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PRATT'S 51ST YEAR OF SERVICE

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



About the House

Her Secret of Happiness.

"On the morning of my wedding day," writes a woman who is now old herself, "my grandfather called me to his side and gave me a bit of advice that I have tried hard to follow. 'He said, 'Avoid getting into a rut. There is nothing that will rob a woman of her good looks or her joy in life like getting into a routine that makes her a slave. Don't you do it, child, don't you do it!'"

"I could just remember grandmother but I had heard from many sources that she was a slave to washing on Monday, ironing on Tuesday, and so on, through all the years of her married life, and I know poor grandfather knew just what life with such a victim of routine meant.

"Very soon I had the chance to head the dear old man's advice, for Bob and I had been married only six weeks when he came in to breakfast one Tuesday morning very early, looking as eager and happy as a boy. 'I say, Jessie,' he began, 'I have half a dozen errands to do in the city. Put off the ironing until to-morrow, can't you? Put on your bonnet and come along with me. We'll make a day of it. Come on, won't you?'"

"I glanced at the basket of clothes waiting for me, and the new housewife's pride bade me stay and get that work out of the way before midday. But there was another side to the question. I glanced at Bob's hopeful face, and then grandfather's words flashed into my mind.

"'I'll go,' I said, and go I did.

"I think neither of us will ever forget that day. We joked like children on a holiday. We finished the shopping and went into one of the exhibitions and got home late that night; and when it was all over I knew my belated ironing was a petty matter compared with the sympathy and companionship that we had known that day.

"That was the beginning. As the years went by, and cares increased, I

studied hard and long to avoid the ruts—the pitfalls of so many farmers' wives. My husband and children grew accustomed to little surprises—baked potatoes for Thursday or even Monday, instead of always on Saturday night. It was a treat on a wintry night when the snow fell quietly all round the house—a treat that our children will never forget—to have supper in the warm, cosy kitchen, whereas the usual supper in the dining room would have made no impression at all.

"Sometimes in early June, when Bob had spent a hard day in the fields, his tired face would brighten at the sight of a substantial tea spread on the table under the oak tree that was our pride. It was a little more work for me, but the children learned very early in life to save me steps, and I was amply rewarded for any effort I had ever made when I heard my son say to a boy chum, 'It's always fun at our house. You never know when mother is planning a surprise.'"

The "Costume Girl."

A girl who likes to sew has found a way to gratify her taste for it and to earn a considerable amount of pin money. She makes costumes for school, church and college plays. Many mothers and boy students have work for her to do, and in the six or seven months of active dramatic work in her community she makes from two hundred to three hundred dollars. Her patrons furnish patterns and materials; therefore, since she has the use of her mother's sewing machine, her earnings are virtually all profit.

Crepe-paper costumes for fairies or flower girls are the easiest kind for the "costume girl" to make; she sells them for two dollars an outfit. Simple dimities, clown costumes and bloomer costumes bring her from four to five dollars apiece. Costumes made from complicated patterns sell for five to eight dollars—a price that many wo-

men are willing to pay rather than try to make something that may turn out to be a failure.

In one month this girl made and sold the following costumes: Eighteen crepe-paper fairy costumes for two dollars apiece; one jester outfit for five dollars; three dimity schoolgirl costumes, with dimity hats to match, for five dollars an outfit; a gypsy costume of gay sateen for five dollars, and a clown costume for three dollars.

That makes a total income of sixty-four dollars. In the rush season she seldom averages less than that. In slack times she clears from thirty dollars to thirty-five dollars a month. Already she has saved something for the course in dramatic costuming that she wishes to take eventually; and since she never sews for more than five hours a day, the work does not tire her or keep her from other duties and pleasures.

Graham Drop Cookies.

One cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup sour cream, 1 tablespoon molasses, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon soda, 2½ cups graham flour, 1 teaspoon cinnamon to season. Sift all dry materials together, flour, soda, salt, cinnamon and stir into the creamed egg, sugar and cream, drop in small spoonfuls on buttered tin and dot with raisin or nutmeat.

Household Hints.

To rid an old house of bed bugs, put two ounces of corrosive sublimate into a tight bottle and fill with wood alcohol. Shake this well and apply with a feather to every crack and corner

of the floor and around the window as well as in the beds and bedding. Do this once a week until rid of the pests.

Paper flour sacks can be cut down one side and around the bottom so they will lay flat. The inside is clean and usually a pleasing shade. This heavy paper can be used in many ways about the house. Lay it under the carpet or rug; sew together, lay on top of mattress, to shut out cold; cut in strips and paste over cracks.

To remove indelible ink stains first soak in salt water and then wash in water to which ammonia has been added. If necessary, repeat this process before boiling.

Three old broomsticks can be made into the best kind of tripod support for a home-made dress form.

Sugar to be used in iced tea, lemonade, coffee or hot drinks, can be made into a heavy syrup and served at table in a small pitcher, greatly economizing the sugar.

Children's Cake.—Half cup of peanut butter, one cup of sugar, one egg, two cups flour, one cup of sweet milk, three teaspoons of baking powder. Mix as directed and bake in patty tins or loaf.

To remove old stain or varnish from floors, scrub vigorously with a strong solution of lye, using for the purpose a stiff brush with a long handle, so that the hands may not come in contact with the lye.

If you wish to keep the gloss on your linoleum when washing it, use lukewarm water to which has been added a tablespoonful of kerosene to half a bucket of water. You will find this is an excellent cleanser and at the same time will aid in retaining the gloss of the linoleum. A strong soap will tend to remove the gloss.

Here is a good dark cake recipe: Cream one cup of brown sugar with two egg yolks and half cup of shortening (half butter and half lard), then add three-fourths cup of sour milk, one teaspoon of cinnamon, half teaspoon of cloves, half teaspoon of nutmeg, one and one-half cups flour, one teaspoon soda, one cup of raisins, and last, fold in the whites of two eggs, beaten stiff. Bake in a moderate oven.

NURSES

The Toronto Hospital for Incurables, in affiliation with Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, New York City, offers a three years' Course of Training to young women, having the required education, and desirous of becoming nurses. This Hospital has adopted the eight-hour system. The pupils receive uniforms of the School, a monthly allowance and travelling expenses to and from New York. For further information apply to the Superintendent.

Kindness.

"Some one missed a great opportunity in the little town of Bethlehem one night," writes the Rev. Dr. Hugh Black, "when Mary, the mother of Jesus, had to find a lodging in the stable because there was no room in the inn. She had the right to expect common kindness, but no one was willing to forgo his case. She was thrust out among the cattle through lack of ordinary humanity. Some one lost a great opportunity to have his name linked on to Christmas to the end of time. To have been the host of the Holy Family at such a time! No man or woman received that distinction.

"Of course, nobody could have guessed what chance for fame was lost. Nobody could have imagined the place in human history to be attained by the Babe who lay in the manger. We certainly can never be offered the opportunity which some one missed at Bethlehem. But in the wonderful teaching which thrills us to-day, Jesus has shown us how we may offer Him the hospitality denied to his mother and Himself that first Christmas so long ago. 'I was hungry and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in.'

"When? How? Where? 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

The Wood Lot.

Most people underestimate the value of a woodlot. A New York man who made a planting of white pine has been offered \$500 an acre for the timber on the stump. Under favorable conditions an acre of white pine will average a growth of one thousand feet a year, which is not bad when it is remembered the trees will grow on otherwise rather unprofitable land.

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