

OF INTEREST



WOMEN

Kid belts. In exactly the right shade, beautifully made and stitched, worn with rough cloth gowns, are charming.

A Present Style of Grandmother.

Where are the pretty old ladies gone? We see no one now with soft white hair matching the snowy wool with which dainty hands, surrounded by ruffles of lovely Meshine, etc., make comforts for the poor. One looks in vain for such a figure in the fireside chair, surrounded by loving relatives. Instead we have developed a padded, painted, "topped" grandmother. We read with amazement that ancient dross of whose age the "Fascists" make no secret wear white satin and silver or much befrilled white muslin. May it not be that this extraordinary dilke to age may have much to do with the independence of young people nowadays? What child would take its childish griefs to our present style of grandmother—London Truth.

A Blind Telephone Girl.

The remarkable adaptability of the human machine is well exemplified in the case of a blind telephone operator at Mattoon, Ill. According to the Electrical World, Miss Abbie Downing, a blind girl of twenty-three years, who began as an operator of a telephone exchange, recently within three weeks became the most expert operator the company ever had. She handles a board for sixty telephones and also has charge of a toll station of which she personally keeps the books. She locates a call on the board by the sound of the "drop" or by running her nimble fingers over the exchange board. She graduated from the Indianapolis School for the Blind in 1933, and can cook, sew by hand or machine, do fancy work, and is an accomplished musician. She is the only blind telephone operator in the country.

An English Woman Farmer.

One of England's foremost farmers is a woman, the Hon. Mrs. Murray Smith. On her estate, Gurney Hall, Leicestershire, she raises some of the finest Jersey cattle that are bred anywhere. She is an early riser, and gets up and about among her men as soon as the sun is in sight. She attends to all the details of the management of her estate. All of the improvements which can contribute to the well-being of the animals are made at her discretion. She sees that they have the best of food and the most comfortable quarters. As the result they have taken many prizes. One cow, Lorina, which carried off the milk prize at the Bath and West of England show, gives 900 gallons of milk yearly. Mrs. Smith's rule is not to keep any cow which yields less than 600 gallons of milk a year. She herself attends to all of her correspondence and the record-keeping in connection with the animals.

The Hunting Woman.

The modern Englishwoman is among the boldest, best and most confident riders to hounds. She comes to the meet in her sailor hat, perhaps—certainly if she finds it more comfortable—a covert coat, long boots, and a habit cut short to the ankles—keep any cow of a thing which does not pretend to conceal her breeches, and is, on foot, the ugliest and most indecent dress ever worn by a woman, but is accepted as a matter of course because of its practical utility. By a curious contradiction, however, the same woman who walks about the stable yard among the grooms in her habit without shame would not be seen in the equally useful and much more graceful knickerbocker costume worn for the bicycle by women everywhere in France.

The Hunting Woman.

The hunting woman would not sacrifice her day's sport for any other pleasure on earth. But it means more than the chase to her; it means glowing downy adiantum with color, the beauty and sweetness of earth, the balsamic perfume of pure air, and health and strength. After hours in the saddle she will return to the hall, and bathe and dress and dine and dance till midnight; and then be up again, keen as the north wind for more exercise, and fresh as the new day—Collier's Weekly.

Warned Against Marrying Germans.

William E. Curtis declares in the Chicago Record-Herald that while many American girls who have married German officers have spent their lives regretting it, some of the happiest and most popular women in Germany are American wives of native husbands. It all depends upon the man. Germans seem to prefer American wives when they can get them. Attractive American girls who go to Germany to spend the winter, to study languages, music or art, or for other reasons, are sure to have offers of marriage, particularly if they have money, usually from the dashing young army officers who make up so large and so important a part of society in the German cities.

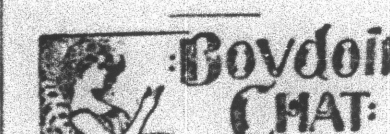
"But every American girl who is subjected to this temptation should understand that the servants of a household have more legal protection than their mistress, who has no rights at all," says Mr. Curtis. "When a

woman marries a German husband she surrenders every right and privilege that women in other countries possess. The laws of the empire do not give her any protection. For that reason the American Ambassador and the Consul of the United States in Germany always warn American girls against marrying Germans until they are fully informed as to the situation."

Soft Colors Blended.

The blending of soft colors is more beautiful than ever in the printed crepes and silks and handsome brocades. Exactness of taste will be charmed with a new soft silk in old ivory and pale green with a trailing rose design. Wild elements cover a delicate green surface marks another sample. There are silks of high lustre, deepening from faint cream to rich yellow, that bear daintiest pou-pou-pou designs.

Rich velvets, in plain, corded and fancy effects, swell the list of fashionable winter fabrics and are used not only for separate, fancy waists, but for entire costumes. A black velvet with tiny white specks at close intervals over it is attractive for a dressy street gown, while a hunter's green or royal blue with white dots is equally appropriate and stylish. Black and white striped velvets with the stripes in graduated widths suggests modish skirts to be worn with fancy waists for semi-formal occasions.—The Delineator.



Boydor Chat

If there is anything prettier than a double boiler on the fire, sprinkle the cocoa on the top of the milk, and as soon as the latter is lukewarm stir in the cocoa, which will dissolve immediately. Cocoa does not mix well in a cold liquid, and it will lump in milk that is too hot. Boiling cocoa for from five to ten minutes improves its taste and aroma.—American Queen.

The Making of Puddings.

Only the best materials should be used for making puddings, and about the same rules observed in their preparation as for cake making. The flour should be sifted, the eggs beaten separately, the milk strained and the whites added last. A pinch of salt improves all puddings.

Steaming is the most wholesome method of cooking a pudding. Put on over a vessel of cold water, and do not uncover while cooking, else the pudding will be heavy. A pudding that is to be baked must be put into the oven as soon as mixed. If it cooks too fast it will become watery. Many cooks prefer using molds or basins for baked puddings, but they will be much lighter if boiled in a cloth and allowed plenty of room to swell. This cloth or bag should be made of very firm cotton drilling, tapering from top to bottom with rounded corners. The seams should be stitched and felled and the edges hemmed. Sew a piece of stout tape to the seam about a finger's length from the top. It must be kept scrupulously clean by washing in clean water, squeeze dry then dredge the inside (the right side) with flour. Turn the pudding on the serving dish, and send it and yet she didn't laugh.—Chicago Post.

Aunt Hannah—"Oh, I don't think Amanda would do such a mean thing as that. I have always heard people say Amanda was generous to a fault." Uncle George—"When the fault happens to be hers, she is; not otherwise, not otherwise."—Boston Transcript.

Papa—"See that spider, my boy, spinning his web. Is it not wonderful? Do you reflect that, try as he may, never counting on the web of Johnny—'What of it? See me spin this top! Do you reflect, try as he may, no spider could spin this top?'—Tit-Bits.

"I suppose," said the physician, smiling and trying to appear witty, while feeling the pulse of a lady patient, "I suppose you consider me an old hunch?" "Why, doctor," replied the lady, "I had no idea you could ascertain a woman's thoughts by merely feeling her pulse."—Chicago Tribune.

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HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS



The Secret of Good Tea.

Few housekeepers remember, as they should, that when it is necessary to dilute strong tea it should be done with water at the boiling point. The poor flavor of tea, made strong at first and then diluted, such as is too often served at receptions and "at homes," is usually caused by the addition of hot, not boiling, water to the first infusion. A lesson in this matter may be had from the Russians, who serve the most delicious tea in the world, and who prepare it first very strong, making it almost a essence of tea. This is diluted to the strength desired, with water kept boiling in the samovar. This water is not allowed to boil and reboil, but is renewed as needed. Freshly boiled water is insisted upon by all connoisseurs in tea-making.

To Make Cocoa.

Cocoa is really a delicious beverage if properly made, but in nine cases out of ten it is spoiled in the process. The secret in preparing a cup of cocoa lies in adding no more of the powder than is essential. The milk which is used to make it should not be diluted if the cocoa is to be nutritious and palatable. Not more than half a teaspoonful of cocoa should be used to the cup, and it is absolutely unnecessary to stir the cocoa with a little milk or water, as most people are in the habit of doing.

After you have put the milk in a double boiler on the fire, sprinkle the cocoa on the top of the milk, and as soon as the latter is lukewarm stir in the cocoa, which will dissolve immediately. Cocoa does not mix well in a cold liquid, and it will lump in milk that is too hot. Boiling cocoa for from five to ten minutes improves its taste and aroma.—American Queen.

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The Mother—"My daughter has been used to the tenderest care, to the utmost sympathy, and so unfeeling guardianship. I trust this will be continued." The Sultana—"I hope so, I'm sure."—Detroit Free Press.

Automobilist—"Say, I want this mask changed. It doesn't cover my face enough." Clerk—"But it's the regular thing." "Can't help that. I find that the people I run over are apt to recognize me."—Life.

"Mr. Gallant, you are something of a student of human nature," began Miss Berchous, coyly. "Ah, but now," he interrupted, flashing his bold, black eyes upon her, "I am a divinity student."—Philadelphia Press.

The youthful politician is a man of promise great. His promises are numerous now; And still accurate. —Washington Star.

"I heard a good definition of 'weather' today," he suggested casually. "What was it?" she asked unobtrusively. "Weather," he replied, "is the most feminine thing in nature." And yet she didn't laugh.—Chicago Post.

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THE REMINISCENT MAN.

What would we do for things to read about our public men? How could we learn their boyhood traits and how they acted there? How could we know their whims and foibles and other little things? About those, were not just by what a certain person brings?

All had the chap who fills that gap in wit. Dame Nature's plan is to give us the one who always in our view—the Reminiscent Man.

He tells us of our Presidents, and what they did and said. Or what they didn't do or say, as we have often read you—

He cites remarks of heroes bold, long ere they burst to fame. Which plainly show they were designed to bear an honored name;

He lessons the pages of the past—no other person can. Dig up as many facts as does the Reminiscent Man.

Sometimes he is the man who's styled the Old Inhabitant. And he can tell when Colonel Bluff went out and laid a bet at.

And then, again, he is the man who bathed side by side. With Major Road, and now he tells about it with much pride.

Or else he had a jury seat when Lawyer Jones was tried. All this the Reminiscent Man has over on his tongue.

Perchance he used to fish along with Mr. Obeeseek. And that that man's a candidate he tells it by the week.

He holds the newspaper up and fills him full of tales—The news may stop, but after all, the R. M. never fails.

Sometimes he'll write a book about the talk of the day. The bunch of people who make up the Reminiscent Man.

—Josh Wink, in Baltimore American



Gratitude—"What makes you look so unhappy, Willie?" Willie—"Cause nobody never calls me good unless I'm doing something I don't want to do."—Motherhood.

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APRIL CULTURE



Using the Old Strawberry Bed.

An excellent location for a garden next year is an old strawberry patch plowed under. Strawberry beds are usually well manured, and the leaves shade the soil in summer; hence there is more or less increase in humus. The bed should be plowed under very early in the spring and the plot well covered with fine stable manure, which should be worked into the soil.

Chemical Combinations in the Soil.

Chemical combinations are ever occurring in the soil. This fact is supported by experiment and observation. There is a loss of nitrogen by chemical reaction, and also a gain from other combinations. Every summer heap suffers loss of volatile ammonia that might be saved by the use of substances for absorbing it, or it may be changed to other forms. As water absorbs ammonia it serves to prevent loss under many conditions.

Obtaining a Permanent Soil.

On a field which it is desired to get into a permanent sod, we would not sow oats at all. As the result of observation we are satisfied that it is a mistake to seed a grain crop with grass seeds; and we are satisfied that this is especially so in the North, where the object is to get a good stand of grass. There may be some excuse for it when the grass crop is the prime consideration. Grain seeds shaded by a grain crop, especially if the crop is heavy, are so much shaded and so weakened in their growth by the stronger root growth of the grain crop, that at best, they make but a poor showing when the grain is cut off. In the South the harvesting of the grain crop is done at a time when the power of the sun is greatest, and the result too often is that the grass, deprived of shade and in a weak condition, is burnt up. Seeded alone, the grass seeds make a vigorous growth from the start, and are insured to the power of the sun, and able to withstand its scorching rays without suffering. We have seen a crop of grass so raised that made an excellent crop of hay the first year, and went into the winter able to withstand the frost without damage.—The Epitomeist.

Witch Grass.

What is enclosed grass? It must have come in with grass seed last year, and this year has come up since hay-making, and is now dry and blowing over every thing. There are many acres of it in the South. This is Panicum capillare, commonly called witch grass. It has also received the name of "tumble weed" in some places, in allusion to the method of its dissemination, the stems breaking from the root and rolling about in the wind, scattering their seeds wherever they go. It is a late grass, and a common one in cultivated fields and in gardens. It is also very variable in size and in its degree of hairiness and general appearance.—The Country Gentleman.

Save Your Own Seeds. It is wiser, better, cheaper, and adds materially to the pleasure of gardening. You desire the best. To secure that, select the best of that which suits you the best. There is a great diversity of taste; some prefer one form or color, another quite a different one. This is an individual matter, and in no way affects the principle. We all have our preferences as to species. We all want the best defined of a given type. To secure this result, selection is necessary, and selection means choice. It means the most vigorous plant that produces the flower or vegetable best suited to your taste. Save the seeds from such for future use. Great care is required to make the selection valuable. After a choice of plants is made, the first flowers should not be allowed to seed, as they are never so perfect as those that come later. If the second flowers are all that can be desired, if they are improvements over those of previous years, carefully remove all the undeveloped buds on the plant, so as to give the blooms the full strength of the plant for the ripening of their seed. This is the way all new varieties are produced, and the way that others may be. If a flower shows the slightest change of color or marking, it is a sure indication of a new variety. From this plant save the most marked, even though the flowers in other respects may not be desirable. Save the flower for seed that shows the greatest change, and do not trust another to bloom until that seed is ripened. Follow this up for a few years and a variety may be produced of more money value than the cost of the whole garden during those years.

Elephant Catcher Needed. An elephant catcher rather than a cow catcher seems to be needed in India. On the railroad between Bengal and Assam, according to the Railroad Gazette, as the superintendent of the line was making an inspection trip, while passing through the great Nambur forest, the train came to a stop with a jolt that threw the travelers out of their berths. The train had run into a herd of wild elephants which were rooting down the track, the last of which had both hind legs broken and was thrown into the ditch, while the engineer counted seven others which got away. This is not the first time that wild elephants have got on the track, and ordinary fences and cattle guards are no protection.—Scientific American.

Quite a Difference. A British Columbia lawyer was passing along the street, carrying under his arm a law book in circuit binding,