pink hose and black patent leather slippers with straps over the ankles. They create a sensation, to say the least. Green is just as popular. Brown suede boots are liked better than brown suede slippers.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Before putting on a pair of silk gloves, cover the hands well with talcum and you will not tear the gloves.

Petticoats that fit straight around the hems can be turned over a quarter of an inch at the top and headed with a ribbon heading through which a one-inch ribbon can be run to tie at the back or front.

Those who like the taste of berries, yet fear to eat them, can enjoy the fresh juice from crushed berries if it is strained through muslin. It is either the fruit acid or the little hairs, such as we see on strawberries that injure the stomach, but it is probable those who are made ill after indulging in berries are afflicted with an acid stomach, and they must avoid even the juice.

BAD TASTE.

In a very neatly arranged room, filled with bric-a-brac, good draperies and furniture, the entire effect was ruined with a glaring white eyelet doily on a mission table. White linen does not belong to the best room. Such pieces are used in the dining room.

TO HARDEN CAKE ICING.

If the icing fails to harden on your cake, put it in the oven for a few minutes. It forms a thin crust which in no way destroys the delicate icing.

GLASS DOILY FOR TEAPOT.

Get one of the round, thick glasses that come on baskets of candied fruits and clean the glass until it is bright and shining and paste back of it a red poinsettia blossom which will about cover the glass. Attach it with clear glue to a mat of asbestos and cut the edges clean with a sharp knife. Should the rim of glue show through the glass, stipple the beaded edge with putty and when dry, apply gilt paint.

PICKLES.

Pickles should be kept in glass bottles, or earthen jars, and be closely corked. They must be kept in a dry place. It is important that pickles should be covered at least two inches above the surface with pure cider vinegar. All vinegar left after making pickles can be spiced and bottled to put in sauces. Remember boiled vinegar decreases in strength. Alum will harden home-made pickles. A small lump of alum and a root of horseradish are often put among them. In making small pickles, select cucumbers of uniform sizes. Any fruit can be pickled. Plums and cherries are very nice when made into pickles. If cherries are chosen, they should be firm, whole and the sour variety. Few remove the stems. They should not be over-ripe when used. Put them into a jar and cover with cold vinegar. Leave three weeks in vinegar. Then pour off two-thirds the vinegar, sweeten and add a bag of spices. Add more fresh vinegar to the cherries. After draining off the vinegar boil it and make a syrup to pour over the pickles. Seal the bottles.

ARE YOU THIN?

This is the time of year to build up tissues. Leave fat meats alone, but eat plentifully of meat once a day if you desire it. Spread butter on liberally, and indulge in new potatoes in cream gravy, stewed peas, cream soups, chocolate and sweets. Avoid acid drinks, eat ripe fruit and cooked fruit, but avoid pickles and highly seasoned salads. Onions, radishes, and lettuce may be eaten, but tomatoes, unless cooked with butter and cream, are too tart. Buttermilk is

medicinal, a stomach corrective, and flesh builder.

FRECKLES AND RED HAIR.

Most persons with red hair have freckles, if not, the skin is a beautiful white which is the envy of nine-tenths of the women. Unfortunately most women with this shade of hair wish it another color, though this tint, when clean, glossy and beautifully arranged, is to be envied. It is only to be deplored when a shock head of dead-looking hair is seen and the owner has too many freckles. Salts of lemon or soda in the water will brighten dead looking hair. The "hundred brushes" at night will gloss the hair. Sulphur in milk, the milk applied to the face (not near the eyes) will whiten the skin. Buttermilk will bleach freckles. Cucumber cream is very useful. Freckles are due to iron in the blood and they make their appearance on the skin when the face perspires and is exposed to the sun. It is about the next thing to iron rust marks and must be treated almost the same, though not so harshly. Wear a veil or large hat and carry a parasol. If it is necessary to be out of doors much, protect the face as much as possible. Wear gloves. Many think freckles more difficult to fade than tan, though a heavy coat of tan will last for months. Healthy looking it may be, but it is anything but pretty.

PROGRESS.

If the reader will subtract 76,052,800 from 174,756,653, she will obtain two results, i. e., 98,703,853, and the number of cubic yards of material that, on June 1, remained to be excavated before the completion of the Panama canal. Up to and including May 31, 76 million cubic yards of material had been removed from the canal site. The total to be removed at the time the American occupation began was 174 million cubic yards. Four months' work at the present rate of progress will more than one-half complete all of the canal digging that the Americans will have to do. Actually, however, the canal is already more than one-half completed for at the time the French abandoned possession of the canal zone they had excavated more than 81 1/2 million cubic yards of material. The total required excavation at the outset, before any work had been done, was more than 255 cubic yards. Americans and French together have removed more than 157 million cubic yards of this total.

By far the greatest part of the work remaining to be done is Culabra cut, where the work is all dry excavation. On the Atlantic and Pacific ends of the canal, most of the remaining excavation will be accomplished by dredges. How uniformly the work has been carried on is indicated by the figures for the two coast divisions. On the Atlantic side, 19 million cubic yards of material have been excavated, and on the Pacific side the total has been 17 million cubic yards. The amount still to be removed is 24,911,076 cubic yards on the Atlantic side and 24,363,616 cubic yards on the Pacific side. But it should be kept in mind that these figures are almost a month in reaching the states and that even as this comment is being written the work is going steadily forward. At the present moment, the total excavation for the year 1909 is probably very close to 20 million cubic yards. And as the digging progresses, so does the concrete laying and dam making. There are comparatively few people living to-day who will not live to read of the completion of this greatest of all the world's engineering undertakings.

SIMPLE SLEEP PRODUCERS.

Both sage and hop tea will produce sleep in a restless child. It is not palatable, but it can be taken.

FINALE OF OUTING COMPANY.

The Binghamton Republican says that a meeting of the receivers of the Outing Publishing Company of Deposit was held at the office of Receiver Archibald Howard in Binghamton, when arrangements were made for the appearance of the receivers before United States Judge Ray at Norwich recently. At that time the receivers will ask for permission to sell the Bohemian Magazine to Theodore Dresser, of New York, after the August number has been issued. Mr. Dresser has made an offer of \$1,000.

Judge Ray will also be asked to issue an order, returnable at a future date, according to the present plans, to show cause why the Outing Publishing Company's plant shall not be closed down after the August number of the Bohemian Magazine has been issued, and the plant be sold by the receivers. The plant has been inventoried by the appraisers at about \$75,000.

Since the sale of the Outing Magazine the roll of employes has been steadily lessening, until now only 25 or 30 are employed there.

BOOK COMPANY UNDER BAN.

According to a decision handed down by the appellate court the International Text-Book company of Scranton, Pa., is a foreign corporation, which is doing business illegally in Illinois, never having taken out a permit. The decision means that the book company cannot collect debts. It sued W. A. Muller of Decatur for \$45.80 and the court ruled that he did not need to pay the bill.

STORY OF FINDING OF GREAT DIAMOND

Something Interesting About the Greatest of Diamonds.

For twelve years the Excelsior diamond enjoyed its primacy, but on January 25, 1905, the greatest diamond known to the world was found in open-working No. 2 of the Premier mine, in the Transvaal Colony, South Africa, and from the finding to the cutting of this magnificent stone and its final disposal, its history is a most romantic one.

The day's work at the mine was over and Frederick Wells, the surface manager, was making his usual rounds. Glancing along one side of the deep excavation, his eye suddenly caught the gleam of a brilliant object far up on the bank. He lost no time in climbing up to the spot where he had noted the glint of light. He had not been mistaken; it was really a brilliant crystal. He tried to pull it out with his fingers, and as this proved impossible he sought to pry it out with the blade of a penknife. To his surprise the knife blade broke without causing the stone to yield. Confident now that the crystal must be a very large one, he dug out the earth about it, thinking for a moment that, contrary to all experience in the mine, the stone might be attached to a piece of the primitive rock. When he discovered that this was not the case, he began to doubt that the object was really a diamond. He said afterward:

"When I took a good look at the stone stuck there in the side of the pit it suddenly flashed across me that I had gone insane—that the whole thing was imaginary. I knew it could not be a diamond. All at once another solution dawned upon me. The boys often play jokes on one another. Some practical joker, thought I, has planted this huge chunk of glass here for me to find it. He thinks I will make a fool of myself by bringing it into the office in a great state of excitement, and the story will be told far and wide in South Africa."

Determined to test the stone on the spot, before proceeding further, Wells rubbed off the dirt from one of its faces with his finger, and soon convinced himself that it was not a lump of glass, but a diamond crystal, apparently of exceptional whiteness and purity. With the aid of a large blade of his knife he finally succeeded in prying out the stone, and bore it away with him to the office of the mine. Here it was cleaned and, to the astonishment of all, was found to have a weight of 3024 3-4 carats, more than three times that of any other diamond that has been discovered. Before many hours had passed the telegraph carried tidings to all parts of the world that the greatest diamond of this or any other age had been brought to light. Mr. Wells is said to have received a reward of \$10,000 from the company for his discovery.

T. M. Cullinan, founder and chairman of the Premier company and one of the great prize winners in the lottery of South Africa speculation, named the diamond after himself; others have called it the Premier, and several different names have been proposed.—Dr. George Frederick Kunz's in the June Century.

SCENT JAPANESE PLOT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Man Writes That Tunnels are Being Dug Under U. S. Forts There.

This message was received in New York and transmitted to the War Department:

"Dear Sir: Have just returned from the Philippine Islands and have some information of the most startling nature that I wish you would publish in the paper. The Japanese spies now in the island are working night and day digging tunnels under our fort and ammunition vaults so that when war breaks out they can blow them all up.

"Now when I told one of the officers of the United States Army about it he laughed, even though I told him I could prove my charges. I'm going to go to Washington and see the Secretary of War and ask him to investigate. The Russian used to laugh at the Japanese but alas they woke up too! So it will be with this country."

DINING CAR SPEAKEASIES.

We clip from the Pittston Gazette the following: District Attorney Abram Salsburg is determined to stop the sale of intoxicants on all Lehigh Valley dining cars, and with this end in view, the initial step was taken on Thursday morning when Charles Norris, the new county detective, and Detective Michael Mulvey, with the necessary papers, held up train No. 8 from Buffalo, which arrived in Wilkes-Barre at 11:32, to secure information against the man in charge of the dining car.

The specific charge is the selling of intoxicants in Luzerne county without a license. The district attorney declares that the dining cars on the Lehigh Valley road are nothing more than speakeasies on wheels, and some interesting developments are expected. He says the railroad company makes large sums from the sale of liquors on its trains, and the county is not benefited one cent.

EDISON READY TO MOLD HOUSES

Great Inventor Says \$1,200 Will Build Homes Ordinarily Costing \$30,000

HE USES REINFORCED CONCRETE

New York Plumbers are Doubtful—Wizard of Menlo Park May Have Overlooked Wage Scales in Estimating on Concrete Structures.

New York City.—Thomas A. Edison has announced that he has completed his scheme for building a concrete house for \$1,200, which, if constructed of stone in the same design, would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The fact that Edison includes in his \$1,200 estimate the heating and plumbing for the house is construed by practical men here to mean he has fixed his figures without previously having consulted plumbers and steam fitters and without taking into consideration the eight-hour day and the prevailing rate of wages. The price he cites could not prevail if only a single house was to be built. That he wants to be understood clearly. What he means is that if the reinforced concrete houses were built in blocks, by his design and through the use of his molds, the cost of each house in a block would not be greater than about \$1,200.

He also says that figure is dependent upon the houses being built on soil which yield sand and gravel from the excavations. Even after making due allowance for those conditions, practical builders here in New York said they felt sure Edison would find himself in a losing game if he contracted to put up those blocks of detached one-family houses for \$1,200 each, with the plumbing and steam-heating apparatus included. Opinion was expressed that a mistake had been made in the estimates, and before contracts were entered into for building such houses the estimates would be revised and changed materially.

The Edison housebuilding plan calls for a one-family house, on a lot 40x60 feet. The floor plan of the house is 25x30 feet. The front porch extends eight feet and the back stoop three feet. Each house will contain six rooms and a bath, and the cellar will extend beneath the entire house and will contain the boiler, washstubs and coal bunker. The main living rooms and also the outside of the house will be richly decorated. The decorations will come from the molds as part of the structure and not merely be stuck on.

The entire house will be of reinforced concrete. That includes the walls, roof, floors, porches, bathtub and the laundry tubs. The only wood in the building will be the doors, door frames, windows and window frames. The inside walls also will be of concrete and there will be no plaster finish. The surface will be smooth and may be tinted or painted, as the owner may desire. Edison seems to think that with his plan in working shape it will do much toward relieving the congestion which now exists in cities and practically enable every working-man to own his home or to be a tenant in a detached house at an expense—that is, for rent and carefare—of not more than \$9 a month.

Cast-iron molds will be used in building the houses, and they will vary in design. After the concrete foundation has been laid and has hardened the molds will be set up upon it. The term foundation is not to be construed as meaning the cellar walls, but merely a base of concrete upon which the molds will rest. Edison estimates that the molds needed to begin the work of building such houses on wholesale lines will cost \$25,000, and that the necessary plant will cost \$15,000 more. At least six sets of molds must be used to keep the men and the plant busy.

Edison says it will take four days to set up the molds. The liquid concrete can be poured into them in six hours. The molds will be kept in use for four days until the concrete hardens and then it will require four days to remove them. That means the house will be finished in a fortnight. With the six sets of molds, if that schedule is adhered to, about 150 houses can be built in a year. The initial cost of the cast iron molds will be comparatively great, but they may be used indefinitely, Edison says, and in the long run will be much cheaper than the wooden molds now used and which, because of their destructibility, increase greatly the expense of concrete construction.

Edison has George E. Small and Henry J. Harms, Jr., engineers, working with him now. They designed the house and molds and made the experiments. The first house will be poured in sections for experimental purposes and to discover and remedy defects. Then an entire house will be run into the molds and when they are removed that muddy-looking mixture will have been turned into a handsome home where a workman can live and rear his family cheaply and in comfort—that is, if the Edison estimates are right.

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