

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Household Affairs and How to Manage Them.

NEWEST FASHIONS AND RECIPES.

(Compiled by Aunt Kate.)

Popularity of the Waistcoat.

The waistcoat is more popular to-day than it has been for years. There is a variety of ways of forming this jaunty vest, but the old continental model ranks first in popularity, with its large buttons down the front, elaborate braiding or hand embroidery in silk at each side, and showing pocket flaps over the hips, also adorned with buttons and embroidery of braidwork. Plaстрons and half-vests of velvet are also in vogue, and for slender figures a favorite style consists of a plastron falling in a full puff from the throat and ending in a finely-pleated Vandeyke point beginning about half-way down the front of the bodice under the end of the puff and extending far below the waist. For very rich ostentatious shown the old Louis XIV. waistcoat of velvet, with corsage of silk or satin above, this superb unreserved being one mass of rich appliqué embroideries in silk and chenille, or covered with a glittering beadwork in new designs and colorings resembling precious gems.

Punishment of Children.

"How shall I punish my children?" is the despairing exclamation of a mother who writes for advice. The most satisfactory theory of punishment with which the writer is acquainted is that of Herbert Spencer. It is simply that so far as possible the punishment should be an outcome of a natural result of the wrong act. It is not by any means always easy to follow out this theory and put it in practice, but it is less difficult than one would suppose, after all. If a child will play with matches, let him burn himself. That is the idea; and after a few experiments of a like nature he will be more likely to listen to the admonitions of his mother, and to take her word for it that evil results follow evil acts.

Bag for Fancy Work.

A pretty and very simple bag for holding summer fancy work may be made as follows: Take a piece of pale pink, blue, white or yellow sateen, about half a yard square; line it with white China or surah silk, putting a ruffle of lace in between the edges of the two pieces; then make two circular rows of stitching in the square, making the circles as large as the space will permit. The rows should be about a half-inch apart, and with a bodkin run through a piece of satin ribbon the color of the sateen. When this is drawn up, the four pointed corners hang over the bag, and can be further ornamented by bows of ribbon, with tiny silver bells on the ends. The deeper the ruffle of lace at the edge the prettier the effect.

Trust Him Not.

If we can believe the housewives who have renovations under way, the plasterer is the worst of the mechanical guild, and so is the painter, and the whitewasher and the plumber, etc. But of all these very worst the stove man remains unnamable, because comparisons have limitations. Trust a stove man's word! When he tells you he will come without fail, and he may put the fire out, don't believe him, and don't put the fire out. If you have determination, wait till he comes, look him in and keep him till the job is satisfactorily done, if it takes 48 hours.

Hints to Housekeepers.

Lovely little ornaments are made by covering small plaques with plush upon which is embroidered or painted a spray of flowers, or one or two peacock feathers.

Bannock pudding is made of one cup of cornmeal, one of flour, well mixed, one cup of sour milk, one tablespoonful of lard, small teaspoonful of soda; bake or steam.

This is said to be a very good remedy for hoarseness; beat the white of an egg to a stiff froth, add two tablespoonfuls of sugar, the juice of one lemon, and a glass of warm water.

"It takes a very superior woman to be an old maid," said Miss Sedgwick. This soothing declaration requires an amendment. It should read: It takes a superior woman to make the ideal old maid.

Silk cardigan jackets are imported to wear under cloaks and jackets. They are woven in ribs, are sleeveless, and have small square pockets on the back. They cost \$15.

Angel puddings can be made by taking two ounces of castor sugar and two ounces of flour and mix them well; then take half a pint of cream; add two ounces of butter, creamed, and two whole eggs; mix all well together; pour in six buttered cups, and steam half an hour.

There is no one thing that adds so much to the furnishing of a room as curtains. With a good carpet, nice walls, and tasty curtains, though you may have little furniture in your room, it will look quite elegant. There is no greater mistake made by people furnishing than putting all their money into a parlor set, and leaving only enough to buy dark shades for their windows.

Ribbed silk stockings cling to the limb, and are warm enough for out of door use in winter; raw silk stockings are also for street use, and with fleece linings are comfortable in the coldest weather. Ribbed balbriggan hose made of the fine Sea Island cotton are shown in all the dark colors, with white soles that have a fresh and clean appearance.

Potato Fritters.—One pint of boiled and mashed potatoes, half a cupful of hot milk, three tablespoonfuls of butter, three of sugar, two eggs, a little nutmeg, and one teaspoonful of salt. Add the milk, butter, sugar, and seasoning to the mashed potatoes, and then add the eggs well beaten. Stir until very smooth and light. Spread about half an inch deep on a buttered dish, and set away to cool. When cold, cut into squares. Dip in beaten egg and bread crumbs, and fry brown in boiling fat.

Sago Jelly.—Put half a pint of water in a saucepan on the fire; add to it the rind of a lemon cut very thinly, the juice of one strained, and two ounces of castor sugar; then shake in one ounce of the finest sago, and stir quickly so that it shall not coagulate.

Let this boil fifteen minutes, keep stirring all the time; when the sago looks clear, pour it into a mould; let it set, and when cold turn it out for use.

Apple Soufflé.—One pint of steamed apples, one tablespoonful of melted butter, half a cupful of sugar, the whites of six eggs and the yolks of three, a slight grating of nutmeg. Stir into the hot apples the butter, the sugar and nutmeg, and the yolks of the eggs, well beaten. When this is cold, beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth and stir into the mixture. Butter a three-pint dish and turn the soufflé into it. Bake thirty minutes in a hot oven. Serve immediately with any kind of sauce.

Cranberry pudding is made by pouring boiling water on a pint of dried bread crumbs; melt a tablespoonful of butter and stir in. When the bread is softened add two eggs and beat thoroughly with the bread. Then put in a pint of the stewed fruit and sweeten to your taste. Bake in a hot oven for half an hour. Fresh fruit may be used in place of the cranberries. Slices of peaches put in layers make a delicious variation.

Cinnamon Tarts.—They please the children. To eight ounces of butter allow one pound of flour, one pound of brown sugar, three eggs; rub the butter and sugar to a cream, add the eggs, leaving out the white of one, stir the flour, roll thin and cut in three-inch squares. Before putting into the oven rub the top with the white of the egg, and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar mixed. A blanched almond or an English walnut may be placed in the centre or may be broken in bits and a piece put in each corner.

WHOLESALE HOUSEKEEPING.

Flies on Tap, Coffee by the Hoghead and a Telephone to Blow up the Cook With.

A suggestion comes from Philadelphia for the application of co-operative principles to family cooking. The idea is to have meals supplied to houses through pipes, like gas and steam. The dwellers in a block are recommended to combine and erect in the centre of their square a common kitchen of sufficient capacity to supply all their wants. This kitchen is to be connected with each house by covered steam-pipes large enough to admit for passage a covered and heated car, in which the food can be placed. By means of a telephone a housekeeper can order the kind of dinner desired. And when the dinner hour arrives all she will have to do will be to turn a stop-cock and have the food shot, piping hot, right upon the table. This would dispense with Bridget's services in the kitchen, and would afford many other reliefs which have long been desired in every household. If the head of the house objected to the breakfast coffee, or to the cooking of the dinner, instead of making himself disagreeable about it in the family circle, he could step to the telephone and "blow up" the cook. The fact that the cook was at a distance would add to the relief thus afforded, for it is much easier to call a person disagreeable names through a telephone than in his immediate presence. But the most welcome gain of all would be the respite from household cares which the system would bring to the woman of the house. She would not have to go to market, and would be spared the periodic struggles with the cook for the control of her own premises. This is where the proposed reform is likely to secure the greatest favor. The "want" of the period is a system of housekeeping which has no burdens of any kind. Hotel life does not meet it, because, while it gives relief from household cares, it does not furnish any of the blessings of home life. The great apartment houses, with restaurants attached, come nearer to it, but there are defects in their systems. Why should not the Philadelphia idea be enlarged and applied to all the principal demands of housekeeping? If meals can be sent through pipes, why stop there? The block kitchen might be enlarged to a central reservoir. If a fire of coals was wanted, a pipe might be connected with the back of the grate, and a ready-made fire might be dumped into it in a twinkling, with none of the usual concomitants of shavings, kindling wood and dust. By another pipe the ashes might be returned by simply touching a spring. So, also, in the matter of servants. A supply could always be kept on hand at the reservoir, and a ring of a bell might bring a chambermaid, a porter, or a waitress. Housekeeping would thus be reduced to a system of pipes and electric bells.—N. Y. Evening Post.

The Window Garden.

Most housewives try to raise too many kinds of house plants. Four or five good strong plants of geraniums which will make a compact show in the window are usually preferable to a single plant of each of half-a-dozen different varieties. "Variety is the spice of life," however, and, to a certain extent, it is true of the window garden. Enough variety can usually be obtained from six or eight different plants in an ordinary window. For winter blooming, the following eight plants will be found desirable: One rose geranium, one heliotropium, three Chinese primroses, one sweet alyssum, one calla, two Azelea Indiae, one English or German ivy, one rose, either Arippina red or Hermosa pink. The Chinese primulas are especially desirable for winter, as they will thrive with less light than most other plants. The roses need much light, and unless it can be given them, their place had better be filled with primulas or other plants. Bouvardias, if well grown, are usually favorites, and as they endure the dryness of living rooms, one plant might be substituted for a rose or primula in the above list. It has been our experience, however, that housewives do not generally have the best of success with bouvardias. Fuchsias are desirable for spring blooming, but as usually managed they are not a success. Azelea Indiae is a fine window-garden species, and under ordinary treatment will give a mass of bloom during the entire months of March and April.

It Was Contempt.

In the days gone by a citizen of Detroit who has lately been gathered to his fathers was a Justice of the Peace for one of the townships of this county. One day as he sat in his office with nothing to do a friend came along with a young horse. The squar' was somewhat conceited on the horse question, and when informed that the equine before him would let no man ride him he at once determined to accomplish the feat. A crowd gathered, a saddle was brought, and His Honor presently found himself astride the beast. The next thing he knew he was lying in the muddy ditch, and a dozen men were laughing to kill.

Fell in Love With His Wife.

Lady Sarah Cadogan, daughter of Earl Cadogan, aged 13, was married to the Duke of Richmond, aged 18. The marriage was a bargain to cancel a gambling debt between their parents, Lady Sarah being a co-heiress. The youth, then Lord March, was brought from college and the little lady from her nursery for the marriage, which took place at The Hague. The bride was amazed and silent, but the husband exclaimed, "Surely you are not going to marry me to that dowdy." Then his tutor took him off to the continent and the bride went back to her mother. Three years later Lord March returned from his travels, but, having such a disagreeable recollection of his wife, was in no hurry to join her, and went the first evening to the theatre. There he saw a lady so beautiful that he asked who she was. "The reigning toast, Lady March," was the answer. He at once claimed her, and their life long affection is spoken of as a romance.—New York Sun.

A Bogus Murderer.

Detective Wappenstein, of Cincinnati, was called aside by a seedy, intelligent man, who said: "I am the man who killed Rose Ambler." The detective smoked his cigar unconcernedly, and the man repeated his astounding confession. But the detective still smoked, and the stranger continued: "I want you to arrest me on the charge of murder." The detective drew forth his cigar and answered: "What you want is to be taken to Connecticut on a free ticket. I've sent nearly a thousand self-confessed murderers out of this town, only to find them frauds."

After debating the question for some time St. Louis street car managers have decided not to heat the cars this winter fearing they will be obliged to supply fans and ice-water in the summer.

LADIES THAT PLEASE.

Charming Women and Women in Society.

When it was all over, my friend said, "So that is a woman in earnest. Do you suppose it is her earnestness that makes her so unprepossessing?" This is my perplexity reduced to its last equation: Was it her earnestness? My friend held that it was. "If you have observed," said she, "women with aims are always like that. They are too superior to condescend to make themselves agreeable. Besides, they haven't time. Then they never can see but one side of a question—the side they are on. They are always dragging their own opinions to the front, and always running full tilt against every one else's. That is where they differ most from women who haven't purposes and who have seen a good deal of the world. It is the business of a woman of the world to be agreeable. She spares no pains to make herself just as good-looking as possible, and just as charming. And she is always tolerant. She may think you a fool for your beliefs, but she doesn't tell you so brutally, or try to crush you with an avalanche of argument. She tries to look at the matter from your point of view; in short, she feigns a sympathy, if she has it not. Your women with a purpose think it wrong to feign anything. They won't pretend to be sympathetic any more than they will powder their faces, or let their dress-maker improve their figures. That's why they are so boring; they are too narrow to be sympathetic and too conscientious to be polite. It is earnestness does it; earnestness is naturally narrowing. It is earnestness, too, sets their nerves in a quiver and makes them so restless. They can never sit still; they are always twitching, don't you know? That's earnestness. It has a kind of electrical effect. Women in earnest have no repose of manner. But a woman of the world feigns that, just as she feigns sympathy, because it makes her pleasant to other people. Oh, there's no doubt of it: women with a purpose are vastly better than other women, but they are not nearly so nice!" My own experience corroborates my friend's opinions. Women with a purpose, women in earnest, have a noticeable lack of charm. And I regret to say that the nobility of the purpose does not in the least affect the quantity of charm. Very likely their busy lives and the hard fight they have had to wage with social prejudices and moral anaesthetics may have something to do with it. But after making all deductions, I wonder if my friend's theory does not hit somewhere near the mark!—November Atlantic.

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LIEUT. VON ZUBOWITZ, of the Austrian army, has invented an earth torpedo which is said to make it possible to give an island city efficient protection from an approaching army. A test of the apparatus has shown that less than 100 men can place a line of these torpedoes 1,000 yards in length in a quarter of an hour. If the effect of the new weapon be not greatly exaggerated, the position of an army or a town may be made impregnable.

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BROUGHAM.—May 2, July 4, Sept. 3, DUFFIN'S CREEK—Jan. 3, Mar. 2, Nov. 2.

PORTRAIT.—Feb. 12, Mar. 19, May 7, June 15, July 31, Sept. 3, Nov. 5, Dec. 10.

UXBRIDGE.—Feb. 13, Mar. 20, May 8, June 19, Sept. 4, Nov. 6, Dec. 11.

CANNINGTON.—Feb. 14, Mar. 21, May 9, June 20, Sept. 5, Dec. 12.

BRANTFORD.—Feb. 15, Mar. 22, June 21, Sept. 6, Dec. 14.

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