

The Home

HOME DRESSMAKING.

After fitting, the bodice is ready for stitching. All the seams should have the appearance of being curved especially well into the slope of the waist, but the curves must not be abrupt, but graceful and gradual, says the "American Queen." All back seams should slope to the centre of the back waist and the front ones to the centre of the front waist. The seams may be finished off in two ways, either by overcasting or by binding them with sarsenet ribbon. The width of the seams varies in different parts of the bodice, according to the nature of the figure. For angular figures it is important to leave them fairly wide where depressions occur, as, for instance, down the centre of the back and the front shoulder. They thus act in the place of padding by filling up hollows. The underarm seam is also usually left a little wider than the others in case the bodice requires to be altered. But with these exceptions the one-half-inch seam may be considered an average width. Each seam is laid open and notched at the waist to within an eighty-inch of the seam. Curved seams may also require one or two notches above in order to make them lie flat.

Good heavy pressing is very essential, and in thick materials it must be assisted by moisture. To damp seams wring out a cloth in clear water and lay it over the seam; place a hot iron over the damp cloth. When fullness is to be removed this same process shrinks away the surplus material by the contact of heat and moisture. If applied on the right side this process will cause the surface of the garment to become glossy, but the nap may again be raised by steaming. To do this, lay a damp cloth over the glossed surface and hold a very hot iron as near to the surface as possible without touching it, and the steam thus produced will raise the nap. If this should not prove successful rub the glossed surface very gently with a damp cloth before steaming. For pressing seams the iron must not be drawn along it as in ironing, but lifted and laid down over every portion in order to prevent the seam from being stretched by the toe of the iron. The object of pressing is to give a neat and smooth appearance through flattening creases, seams, stitching, etc., by means of weight, heat and moisture. Time spent over this part of dressmaking will amply repay the worker.

In boning the waist the bone should be flexible and thin, and should be on a level with the darts all the way round.

Bodices are shaped in various styles, according to the fashion of the day, but the bodice should always turn up with a facing of silk. Pointed bodices appear to give length and to decrease the width of the figure, provided the point is sharp and not round. Otherwise it would have a contrary effect.

Before sewing on the collar tack it on with pins in the proper position from the right side, taking care to bring the ends neatly together. It is sewed on from the wrong side and the material of the dress at the neck well drawn up and the lining underneath sewed down, so as to prevent a full appearance on the right side.

TRIED RECIPES.

Moonshine—This dessert combines a nice appearance with a palatable flavor and is a convenient substitute for ice cream. Beat the whites of six eggs in a broad plate to a stiff froth and then add gradually, six tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, to make it thicken you may add more sugar up to a pint, beating for not less than half an hour, and then beat in one heaping tablespoonful of preserved peaches cut in tiny bits and set on ice until thoroughly chilled. In serving put in each saucer some rich cream sweetened and flavored with vanilla, and on the cream place a liberal portion of the moonshine. The above quantity will serve seven or eight people. You may use other preserved fruits if you desire.

Fried Liver—Cut beef's liver in thin slices and place on a platter, pour on boiling water and immediately pour it off, this seals the outside, takes away the unpleasant flavor and makes it much more palatable; have ready some hot lard or drippings in a spider, dredge the liver with rolled crackers or bread crumbs seasoned with salt and pepper, put in the spider and fry slowly on both sides until a dark brown. This will be found a great improvement over the ordinary way of cooking liver.

Preserved Canned Salmon—A can of salmon after being opened is not always used up at one meal and if put away without special preparation is apt to dry up or to taste oily in a few days. To preserve the salmon put the left over in a bowl or other deep dish, sprinkle with pepper, add a few whole cloves, a blade of mace, cover with cold vinegar and the fish will keep a week longer in fine condition.

Baked Oatmeal—Mix in a saucepan one pound of oatmeal with one tablespoonful of butter, one pint of water and some salt. Place in a moderate oven and bake for fifteen or twenty minutes and serve with some butter or milk and cream apart.

Buttermilk Rolls—Take two coffee cups of buttermilk and stir into one teaspoonful of saleratus dissolved in a little hot water and stir into this about five cups of flour; beat this up lightly and bake in gem pans.

Delicate Cake—Three cups of flour, two of sugar, three-fourths cupful of sweet milk, whites of six eggs, half a cupful of butter, teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda. Flavor with lemon.

Apples Fried in Batter—Beat three eggs well, add a tablespoonful of sugar and three of flour, slice the apples; dip them in the batter and fry in butter; take them up, sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve hot.

Boston Corn Bread—Mix one cupful sweet milk, two cupfuls sour milk, one cupful flour, four cupfuls of cornmeal, two teaspoonfuls of soda; steam three hours and then brown a few minutes in a quick oven.

MISTLETOE.

The English or true mistletoe does not grow wild in America, and the branches sold by the florists at Christmas time are imported from England and other European countries. Its botanical name is *Viscum album*. The American or "false mistletoe," *Phoradendron flavescens*, grows on a great variety of trees from N. Y. to Ill., and southward. Although not as ornamental as the English mistletoe, it is largely used as a substitute. Both plants are parasitic shrubs which, when abundant, prove very destructive to the trees upon which they grow. The natural propagation of the mistletoe is by means of its seeds, but when desired it may also be propagated by grafting. In this case a piece of the plant with a portion of the bark of the tree from which it is taken has to be cut with it and firmly secured to the new position. Although the plant is not particularly attractive, it gives a rather peculiar and odd appearance to the defoliated trees in winter.

THE BEAR AND THE LION.

RUSSIA'S PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF BRITISH INDIA.

Sensation Occasioned by the Publication of a Work Written by a Russian and Translated by a Frenchman—How Britain Shall Be Conquered is Coolly Described.

While Great Britain is at present fully occupied with her South African troubles she is not aware of the fact that the most vulnerable point of her empire is at the mercy of a cool, resourceful and unscrupulous foe. The massing of Russian troops on the Eastern frontier, now going on, may indicate that her vague fears are soon to be realized.

The Indian establishment, as the army of occupation is called, is numerically far below the standard considered essential to the safety of the British dominion in India. There is also no immediate prospect of re-enforcing it, as all available troops are employed elsewhere. The mutual attitude of Russia and England is full of psychological interest, and while the acquiescence of England to the recent Russian move in virtually establishing a protectorate over Persia is one of the symptoms of the situation, a book recently published in France, the author of which is a prominent member of the general staff in Russia, and the translator of which is an equally well-known Captain of the general staff in France, is distinctly another symptom, and one which is very significant.

The book is entitled "Vers l'Inde," On to India, by Colonel Lebedev, translated into French by Captain Cazalas. STUDIED MENACE TO BRITAIN.

It is certainly a very significant symptom that the author believes that eventually the conflict between the two Powers is inevitable. He even does not stop to adduce reasons for what he declares to be the profound conviction of all classes of Russian people. It is, therefore, the question how this campaign should be undertaken, and not whether it should be undertaken, that forms the subject of this remarkable work. Russia will begin the war, according to the author, by successively annexing Herat and Kandahar, as well as British Beluchistan, which would furnish her with a seaport. The second move would be the creation of a protectorate over the remainder of Afghanistan, and, lastly, the conclusion of a lasting peace with England. But, adds Colonel Lebedev, circumstances may arise which will make it necessary to invade India proper, in order to give a coup de grace to an insupportable rival.

THE KEY TO INDIA.

In order to fully understand the importance of Herat it is necessary to consult a map. Herat has been called the key of India. It is not only situated on the great commercial highways connecting Asia Minor, Persia, Turkestan, Beluchistan, Caucasus and India, but it dominates the only route upon which a modern army with supplies and stores can move. The plan of war, as worked out by the author to the minutest detail, consists of four separate campaigns. With the omission of the technicalities which naturally abound in a work of this kind the first of these campaigns has the direct object to occupy Herat. For this task the author considers an army of 22,000 men with 48 guns, supported by a reserve army of 28,000 and 54 guns sufficient. These troops can be im-

mediately provided from the trans-caspian provinces, Turkestan and Caucasus. The question of military operations, of the possible movements of the enemy, stores and supplies, is solved, at least on paper, to the apparent satisfaction of the author. After the occupation of Herat the main question is how the English will choose to defend their Indian possessions. There are those among the English military students who differ as to the most advisable methods of defense in such an emergency. Lords Roberts, Lawrence, Napier, Chelmsford and Sir William Mansfield are of the opinion that India should be defended at the frontier, instead of in the difficult, possibly hostile, highlands of Afghanistan, away from a base of supplies and beyond the immediate reach of reserves. The celebrated Max Gregor, on the contrary, with a number of the younger Generals, is firmly persuaded of the advisability of occupying certain points in Afghanistan and Hindu-Kush. After a cursory discussion of the first possibility Lebedev decides that the second plan is more likely to be followed.

TO DEAL WITH THE EMIR.

In this case it will be necessary for the Russians to occupy Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni, the three most important points between the North Afghanistan frontier, India and Turkestan. This would be the immediate aim of the second campaign. Kandahar and Kabul must be necessarily occupied in order to create a base of operations for the attack upon the River Indus. One of the most important considerations of the second campaign is to obtain full control of Afghanistan. The author admits the immense difficulty of subjugating that hilly country and proposes an alliance with the Emir. To this end he urges to send at that stage of hostilities an ultimatum to the Emir, demanding his acquiescence in the Russian occupation of the most important strategic point, the separation of Herat and Kandahar from Afghanistan, as well as the aid of the Afghan tribes in the conflict with England. As compensation the Emir would receive territory south of the frontier of India, full independence in the possession of what remains of Afghanistan, as well as a sum of money. In case of rejection of the ultimatum Afghanistan must be subjugated. The attack of the Indus is only feasible from Kandahar over Herat. The author urges the necessity of using regular troops, instead of Kirghiz and Turkestan skirmishers, who are violently hated by the Afghans. The army necessary for this campaign will be divided in two detachments; first, an army marching upon Kandahar, to consist of 68,000 troops of all varieties of service, with 304 guns, supported by a reserve of 57,000 men, with 156 guns, besides rear guards, etc., and second, a corps marching upon Kabul, consisting of 48,000 soldiers, and accompanied by two detachments, one to go to Chitral and the other to Gilgit. These two points are important, as they would enable the attackers to effectively harass the English along the Lahore-Peshawar-Kabul line. This would be the end of the second campaign.

THE END OF THE WAR.

After a pause which should be utilized for the strengthening of the Russian positions, as well as for perfecting the ways of communication, the third campaign should be begun, in the course of which the invading army should be fully brought up to the numerical standard of the English army of occupation, 230,000. These would have to be brought from European Russia. Leaving 60,000 men at Kabul, 10,000 at Chitral, 160,000 men would be available for the main operations of the war, with Kandahar as the base. The aim of the third campaign would be to effect an attack upon Indus, while guarding the right flank from the operations of the English troops at Pishin. There are three routes open to the invading army, of which only the route over Dera-Ismael-Khan affords sufficient protection from the operations of the troops at Pishin. An English defeat on the banks of Indus, forcing the British to cross the stream, would bring the third campaign to a successful close. This, the author declares, is all that Russia will ever want. The fourth campaign against Lahore and Delhi would only be undertaken in case the English would not at this stage sign a peace consenting to Russian protectorate over Afghanistan, cession of territory bounded in the west by Persia, in the north by Gazareh Mountains, in the east by India and in the south by the sea.

HIS GRUDGE AGAINST RUM.

Ah, my friend, sighed the reformer, rum causes lots of trouble in this world. Indeed, it does, agreed the listener. No doubt you or I would be happier were it not for the rum demon, went on the reformer. Indeed, we would, again agreed the patient listener. And how has it caused you unhappiness? asked the reformer. Years ago a woman told me that if I stopped drinking she would marry me. And you could not stop? No, roared the patient listener; No I did stop!

A SURPRISE TEST.

Mother, tearfully—We shall lose our daughter. He is bent on marrying her. Father—What makes you think so? Mother—Why, she sang and played to him yesterday, and here he is again to-day.

TYPOGRAPHICAL.

Yes, Nature's wise, we can't deny. In all her hidden ways, But in her "types of men," oh why, Are there so many "J's"?

On the Farm.

LIVE STOCK IMPROVEMENT.

The diminutive pony and ponderous draft horse had a common ancestor. One got transported to the barren, bleak, tempestuous isles of Scotland, and the small, diminutive Shetland pony resulted. The other went to the rich lowlands of Normandy and Central Europe, and the ponderous draft horse was created.

When domestication takes place, climate loses a part of its influence, because man co-operating with climate counteracts its effects.

We are taught that we should breed from pure-breeds — yet our pure-bred animals are inferior to others in many cases. Heredity is true, but it is influenced and counteracted by other forces. So starting with most typical animals, if judicious breeding is not followed, the stock will deteriorate into inferior animals, yet, nevertheless thoroughly pure-bred.

Heredity transmits with certainty only what have become fixed characteristics. In every case the influence of heredity is always present and never fails to assert itself in the reproduction of animal or vegetable life. Men do not gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles, nor do Jerseys produce Shorthorns, nor do draft horses beget trotters. Heredity is always to be depended upon to govern the general characteristics which determine the species, and the less general ones which determine the breed; but when we come to individual characteristics, which have never acquired a general character in ancestry, it usually fails. If we had only this principle of heredity we would have no new characters, no improvement—because the offspring would, in every sense, be just the same as the parents. The law of variation acts in two ways, for desirable points and undesirable points. Intensify the desirable points and the offspring, inheriting these old characteristics of heredity, and taking on the new intensified ones through this principle of variation, will be a better animal. If the law of variation has introduced an undesirable quality, the environments in which the individual is placed may also intensify this character, making it still more undesirable and an individual inferior to the parental stock.

We are now brought to a third law, or principle, that fundamentally governs breeding or that peculiarity called atavism or reversion, and which so frequently sets at naught the calculations of the breeder. A breeder who has for some time been improving his herd by careful breeding, and established a type, suddenly finds an outcropping of something of old. A germ that has lain dormant for many generations suddenly asserts itself; heredity has not failed, but, with clashing vengeance, heredity itself has appeared.

The laws of heredity and variation are for the breeder's good, but atavism is the reverse. If domesticated animals were purely bred in the same sense as the deer or buffalo, it would be a simple problem. Atavism would be nothing more than heredity itself, and variation would give rise only to the accidental new character.

We have the term thoroughbred applied to herds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine; but this, technically speaking, is not true. The only thoroughbred animal we have is the English running horse. Our Jerseys, or Berkshires, or Merinos, may be pure-breeds but they are not thorough-breeds. A potato is always a potato no matter what variety is planted. But cross fertilize once, and use the flower of the Northern Spy to fertilize the Baldwin, and the seed from such a union will produce neither one nor the other, but something new.

So it is with live stock. As long as we are breeding from pure stock, heredity is the potent factor. So powerful a hold has heredity on these animals that change or improvement are high impossible. You can take, by careful selection, the scrubby cow and change her progeny into a good dairy cow long before you could take a deer and effect a change in her.

Stand by the old herd. Get the milk tested and find out those that are paying. Every farmer should keep a milk record of his herd. Now get a bull. The further his pedigree runs back the better, because the purer the blood. Select a bull that had a mother that produced a good quantity of high quality milk, that had a father whose mother did the same. In selecting animals those that show the characters wanted, if below the average in form, should be discarded, also feeders and indifferent producers.

In regard to in-and-in-breeding and cross-breeding, both are abused. In either case the best is not accomplished. In-breeding, if carried to excess, results always in a loss of constitutional vigor. However its whole tendency is in the direction of fineness of texture, lightness of bone, smoothness, evenness and polish. On the other hand, cross-breeding gives increased size and vigor in produce, as

well as increasing fertility. In-and-in-breeding results in sterility. If you breed for market, you want increased size and vigor, so practice cross-breeding. But let it be the first cross, otherwise, with the second cross, deterioration sets in. Cross your Berkshires with the Yorkshire, or your Shorthorns with the Hereford. They will be ready for the block quicker and at less expense. But now is you want to breed to get breeders, then you must not cross.

Practical farmers and feeders sometimes say that purely bred races or breeds are lacking in hardiness and stamina and when breeding for the dairy, or the block, or for practical uses on the farm, the greatest measure of success is attained through the medium of cross-breeding.

Science does not establish laws. Science has only to find out nature's way of improvement and do ng things. Understand these and practice them, breeding will then be no difficult problem, but an easy, simple one, full of interest and power.

Nothing is more fascinating or ennobling, than the breeder and farmer with his herd, molding his animals after his mind in ideal and fact. In touch with nature, he advances to the perfect. Like the true genius that the true and careful breeder is, he moulds and perfects and leaves behind him his work—in all a masterpiece—as high, as lasting, and enduring as that of the painter or sculptor, or a true artist, whatever he be.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Miss Pepprey—Why, she doesn't look as if she knew her own name. Miss Newitt—She doesn't, half the time. Miss Pepprey—Really? Miss Newitt—Yes; you know she married a Polish nobleman.

Mrs. Wiggins, remarked the minister, we wish you would let your daughter join the choir. Oh, I couldn't think of it! was the reply. Minnie has such a sweet disposition and I don't want to spoil her.

You have six brothers in the army, little boy? Yes'm. May war 'em go. Made her sons go to war? She's must be a good deal of a Spartan mother, I don't know. I guess so. There's sixteen of us.

Mrs. Nixdore—Does your husband like music? Mrs. Pepprey—Yes; he's quite fond of it. Mrs. Nixdore—I suppose he has heard my daughter playing? Mrs. Pepprey—Yes, and he just raves over her playing.

What was the highest price ever paid you for a story? asked the interviewer. One million dollars, replied the fashionable novelist. It was a spoken story—I love you. I told it to the lady who is now my wife.

Does the gentleman to whom you introduced me play whist? No, answered Miss Cayenne. He studies whist, and talks whist, and reads whist, and dreams whist, but I don't think he'd ever to so disrespectful and frivolous as to play it.

THE LOVE OF A CHILD.

"There's a very general idea abroad in the land that men don't care to board in a house where there are children," said one of the sterner sex yesterday, "but that is, I believe, a great mistake, just at it is an error to imagine that men generally don't like the little ones. No doubt there are a few crusty old bachelors in the world who would be horribly annoyed by pattering feet and shrill little voices in the halls and on the stairs, but I must confess I like to hear these noises, and I find by questioning a number of my friends, all young, unmarried men—that they do also. The children give a sort of home-y atmosphere that's very pleasant to even the most comfortless places.

"Taking one thing with another, I believe men are fonder of children than women are, anyhow. What I mean is that more men than women are fond of them. I know plenty of the gentler sex who wouldn't think of going to a boarding-house where youngsters were admitted and I know just as many men who seek out those places and obtain a certain amount of comfort and satisfaction in their lonely lives in making friends with the youngsters and spending valuable time repairing sundry broken toys, or telling wonderful stories in which giants figure to an amazing extent.

A child's affection is a very delightful thing, and most men feel flattered to be the object of even a mild liking on the part of the small tyrants. There are half a dozen little ones in the house where I board, and I am the familiar friend of every one of them. It's a very delightful and absorbing acquaintance, and I'm fast developing into a story-teller of such marked ability that I'll make a fortune, in this way, no doubt, after awhile."

HER MISTAKE.

Mr. Bizzyman—I took my new type writer to lunch with me to-day. Mrs. B.—You brazen thing! Mr. B.—Why? I guess if I want to lug that machine around to keep other people from using it, there's no harm done, is there?

A CROESUS.

Cleverton—Tickerly is wealthy, isn't he? Emith—Wealthy! Why, he has so much money that his wife doesn't know what to do with it!