About the House

Useful Hints and General Information for the Busy Housewife

Learn Art of Concentration.

"Oh, but I must wash on Monday!" exclaims the methodical housewife, "and of course we must have a hot dinner on Sunday noon. We've always had it.'

And so it goes. The average housekeeper is quite convinced that such and such things must be done as they have always been done, and that she must spend a certain amount of time (registered only in her own mind) on certain household tasks. She may wonder why other women seem to have more time; why others, in fact, have "a career," when it takes her every minute of her waking hours merely to manage the home. Now, if there is one fault greater than others which we lay against women in their present state we would say it is lack of power to concentrate. How they can "fritter time away"! Take two women, each with two babies and supposedly indentical tasks in their respective homes. One woman is able to carry on club work or take subscriptions for a magazine or sell home-made bread, thus increasing the family income. The other woman is constantly trying to wind up the household red tape and come to an end of her complex household duties.

The sole reason for difference between these two women is undoubtedly that the former can concentrate, and that she has in mind something over and beyond her housework, worthy of concentration. She wanted to take the subscriptions, she wanted to develop as her husband's bookkeeper, she wanted to find time to be her children's companion. So she studied and shortened her work, and concentrated, thinking of the most important ends first and not putting undue prominence on the details.

Any woman, yes, any homemaker, even with children, can do something outside of her home if she really wants to. We have no patience with a fairly wide circle of ladies who grumble that other women have careers or work outside the home and that they cannot. The chances are that they are not willing to make the sacrifices necessary—to stride both horns of a career and matrimony. They may not be willing, for instance, to give up an excess of telephoning to friends, gossip and chit-chat. They may not be willing to spend fewer hours running from shop to shop looking for a waist 50 cents lower and spending in doing it three valuable hours in which at concentrated work they could certainly have earned several dollars. They may not be willing to give up an undue amount of amusement and social life which eats more time out of the average woman's day than any one has estimated. We all want to be neighborly and to have friends, but that does not mean telephoning for an hour after breakfast to find out what so-and-so wore, or what she said, or where they are going.

We know several women who, with children, have met success in work outside of the home and at the same time managed a beautiful family life. One woman, with three little children, managed to support the entire family when her husband was crippled. Another, with two children and a baby, finds she can devote at lease three hours a day to literary work. Another has sent children through college by representing magazines, and in no case was the home neglected. But in very case the women were willing to put their work definitely before "society" dress and detail. Any woman can find that she can spend 18 hours a day in a home if she wants to, but that does not mean that the home needs 18 hours of her time in order to be well run. The reason some women have both a career and a home is because they are sensible enough to cut down household red tape, concentrate and stop frittering their time away.

Dainty Dishes

Potatoes with Carrots.—Peel and boil six good-sized potatoes. When cooked, rub through wire sieve and season with salt and pepper and warm butter. Use a little milk to moisten them. Beat well and mound with knife in beehive shape on vegetable dish. Have tender sliced carrots warming in butter. Lay carrots, dot top with a few carrot slices and serve hot.

Imperial Salad.—To one-half cup washed, schaped and chopped celery add equal measure of canned pineapple, chopped and drained thoroughly. Soak one and one-fourth tablespoons granulated gelatin in one-fourth cup cold water for five minutes and dissolve in one-fourth cup boiling water. Strain and add to first mixture, then add one-fourth cup each of vinegar and sugar, two-thirds cup canned pineapple syrup, one and one-half tablespoons lemon juice and a few grains salt. Turn into individual moulds, first dipped in cold water, and chill thoroughly. Remove from molds to nests of crisp lettuce leaves and serve with mayonnaise.

Lady Fingers.—Add two heaping tablespoons powdered sugar to stiffly beaten whites of three eggs. Add to these well-beaten yolks of two eggs and vanilla extract. Fold in one-half cup flour, which has been sifted twice, with pinch of salt. Line pan with paper but do not grease it, and press batter through pastry tube on it. Form into strips four inches long and one inch wide. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, and bake in moderate oven ten minutes.

Steamed Veal Cutlet.—One and one-half pounds veal cutlets, one egg, one pint milk, one tablespoon flour, one tablespoon butter, cracker or bread crumbs. Have veal sliced thin and cut into pieces suitable for individual service. Beat egg slightly, add salt and pepper to it, and dip veal in. Roll in cracker crumbs, brown in butter or any desired fat, sprinkle with a little more salt and pepper and place in pan which will fit in steamer. Make cream sauce of butter, flour and milk, add to it few grains baking soda, pour over veal and steam two hours. For any such cooking as this canned milk is invaluable and inexpensive as well as convenient. Thin it to desired consistency and use in the same way as fresh milk. Or keep it thicker than fresh milk and omit flour.

Banana Cream Pie.—Two cupfuls milk, three eggs, three-quarters cupful granulated sugar, one-fourth cupful corn starch, one-fourth teaspoonful salt, two bananas, three tablespoonfuls powdered sugar, vanilla, flaky pastry. Scald milk and stir into it granulated sugar, corn starch mixed with a little cold milk, and salt. When smooth and thick, cool a little and stir in one whole egg and two egg yolks, lightly beaten together. Flavor with one-half teaspoonful vanilla and pour into pie plate lined with pastry. Oven should be hot at first, then moderated to prevent boiling. Peel bananas, remove threads, and when pie is done slice fruit over custard, cover at once with meringue of egg whites, powdered sugar and one-fourth teaspoonful vanilla, and bake ten minutes in slow oven.

Useful Hints.

Biscuits should always be started in a very hot oven.

White silk blouses will not turn yellow if washed in cold water.

Never hurry your bread-making. If you do, the bread is apt to be sour.

When frying fish, the fat should be boiling hot before the fish are put in.

Cream cheese and dates make good filling for a brown-bread sandwich.

Cabbage leaves contain a great deal of gluten, therefore they are very nourishing.

Strawberry ice cream will be more attractive with a ripe red strawberry sitting on the top of each serving.

Remember that a box of elastic bands of assorted sizes is a great convenience in the kitchen.

To make a good meringue, allow two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar to the white of one egg.

To keep moths out of the piano, rub the woodwork inside of the case frequently with turpentine.

Delicious extract of either orange or lemon can be made by paring the rinds off as thin as paper and putting them into a bottle of alcohol.

A good recipe to follow in making thin white sauce for vegetables is a tablespoonful of butter and a tablespoonful of flour to one cup of milk.

The apron with two enormous pockets is a great convenience when putting the house in order. So many things can be stuffed in the pockets.

It is a pretty notion when arranging the butter for a luncheon to form each portion into a cone and stick a sprig of parsley in the top of each cone.

No fruit jar that has been standing for weeks is free from germs. Before putting fruit in them they should be thoroughly sterilized by boiling in soda water.

DOING NOTHING FOR A COLD,

But Got Up in the Morning Feeling All Right.

Old Abijah Meeker tottered into the store, crawled in behind the red-hot stove, and sat carefully down in the warmest corner of the battered old settle. Taking out his bandanna, he gave a mighty sneeze and sonorously blew his nose; then, squinting and blinking, he glowered round.

The place was deserted except for the proprietor, busy at his desk. Old Abijah seemed disappointed. He expectorated feebly once or twice in the direction of the sawdust box round the other side of the stove, then cackled tentatively.

"Te-hee!" The proprietor looked over the top of his spectacles toward the corner back of the stove.

Encouraged, old Abijah went on with a sardonic grin. "Te-hee! Jest met that dude school teacher goin' to the san'tar'um. Had a cold, he says. Goin' for treatment. Te-hee! A cold! Got one myself. I don't do nothin' for a cold. W'en I go home Sally'll gi' me a drink of hot ginger tea, and soak my feet in b'ilin' hot mustard water, and rub my chist with mutton tarler, and put some on it on my nose, and give me a dose of sperrits of nitre, and a bag of hot sand for my stummick. I'll go to bed, and in the mornin'—gosh! I'll be all right. I don't do nothin' for a cold. San'tar'um! Te-hee!" And old Abijah sneezed in derision.

DISSOLUTE GERMAN YOUTHS.

Stringent Rules Applying to Boys Under 17 Promulgated.

The authorities in all parts of Germany have determined to take active and very drastic steps against the various influences which are alleged to be at work in the deterioration of the young. Criminologists and statisticians by the score brought forward details of dissoluteness which are almost incredible, and pointed out the rapidly increasing number of youthful delinquents, and the increasing gravity of their offences. All of these authorities called on the Government to take steps to save the youth of the Fatherland and to act the part of the natural parent, who was prevented by his military duties from bringing up his children as law-abiding citizens. Action is now being taken, the military authorities and the municipality competing with one another in the number and severity of the ordinances which are being issued. As a sample of these we may take the ordinances issued by the commander of the first Bavarian Army Corps.

It is forbidden to give or to sell to youths under 17 cigars, cigarettes or tobacco for smoking, chewing or snuffing. Youths under 17 are forbidden to smoke on the streets or other public places.

It is not permitted to youths under 17 to enter eating or drinking houses after 9 p.m., even though accompanied by their parents or guardians. At other times they will not be permitted without the presence of parents or guardians, pastors or teachers. Should it be necessary, the local police may fix an earlier hour than 9 p.m.

Very stringent rules apply to visits to cinemas. Children under 17, whether accompanied by guardians or alone, will not be permitted to enter, except to such pictures as have been specially sanctioned by the police as innocuous. Should children under 17 visit the sanctioned pictures, they must do so in batches, and be accompanied by responsible elders. A most important reform is the total abolition of the pictorial representations hung outside the cinema. It is the experience of the police that the majority of thse pictures exercise a potent influence for evil.

Booksellers are forbidden to sell books to youthful persons which may exercise a bad influence on them by vitiating the sound principles which they have acquired at school and in their homes. A list of 50 books, many of them with patriotic titles, is supplied to dealers, which on no account must be sold or lent to young people.

A LIVELY PET.

Panther Cub Which Grew Up to be Altogether Too Funny.

It was in the course of a hunting trip in the jungle that Sir Robert Baden-Powell acquired the unusual pet whose story he tells in "Memories of India," his fascinating volume of reminiscences.

We directed our elephants into the patch of high grass in which the panther was said to be. Presently, as we swished through it, my animal paused and began to sniff with her trunk. Peering down into the grass, I saw a small patch of spotted fur. It looked like the forefoot of a panther. I took quick aim and fired immediately behind it in order to hit the animal in the body. The small patch still twitched about, and then I saw that it was a wee panther cub just able to crawl. So I slid off my elephant and picked it up.

The cub flourished and became a favorite with everyone, especially with my fox terrier. The two spent most of their time gamboling and rolling over together. After a time the kitten began to grow into a lumbering hobbledehoy, with great loose limbs and strong jaws. Then the games began to result in howls from the dog. The cub's mouthing became painful to him, as indeed it did to me; my hands were scarred and torn with the youngster's endearments.

He became increasingly playful. He would career round the garden and into the house, jump on the table in my sitting-room, and sweep everything off with a crash; then with a bound he would clear the sofa and dash out of the window into the veranda and on the breakfast table, where a smash of crockery would send him off in a pretended panic round the garden again. I could never feel angry with him; he made me laugh so.

One day, when out walking, I met some ladies whom I knew. I stood talking to them with the panther at heel. Presently the breeze caught the lace edging of a lady's petticoat. Spots pricked his ears, and his head gradually went more and more sideways as he gazed with fascination on the twinkling lace.

"What is it?" he thought. "Is it alive? Yes, it must be." Phit—chumm! and he suddenly sprang. The lady whisked her skirt out of the way with a scream. That was too much; Spots set to work to claw in dead earnest. I don't know where he would have stopped if I had not got him by the collar and hauled him off.

Shortly afterwards I had to leave India, and I offered my charming panther to anyone who would like to have him. I gave a twenty-four hours' trial of him to anyone who thought of taking him. Lots of people tried him, but none applied for him as a permanent gift, and I eventually sold him to Jamrach.

Complaint of ill luck is often an apology for laziness.

The Spirit of Our Tommies.

Life here is just one round of pleasure. All one 'as to do is 'heat and sleep, dodge the bally shells, and blow the 'eads hoff the bloomin' Germans. Between while it's a bit slow, you know, but we 'opes it'll get livelier.

The Fashions

Belts Return to Favor.

Daytime dresses, this season, seem to have reached the height of perfection. There are the simplest of the simple, in designs for morning or street wear, and the daintiest, most airy possible of creations for afternoon and evening purposes. The typical summer dress is more charming than it has been for many a year. It is fashioned of the fascinating voiles, crepes, flouncings, and organdies favored this season, and trimmed with ribbon, lace, embroidery and beads.

Beads as Trimming.

China beads are particularly effective for this purpose; these are used for yokes, collars, cuffs, and for girdles. For the taffeta afternoon dress the beads are in colors or white, according to their application. An extremely simple, long-lined dress of Lanvin's, in tan gaberdine, is effectively finished by a narrow woven girdle of beads in the vivid Indian colorings; this girdle was weighted with two heavy tassels, and was caught loosely about the normal waistline, knotted and allowed to fall nearly to the skirt hem on left side. The girdle composed the only bit of contrast on the dress, and the effect was charming.

A white bead girdle on an afternoon or a dance frock of net is most effective, too; the China beads may be used, or the glittering crystal beads. These woven girdles give us an excellent opportunity to put into use the knowledge of bead weaving which the majority of us gained when bead embroidery was so popular a form of fancy work, some years ago. One may use her own ideas as to color combinations, this being another chance for developing personality in dress. The use of color is undoubtedly the greatest factor in obtaining the desired note of the season, therefore, one should not hesitate to use

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A Becoming House Dress.

color in effective combinations, in ribbon, braids and embroidery of all kinds; the touch of handwork is introduced on frock, blouse and suit, anywhere, and everywhere possible.

The daytime dress of serge, natural linen or taffeta, is rendered doubly beoming by a bit of vivid wool or bead embroidery, and the evening frock, no matter how simple, is a thing of glitter and sparkle. One should not be afraid of oddity, as long as it is harmonious.

The Return of Belts.

As girdles and belts of all descriptions are smart again this year, it will not be a difficult matter to introduce the required bit of color. Wide and narrow girdles of ribbon are smart; narrow strap belts of colored suede, soft and vivid, according to the tone of the material, encircle skirt or coat of the sport costume, and the simple serge or linen frock may be girdled as soberly or as gorgeously as Fancy

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Breakfast Gown of Crepe.

dictates, and Fashion advises Fancy to be gorgeously inclined. Birds, bees, butterflies, and colored moths are being embroidered on frock and blouse, the bluebird being especially favored for light-toned linens and cottons.

Trimming the Small Girls' Dresses.

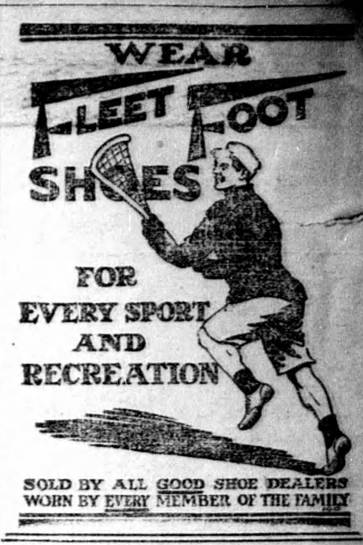
Especially are these bluebirds favored for the little girl's white frock. The only thing to bear in mind, when using these motifs, is that the design must be small and the effect dainty. Feather-stitching and cross-stitch are both being used effectivtly on children's garments, and here again we see the effect of color, for in children's fashions there is the same demand for brightness. Fashion says that small people shall be dressed quaintly and prettily, that is all, and leaves us to work our own salvation. This is not difficult, as materials are so charming and so inexpensive. There are figured and flowered dimities, dainty striped batistes and lawns, fascinating voiles and crepes, patterned in quaint designs, and the popular embroidered flouncings. Challis and mixed fabrics are being used in the jumper dresses for the small girl, combined with guimpes, white or colored. These little dresses are often piped with emerald green or turkey red.

Breakfast Gown and House Dress.

Not the least important detail, by any means, in the well-dressed woman's wardrobe, is the house dress. It may be the morning dress of the woman who merely supervises her household, or it may be the workaday dress of the woman who really keeps her own house, but it is as necessary as the afternoon frock or the evening gown. Fashion, too, takes a hand in its designing, cleverly introducing each season little innovations which make for comfort, convenience, and becomingness. As the home is the woman's business, the house dress marks her as efficient or inefficient.

The novelty cottons and linens are effectively used in these dresses, a figurd material being trimmed with a plain, and vice-versa. The breakfast dress illustrated is fashioned of a daintily figured voile, with ribbon-edged cape collar of plain wh[illegible] The house dress, which co[illegible] well serve for a street fr[illegible] ed in serge or linen, is f[illegible] dark blue madras, trimmed [illegible] of white voile. Both desig[illegible] ple, practical and becoming.

These patterns may be [illegible] from your local McCall deale[illegible] The McCall Co., 70 Bond S[illegible] ronto, Ont. Department W.



WHEN WILL THIS CRUEL [illegible] BE OVER?

Chas. M. Bice, Denver, Colorad[illegible]

It would require the prophetic vision of a Daniel or an Isaiah to predict its end with certainty.

Many have essayed to do so, but in too many instances the wish is "father to the thought."

Mr. Hudson Maxim predicts it will end in five years, possibly in three, and he has history on his side.

Perhaps the greatest conflict in history, before the present struggle, was the American Civil War, 1861 to 1865, and in many respects the parallels are striking. The South was virtu[illegible]y in Germany's position to-day, i[illegible] economic conditions, with her po[illegible] all blockaded, and like Germany she hoped for foreign interference. The Mason-Slidell incident was hailed by the South as a clever piece of work. But the Confederacy failed to enlist foreign recognition or help, and the struggle assumed the shape of endurance only.

Like Germany, the South was amply prepared for the conflict in the start, and held out for over 4 years against an overwhelmingly superior enemy in everything except brains.

The English Civil War, which was characterized by such terrific battles as Marston, Edgehill, Moor and Nasby, lasted 8 years.

The war of the Spanish Succession which staged such conflicts as Ramillies, Blenheim, and Malplaquet drew its devastating length along a period of 13 years.

For 8 years the struggle that put Maria Theresa on the Austrian throne ebbed and flowed over the same ground, as we see in some of the most bitter battles of the present war.

The conflict that gave Prussia her military rank is known as the Seven Years' War.

It took 8 years of hard fighting to free the American Colonies, while the Napoleonic Wars continued for 15 years and produced Austerlitz, Marengo, Trafalgar, Jena, Leipsic and ended in Waterloo.

The Greek struggle for independence lasted 7 years, from 1821 to 1828.

These are nearly all what might be termed modern wars; but the more ancient conflicts lasted much longer, because the instruments of death were not so perfect as those of modern times.

France and England fought for a century, (1337 to 1437), while the Hussite war lasted nearly 30 years, and the French civil war, provoked by the edict of Nantes, continued for a long time. It required over 40 years to free the Netherlands from Spanish rule. The 30 Years' War secured religious freedom for Germany.

But there have been very short wars, as instanced by the defeat of Austria by Prussia in 1866, taking only 7 weeks.

The Russo-Turkish war of 1877 continued only a few months, and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 was virtually ended in 6 weeks.

Japan defeated Russia, 1895, and secured the independence of Korea, in a little over a year; and the U. S. whipped Spain in 1898, in one year.

Yet, it cannot with certainty be predicted that this, the greatest of all wars, including on opposite sides so many of the great Powers of the world will be of short duration. With the wonderful improvements in arms, explosives, and modern scientific appliances, the air crafts and submarines brought into requisition for the first time, infuse elements in the problem that render prediction of the end a hazardous undertaking. These, it would seem, must decide the conflict very rapidly, but if not so decided, they are apt to become long drawn out affairs.

Resources do not seem to play such important parts in present day wars as formerly, because the deprivation is made up by the aid of science in devising new sources of sustenance. Food, it seems, has become of least importance in starving out a belligerent; what counts most is lack of material, money and loss of trade.

We all hope the enemy will collapse soon, but we should be prepared for a long drawn out struggle.