

OF INTEREST



WOMEN

Kid Belts.
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 Mechlin, etc., made comforts for the poor. One looks in vain for such a figure in the fringed chair, surrounded by loving relatives. Instead we have developed a padded, painted, "touped" grandmother. We read with amazement that ancient dames (of whose age the "Peerage" makes no secret) wear white satin and silver or much be-ruffled white muslin. May it not be that this extraordinary dislike 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 1893, 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, Gurnley Hall, Leicestershire, she raises some of the finest Jersey cattle that are bred anywhere. She is an early riser, and is 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 milking prize at Birmingham and the butter certificate 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—a mere apron 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 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 downs, radiant 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 Consuls 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 clematis over a delicate green surface marks another sample. There are silks of high lustre, deepening from faint cream to rich yellow, that bear daintiest pompadour 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 stripe in graduated widths suggests modish skirts to be worn with fancy waists for semi-formal occasions.—The Delineator.



Boydell's Chat

If there is anything prettier than an auburn-haired woman in a black suit with chinchilla, the average observer doesn't know it.

One of South Dakota's largest orchards is owned and cared for by a woman. It covers 130 acres and has yielded 10,000 bushels of apples.

The women of South Park, Chicago, have formed an improvement association to clean the filthy streets which have failed to receive the proper attention.

Miss Julia Morgan, of San Francisco, has just completed her studies at the Beaux Arts in Paris, and is the first woman who has been graduated from that famous institution.

Maryland is one of the old-time States that refuses women lawyers freedom to practice their profession. The Baltimore Sun makes a strong appeal for a change in the law.

Miss Mary Bidwell Breed is now dean of women in Indiana University, a position recently created. She is a Pennsylvanian and a graduate of Bryn Mawr and the Pennsylvania College for Women, at Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward is a mistress of Spanish, French, Italian and German. Her knowledge of Spanish literature is such that when only eighteen she was asked to adjudicate in a Spanish-essay competition.

Women pilots are by no means unknown in America's coast towns. In San Pedro Harbor, California, Miss Vincent, formerly of Marblehead, Mass., is a most successful one. She is making a good living and hopes to rise in her profession.

Mrs. Lena Behrens, of Ohio, is a wholesale saddlery dealer. She is a graduate of a school of pharmacy, and her knowledge of chemistry was so valuable to her husband in testing metals that she gradually worked into it sole manager of the large factory.

Two college women of Brookline, Mass., are making a success of a laundry run on strictly scientific and economical principles. The clothes are "sun dried" and bleached, and by a series of experiments the foreman has tested all the latest contrivances and processes for bettering the quality of the work.



Pretty Things to Wear

Mirrol velvet is much used for handsome evening gowns.

The season's designs in negligee are noticeable for their elegance and elaboration.

Green is a favorite color for coats for little girls, particularly in velvet. An eury lace collar, beaver fur or ermine forms the trimming.

Velvet ribbons are now seen with velvet on both sides. The centre is in solid color with striped edges combining the centre color and white.

The most fashionable hat for small girls is a big flat silky haired beaver, trimmed with feather pompons and immense bows with long streamers.

Hand-knit woolen jackets to wear for extra warmth under outside wraps are more loosely woven than the machine-made garments, cling to the figure, and are not bulky.

Low dressing for the hair has made possible horseshoe shaped combs. The comb proper goes down into the coil of hair, and drooping from it on either side are the ends of the shoe which encircle it.

The modish hat pin is topped with a pear-shaped pearl or round topaz or amethyst framed in gun metal. Crystal beads with setting of gun metal are used for some of the long chains, for which there is a decided liking just now.

The high novelty in belts is a waist-band formed of thin white leather, laid in folds. Some are so high as to be almost a corselet, others are about three inches wide. The buckles are high and narrow, and sometimes are both in front and at the middle of the back.

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 reduced, 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 an essence of tea. This is diluted to the strength wished, 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 teamaking.

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 first mix 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.

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 yolks 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 boiled 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 mixture into it, the securely and drop into a kettle of boiling water. It should be kept entirely covered with water, and never stop boiling throughout the time allotted for cooking. When done, plunge for a moment into cold water, then untie the string, turn back the cloth, slide the pudding on the serving dish and send to the table at once.—The Ladies' World.

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

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

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"I heard a good definition of 'wealth' to-day," he suggested casually. "What was it?" she asked unsuspectingly. "Wealth," he replied, "is the most feminine thing in nature." And yet she didn't laugh. —Chicago Post.

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Dipping fish into lemon juice before cooking is said to keep the fish white. Rub a little butter on the fingers and on the knife when seeding raisins, to avoid the stickiness.

If curtains are allowed to dry before being starched, they will last clean quite a month longer.

The old-fashioned knit table mats are again in great demand, and often seen on well appointed tables.

An omelet smothered in a cream sauce thick with chopped olives and mushrooms is delightful for a Sunday night supper.

To vary the salad flavorings, sweet marjoram, rosemary, sweet basil, thyme, finely minced tarragon, or chervil, may be introduced.

The English fashion of baking pumpkin as well as mince pies in individual shells is preferred by many to a larger pie, which has to be cut in segments.

Spanish sweet peppers and onions added to beef and potato hash give variety to the dish. Serve on slice of toast with a poached egg on the top of each.

A thick paring should be taken from cucumbers in order to remove the bitter portion lying directly under the skin. A very thick slice should, for the same reason, be removed from the stem end.

Gold decorations, unrelieved by any coloring, on an ivory tinted background, are very smart for table ware, usually in bordered effects, both band-like and of lace pattern design, with medallion centre.

A scientific author claims that it is a mistake to clean brass with acid, as it soon becomes dull after such treatment. Sweet oil and putty powder followed by soap and water are said to brighten brass or copper, as well as anything else.

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 then? How could we know their whims and fads and other little things about them, were it not for what a certain person brings? All hail the chap who fills that gap in a wise Dame Nature's plan. The one who's 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; He cites remarks of heroes bold, long ere they burst to fame, Which plainly show they were designed to bear an honored name; He knows 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 ha't; And then, again, he is the man who battled side by side With Major Blood, and now he tells about it with much pride; Or else he had a jury seat when Lawyer Chung was young— All this the Reminiscent Man has ever on his tongue.

Perchance he used to fish along with Mr. Oakesek, And when that man's a candidate he tells it by the week; He holds the wise reporter up and fills him full of tales, The news may stop, but after all, the R. M. never fails, Somebody ought to write a book about the talky clan— The humor of people who make up the Reminiscent Man. —Josh Wink, in Baltimore American.



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HORTICULTURE



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 manure 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 Sod.

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 South, 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 inured to the power of the sun, and are 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 Epitomist.

Wild Grass.

What is enclosed grass? It must have come in with grass seed last year, and this year has come up since haying, and is now dry and blowing over everything. There are many acres of it. Answer: 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 panicles tumbling 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.

Why not save your 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.

CHINESE DOCTORS.

Lament For the Degeneracy of Native Physicians.

Although medicine is a small science, yet it concerns the lives of men. The Tso Chuan says: "Unless a doctor belongs to the third generation of doctors in his own family we should not take his medicine." Su Hsuankung in his youth had an ambition to help the world and often remarked: "If I cannot be a good statesman I will be a good physician." Su Hsuankung in his old age studied the healing art and when he saw a good prescription copied it with his own hand, saying: "This is also a way to give life to men." In the Han dynasty we had Chang Yui, Chang Chung-ching and Hua T'o, in the Chin dynasty Ko Hung, in the Tang dynasty Su Ssumao. All these were famous physicians and left some writings behind them.

Alas! how the present race of doctors has degenerated. How many of them trade on the ignorance of their patients, quite forgetting that though they may deceive men they cannot escape the eye of the gods.

Tseng Kuofan heard that in the West all physicians must pass a stringent examination in the science and art of medicine before they are allowed to practice. Hence their patients rarely suffered death under the hands of doctors. This is the very antipodes of the entire absence of law and control of physicians in China, where anybody with or without a smattering about pulses, etc., can hang out his sign and begin practice. Individual gentlemen have tried occasionally to examine physicians. But the Government should take it in hand. At present the number of Chinese who have confidence in Western medicine is very small, but increasing especially among intelligent men. Although hospitals cannot suddenly be called into being, yet a beginning should be made by compelling aspirants in the medical art to pass regular examinations, and only on receiving diplomas to begin operations.—Shen Pao.

WISE WORDS.

Fearing leads to fretting.
Tall trees need deep roots.
Tiny hands make mighty links.
Uniformity is not essential to unity.
The heedless life will not be weedless.
Fretfulness is the cause of fearfulness.
Diversities in truth are not divergences.
Conduct shows the content of character.
Every act has a cause and is a cause.
Sincerity is the one great secret of success.
Better be a poor man than a rich machine.
It takes a great man to escape undeserved glory.
The most needy man is always my nearest neighbor.
No duty is too small to embrace the sublimest principles.
The true furniture of life is made in the factory of drudgery.
It is the touch of selfishness in our ambitions that turns them to sin.
If you cannot have what you prize it is a good thing to prize what you have.—Ran's Horn.

Sanitation in the Middle Ages.

The Greeks and Romans paid special attention to the physical culture of their youth, to public water supplies and baths, and Athens and Rome were provided with sewers early in their history. During the Middle Ages sanitation received a decided check. Ignorance and brutal prejudice prevailed and (this was the most unsanitary period in history. Most European towns were built compactly and surrounded by walls. The streets were narrow and winding, and light and air were excluded. The accumulation of filth was frightful. Stables and houses were close neighbors. The dead were buried within the churchyards or within the churches. Wells were fed with polluted water. All conditions were favorable for the spread of infectious diseases, and in the fourteenth century alone the Oriental or bubonic plague—the Black Death of recent historians—carried off a fourth of the population of Europe. The birth rate was much less than the death rate normally. The cities had to be continually repopulated from the country.

These sentences from a review in Science of new works on sanitation in our own times illustrate, by provoking a comparison, the improvement in our day.

Courtesies of Life.

The Toronto Sun comments on the allegation that people are losing their democratic dignity. An instance is cited of certain ladies of the smart set at Vancouver entering the royal ship and carrying off as souvenirs anything they could lay their hands on, and even clipping the trimmings of the royal bed room with scissors.

Such an offense is virtually theft, and to gross a form of misdemeanor to be termed an indignity. The instance, however, causes us to ask, "Are we losing whatever consideration and regard for others that we ever had?" It should not be forgotten, as it too often is, that life is made pleasant, not by great things, but by the little acts of kindness. A timely word of encouragement or comfort, a pleasant smile, in fact, a thousand little considerations for the comfort of others, which cost the bestower nothing, all go to make the world brighter. Not only this, but they return to the fountain to enrich the nature by which they are so benignly prompted.—London (Ont.) Advertiser.