

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

FEMININE ECONOMY.

Is it not also a part of our extravagant economy that makes women eat such queer things when they are by their lonely selves? What self-respecting man would lunch off a sultana cake, a tart or an ice? Show me the self-respecting woman who has not done it! Women know how to cook—some of them—but none of them know how to eat. A woman feels that to eat well and substantially is a sheer waste—there is nothing to show for it; but she would not hesitate a moment to spend even more in something that she can show. A man doesn't think twice about having a ripping good dinner; he thinks it is money well spent; but he would be hanged before he would buy himself an ornamental waistcoat and sustain life on a penny bun. What awful things we should eat if it were not for the men! I am sure table d'hôte dinners were invented by some philanthropist to save women. "I cannot eat a la carte," said a friend of mine in a piteous burst of confidence; "it's just like eating money." So when her husband travels with her he always leads her to the table d'hôte, if only to preserve her from starvation. When she is resigned to the cost she has an excellent appetite. I really think if it were not for men women would rap themselves in sable and point lace and starve to death.—Mrs. John Lane, in *Fortnightly Review*.

THE PERFECT WOMAN.

In a discussion among some friends recently we were in dispute as to the four requisite qualities to be found in the finest type of woman. A thought that these were the necessary charms: 1. A sense of religion. 2. An affectionate disposition. 3. A high reverence for maternity. 4. Docility of temperament. One of the other hand B. required: 1. Beauty. 2. High spirits. 3. Intelligence, and 4. An affectionate disposition. B. reminded A. that he had not asked for intelligence in his perfect woman, and to which A. replied, that he didn't require it. B. laughed this attitude of mind to scorn, and said that he knew a case at that moment in which such a woman as A. described was slowly boring her husband to death, and actually driving him from home by her inability—the case being all the harder for the husband because he realized and appreciated the good points of his wife. A. retorted by saying that he knew a case in which such an intelligent and high-spirited woman as B. described had turned her home topsy turvy by knowing more than her husband did—that the husband had been slowly but surely relegated to the background, and the wife's "affectionate disposition," instead of being dutifully concentrated upon her husband and family, had gone abroad for its satisfaction, and expended itself upon man and woman kind generally. The argument was of the sort that came to no end, and it was agreed that the question would be sent to the editorial tribunal for settlement in the hope that a formula for "the perfect woman" might be evolved.—*Harper's Weekly*.

FRENCH MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

It is very curious but foreigners never give the French credit for domesticity, and that is one of their greatest characteristics. Every daughter has laid up her money, and when she is at a marriageable age, her friends and relations go forth and hunt for a young man about her age, and in her social set, and with her means, and a marriage is arranged. There are many of these girls who complain of being thrown into the arms of a stranger, but on the whole they make admirable wives and mothers, and appear to be happy. French husbands and wives are nearly always the best of friends, looking after each other's welfare and taking the greatest interest in the bringing up and marrying off of their children. These children of the French have no courtship. The couples do not have time to learn to know each other, nor do they ever learn to love one another until after marriage. The majority of them enter uncomplainingly into wedlock, and take up their lives with the thought that the future is bright, and that their husbands will love them in time, which he generally does. There are no women in the world so extremely fascinating as the French. They have the power of making men admire them, and it seems that they can go further and make themselves loved. The lack of courtship never worries a French girl. She has never known the difference, nor has her mother or grandparents. Her courtship days come after the ceremony, when she and her husband find that they have many thoughts in common. Although this will seem improbable, there are very few scandals among the medium class of the French. There are few divorces, and husbands and wives seem to live happily together.

WHY PARIS REIGNS IN FASHION.

"Why has Paris always reigned supreme in the domain of fashion?" This is a question which many people must have asked themselves, says an exchange. For centuries the ladies of Paris have been a dominant factor in the supremacy. Encouraged by them, fashion artists have flourished in a peculiar atmosphere of that city.

Constant contact with and contemplation of the wealth of beautiful treasures displayed in the shops, museums, streets and theaters have constituted for the Parisian women a liberal education in everything that appertains to fashion.

The reason for the supremacy of Paris is not far to seek. Is not the history of France one long record of royal passions, beautiful favorites and extravagant adventuresses whose caprices cost countless millions? For several centuries women reigned supreme at court, in the drawing rooms, on the stage, everywhere. All men did her homage; her slightest whims equalled commands. Affairs of state, family honor, right, wrong—everything was ignored to gratify her maddest caprices. Her dress, jewelry and other personal adornments became vital questions. To-day even there are ladies who can spend £1000 on a set of furs; £200 on a mantle; £250 on a gown, and pay equally high prices for other articles of toilette.

This extravagance has always attracted to Paris the smartest talent in Europe. France long led the world in the productions of silks, satins, laces, velvets and all those fabrics essential to feminine attire. Dressmakers, jewelers, perfumers, were veritable artists, who gloried in their work. For a long time Paris lived mainly on the creation and distribution of articles of luxury. Probably her dressmakers stand alone in having made a profound study of historical costumes for reproductive purposes. They found precious inspiration at the Louvre, Luxembourg, and other famous picture galleries. M. Worth wrote a big book on his profession. M. Felix often "created" at a sacrifice, for the pure love of art.

Paris has always been the principal creative centre of dramatic art; the success of a new piece is often dependent on the elegant costumes of the star actresses. Wherever the later have toured they have left in their trail the latest conceptions of fashions, exciting the envy and desires of their foreign sisters. Again, French novelists never tire of praising the beauty, elegance and perfect taste in dress of the women in Paris. Imperceptibly, cosmopolitan women have imbibed the notion that outside Paris there is no salvation for the smart woman who yearns to incarnate the latest ideal of the mode.

QUESTION OF LININGS.

Make a note that the question of color, which is of such serious importance this season, has to be gone into even so far as regards linings, and many novel effects are obtained in consequence, even when the old-time materials are used, says the *Washington Times*. The very thin transparent veillings, dark blue, dark brown, or red, are made up over linings of the same color, and are certainly smart and attractive, but if white or some contrasting color is used instead an entirely different appearance is the result. Dark blue over a pale blue, red over pink, green over the palest green, or brown over green, all are effective, and considered smart, while most popular of all is the blue over pale violet.

As can be readily understood, only the most transparent of materials look well over the contrasting linings. When the fabric is in any way closely woven the contrast in color is not so sharp and an ugly, thick effect is given that is always unbecoming. With the fashionable skirts it is necessary to pay great attention to the lining or drop skirt, otherwise the gown lacks the smart appearance now demanded. The soft satins and silks are preferred for linings by some dressmakers, who contend that they fit more closely around the hips than the taffeta ones. In these days there are any number of soft finished taffetas that can be so arranged as to fit perfectly around the hips and yet give the all important flare. A wide circular flounce trimmed with one or two ruffles, each ruffle with a ruching, will hold out the material of the skirt in much smarter fashion than will anything else.

And just here may a word be given to the economically disposed. White or black linings are the least expensive and the most practical in the long run, for it is much easier to freshen them when they show signs of wear. Patches can be put on, new ruffles and flounces can replace old ones, and there will not be the same difficulty about trying to find silk to match as when some fancy color is used.

A silk lining is almost a necessity for there never were so many satisfactory linings to choose from, and with a silk flounce only quite a few pennies can be saved. Thin India silk or lawn makes a far more comfortable waist lining than taffeta silk, and will wear better in the gown, but cannot be used if the most cases be of too transparent material. This rule does not apply to muslins or wash materials. There are also many new linings that are cool and that yet have enough "body" not to stretch, for that is a most serious fault that will ruin the best cut waist after it has been worn two or three times.

London has succeeded in telephoning to Rome, but the results were very unsatisfactory.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS



THE NEAT KITCHEN.

If the kitchen itself is a neat, picturesque room, with snowy curtains at the windows, neatly oiled floor, clean, glazed paper on the walls and everything comfortable and convenient, almost any servant will feel an aspiration to keep it in that condition.

AN ESSENTIAL.

An oblong fish kettle of enameled ware should be part of every kitchen outfit. The best kettles have perforated drainers with wire handles at the sides, by which the fish can be lifted easily and conveniently. These kettles will be found useful for boiling green corn as well as fish.

UTILIZING OLD CORKS.

A clever housekeeper has conceived the idea of utilizing old corks for a bathroom mat, which she finds very soft and warm for bare feet. Collecting a lot of corks, she cuts them to a uniform size and squeezes them through a rather fine wire netting, the holes being just large enough to hold the corks tightly in their centres.

WASHING LINENS.

Linens are worn so much this season that a word in regard to their care is timely. Colored linen should be washed carefully with white soap, and if there is fear of its losing its original color allow a large lump of alum to dissolve in the rinsing water, then hang to dry in a shady place. The addition of gum-arabic water to the starch gives a desirable dressing without the undue stiffness which starch alone would give.

FOR THE BEDROOM.

Now that all wash goods are offered for sale at very small prices, the shopper is tempted to purchase lengths of flowered organdie or dimity for bedroom curtains. A charming cottage bedroom, hung with a wall paper all large yellow roses, was made still more charming by curtains of organdie in which the yellow rose design was repeated, but in much paler tones. In fact, the effect was as if the roses on the walls cast their shadows on the sheer white curtains. The idea is worth studying and adapting to other flower rooms.

THREE-SIDED HAMPER.

One of the most useful things that one can have in a house is a three-sided hamper for soiled clothes. It is much more satisfactory than the ordinary round or four-sided hamper, as it occupies less space, besides being more sightly in appearance. It is strongly built of heavy wicker woven in and out and twisted around strong supports at the corners, and the front is rounded, thus giving more room inside, without making any appreciable difference in the amount of floor space occupied. The top fits snugly and the hinges are serviceable and strong, as are also the handles, which are formed of rings securely attached.—*Utica Observer*.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

Cold-Water Cake—One and one-half cups of sugar, one-quarter cup of butter, one and one-half cups of flour, two eggs, one cup of water, two teaspoonfuls baking powder. Flavor with vanilla or lemon.

Lentil Soup—Wash carefully one cup of lentils. Cook in two quarts of boiling water for half an hour, or until soft, and then drain the water. Rub through a strainer, add sufficient hot milk to make the soup of the desired consistency, and season well with salt and pepper.

White House Cake—Beat very thoroughly together a cup and a half of sugar, half a cup of butter and the whites of five eggs; then add two-thirds of a cup of milk, a little more than two cups of fine flour and a teaspoonful of almond extract. Whip until light and frothy and bake in a moderate oven.

Blackberry Charlotte—Soak one-third of a package of gelatine in a cup of cold water for half an hour. Have ready one pint of cream whipped to a stiff froth. Sift into it then a cupful of powdered sugar, add the gelatine and the juice of half a lemon. Stir in one pint of fresh blackberries, which must be very ripe, and beat until stiff. Serve ice cold with whipped cream on top.

Green Mountain Buns—Mix a stiff batter out of three cups of milk, one of sugar and the necessary amount of flour. Add a yeast cake. Let rise for half a day, then add one cupful of molasses, one cupful of currants, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, one of soda, one-half of cloves, and a full cup of melted butter; use sufficient flour to make a stiff batter again, allow it to rise over night and spread with raw egg when baked.

Cocoanut Layer Cake—Cream one and a half cups of sugar and one-half cup of butter. Add a half cup of milk and one cup of freshly grated cocoanut. Sift in two cups of flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Fold in last the whites of four eggs. Bake in layer tins. Spread with a soft icing made by mixing the whites of two eggs and a cup of fresh, grated cocoanut with enough powdered sugar to make it stiff. A little orange or lemon rind grated is an improvement.

BETTY THINGS TO WEAR

New York City.—There are many occasions for which nothing is quite so well suited as the fitted coat. This one



is severe in style and has all the smartness which comes from such cut while it is absolutely becoming to girlish

Tucked Blouse Waist.
The blouse waist continues, and will continue, to be the favorite of the fashionable world, and seems to know no limit to its variety. Illustrated is one of the newest that can be utilized both for wash materials and for silks and wools, and which allows of many variations in the trimming. In this instance white linen is combined with handsome embroidery and the waist is unlined, but the trimming can be lace or banding of any sort that may be preferred, while the fitted lining will be found desirable for silk and wool materials.

The waist consists of the fitted lining, which is closed at the front, the fronts and the back. The tucks are so arranged as to give tapering lines to the figure at the back and to provide becoming fullness at the front while the closing of the waist is made invisibly beneath the edge of the right front. The sleeves are the favorite ones which form generous puffs above smoothly fitted lower portions. There is a regulation stock which can be worn with a tie and a turn-over, as in this instance, or be made to match the trimming as preferred.

A LATE DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.



figures and quite simple. In the illustration the material is white serge stitched with bedding silk, but while it is in every way to be desired for the immediate season, the model will also be found available for the autumn and for every fashionable suiting as well as for general wear.

The coat is made with fronts, backs and under-arm gores, and is absolutely plain. At the neck are regulation collar and lapels, and the closing is made invisibly by means of a fly. The sleeves are the accepted ones that are full at the shoulders and narrow at the wrists.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is three and a half yards of material twenty-seven, two and a quarter yards forty-four or one and three-quarter yards fifty-two inches wide.

Overshirts to Be Worn.

There is every prospect that we shall be wearing overshirts within the coming year. The tunic skirt is being boomed by the dressmakers, and since many women have taken kindly to the innovation, its success is fairly well assured. The style is very becoming to tall figures, but is not at all a happy one for short or stout women.

Use Great Care in Selecting.

With short skirts invading the ranks of almost every style of dress, a mistake often committed is that of having every skirt in your wardrobe short, instead of having an occasional long one for high days and holidays. And another mistake even more encountered is the wearing of several tailored skirts with exquisitely embroidered blouses, the excuse being that they are both white, and so should be all right. They are not all right, by a great deal. Short skirts belong, by the very nature

The quantity of material required for the medium size is three and three-quarter yards twenty-one, three and a



quarter yards twenty-seven or two yards forty-four inches wide with one yard of all-over embroidery to trim as illustrated.

White to Be Popular.

White, the trade journals say, will be more popular next year than it has been this or previous seasons. The buyer will, therefore, take every advantage of white sales in the shops.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



A FELLOW'S MOTHER.

"A fellow's mother," said Fred, the wise, "With his rosy cheeks and his merry eyes, 'Knows what to do if a fellow gets hurt; By a thump or a bruise or a fall in the dirt."

"A fellow's mother has bags and strings, Rags and buttons, and lots of things; No matter how busy she is, she'll stop To see how well you can spin your top."

"She does not care—not much, I mean, If a fellow's face is not always clean; And if your trousers are torn at the knee She can put on a patch that you'd never see."

"A fellow's mother is never mad, But only sorry if you are bad; And I tell you this, if you're only true, She'll always forgive you, whatever you do."

"I'm sure of this," said Fred, the wise, "With a manly look in his laughing eyes, 'I'll mind my mother, quick, every day; A fellow's a baby that don't obey.'"
—*Junior Post Express*.

THE LOST DOLL.

The little seaside cottage had been put in order, the trunks had gone with the expressman, and Papa Graham was at the gate with the carriage. Even Flora Louise, Phyllis' beloved doll, had her cape and bonnet on, all ready to go to the station.

"Let's go all round the cottage and say a last good-by," said Phyllis, hugging Flora Louise in her arms. They went through all the rooms below, and then up-stairs to get another look at the blue ocean gleaming in the sunshine and rolling up its white surf on the beach.

Phyllis found the window wide open. It had been forgotten. Perhaps she

Many a happy day had Lynn and Katharine in the little cottage and on the warm, sunny beach, and Flora Louise shared in all their good times. But she was Flora Louise no longer.

"If we only knew what her name is!" sighed Katharine. "But we'll just have to give her another, poor little dear! It must be dreadful to be lost and not able to tell your own name. Let's call her Gertrude." So Gertrude she remained all winter.

When the time drew near for leaving, mother one day gave Katharine an idea, which she was quick to share with Lynn, and after that there were busy, busy days for both.

On the day they left the cottage Katharine came and gathered Gertrude in her arms. "You dear precious!" she murmured. "I hate awfully to leave you. But you're going to have a delightful 'sprise some day, when the summer girl comes back."

It was not Gertrude, however, but the summer girl herself who had the greatest "sprise."

The very first week in vacation the carriage stopped at the gate again, and Phyllis looked anxiously up to the veranda railing, while Papa Graham unlocked the door.

There was no trace of Flora Louise. "What can have become of her?" thought Phyllis, as she went slowly up the steps.

But the first sight that met her eyes as she walked into the sitting room was Flora Louise herself, gorgeous in a new gown, and seated on a cunning

PICTURE PUZZLE.



Baron von Steuben, an officer in the army of Frederick the Great, drilling the American Army at Valley Forge, in winter of 1777-1778. Two more officers can be found in this picture.—*Mirror and Farmer*.

and Flora Louise could close it for mamma. Down came the window, but alas! Flora Louise somehow slipped outside to the veranda roof beneath and rolled down to the narrow railing at the edge.

Poor Phyllis! She stood an instant watching the gay little heap huddled together in the sheltering angle, and then ran down-stairs as fast as she could go to tell papa about it.

But papa said they must not wait another instant. Mamma had already locked the door, as soon as Phyllis was out, and she and Baby Lou were getting into the carriage. There was nothing left for Phyllis to do but to climb in, too.

With a long, lingering look at the speck of red cape that showed through the veranda railing, she laid her head on her mother's shoulder and cried as if her heart would break.

They said she should have a new dolly just as soon as she should get back to town, and it came in due season, and grew to be very dear to Phyllis; but she never forgot poor Flora Louise, out in the sun and wind on the veranda roof at the seaside cottage.

"Next summer I shall try to get her the very first thing," she said.

After a month or two the cottage was let to a winter tenant, for in the South, where Phyllis lived, people often go to the beach resorts during the winter season.

Lynn and Katharine, the little newcomers, went all through the cottage the first thing, to see what their new home was like. At the front window up-stairs they paused, as Phyllis had often done, to watch the blue ocean sparkling in the sun and rolling up its white surf on the sand.

"Oh, look, Lynn!" suddenly cried Katharine. "There on the veranda roof! I wonder what it is!"

"I'm going down to see," said Lynn, opening the window wide.

He let himself down carefully to the roof below, and then crept slowly down to where poor Flora Louise was huddled.

little bedstead just right for her! Pinned to her dress was a little note, which read:

"Dear Summer Girl—The agent told us you live in this cottage every summer, so I know you will be glad to get your dolly again. We love her, too. One of us climbed out the window and got her and made her bedstead, and the other took care of her and made her new clothes. We didn't know her right name, but we have called her Gertrude. We hope you'll have a good time with her this summer. Lovingly,

"THE WINTER BOY AND GIRL."

Near by was a little trunk containing a pink silk dress, and a dainty cloak and hat. There were also many dainty little garments that delighted the eye of gateful Phyllis.

"What perfectly lovely winter children!" cried Phyllis, when mamma had read her the note. "I'm going to call my lost dolly Flora Louise Gertrude Graham, and I'm going to ask the agent if that boy and girl are coming back next winter, and if they are, I'm going to leave her here for them." Lily Manker Allen, in the *Youth's Companion*.

RAFT DWELLERS.

On all the great lakes of China are found floating islands which are enormous rafts of bamboo overlaid with earth and upholding above the surface of the water pretty houses and gardens. They are, in fact, aquatic farms, bearing crops of rice and vegetables. The rich bottom mud, utilized as an artificial soil, is extremely fertile and yields bountiful harvests, though on a small scale.

In a country where there is such a lack of available land, owing to the overplus of population, these floating plantations are most serviceable, large sails being attached to the dwelling house as well as to each corner of the island whenever it is desired to move about. After gathering a crop of grain or garden truck from the surface of the lake the floating farmer casts his nets into the waters and, from their depths brings up a supply of fish for his family.

One of the consequences of young Alfonso's visit to England is the birth of the "Alfonzo" hat.