

# About the House

## THE PATH TO BEAUTY.

After all, a woman's most sincere friend and remorseless critic is her mirror. When it tells her that she is looking well, that her back hair is becomingly arranged, and that she is really very good to look at, she may go upon her way, confident and well poised, serene in the knowledge that although beauty may be only skin deep, it is a very comforting possession.

On the other hand, when friend mirror declares that her face is showing faint lines, that her skin is losing the firm contour and tints of youth, and that she is rapidly assuming something suspiciously resembling a double chin, she knows she must proceed at once to take the necessary steps to check the ravages of time.

Good looks are so great an asset to a woman that the time which she spends on their preservation should no more be regarded as wasted than the time devoted to the care of her teeth or bodily health.

A smooth healthy skin, clear complexion, shining hair and well-kept hands bestow upon their possessor a certain confidence and ease and most certainly add much to her happiness and contentment.

These attributes to beauty are within the reach of every woman who is willing to work a bit to secure them; therefore, if your mirror tells you that old Father Time is beginning to adorn your face with his telltale lines, you will very wisely prepare to do battle for your good looks.

The city woman, with time on her hands, will go to a reliable beauty specialist, where she will receive a treatment that will bring back the glow of youth to her cheeks, soften her skin and brighten her eyes. Regular clients of the beauty specialist spend an hour a week in her comfortable chair, whereas real seekers of beauty are even more frequent patients.

But it is possible to keep one's good looks, even if one dwells in the desert, for every one of the beauty specialist's methods may be followed at home if one will devote just a few moments night and morning to good looks; and a very satisfactory little home course of beauty treatments may be evolved.

All that will be necessary in the way of equipment will be two or three pads of absorbent cotton, a good cleansing cream, a skin tonic, which may be nothing more than witch hazel, a skin food, perhaps also a vanishing cream and the patten, of which more, shortly.

At night, just before going to bed, the face should be cleansed carefully with a pad of cotton dipped in diluted witch hazel, then into the cleansing cream, following the motions adopted by the beauty specialist.

This treatment should be followed by a brisk patting with the patten moistened in ice-cold water. This will awaken the tired and sagging muscles. Then, if her pores are large and conspicuous our woman may apply a special pore cream that will in time make them less noticeable, or perhaps eradicate them, or she may simply use a skin food, leaving enough on her face to feed the hungry cells while she sleeps.

In the morning she will cleanse her face with the cream and skin tonic, putting on a little vanishing cream. This forms a protection for the tender tissues and if the day is spent in the open, drying winds will not harm her skin nor will it be possible for the dust raised by household tasks to clog the pores.

Any superfluous cream is gently blotted off with a soft cloth and the icy patten flopped over the face to stimulate circulation. A dusting of powder will remove any shine left by the cream.

It's all very easy, you see—none of the steaming and hot packs that once were deemed necessary. Just soft cooling creams to nourish and protect the skin from the effects of wind and weather, plenty of pure, ice-cold water or ice, and one is equipped correctly to do battle with Father Time.

It is very important, however, that the creams and tonics be applied correctly. The beauty specialist has studied the structure of the face and knows that every stroke of her fingers must be just right. Cream that is merely slapped on and then rubbed in in any fashion will not benefit the skin as it should or produce the desired results. The movements must be upward and outward, coaxing the wrinkles and lines away from the mouth and eyes.

Select the powders and creams with the utmost care; be very sure that they are pure and fine. An astringent is excellent, as it closes the pores which the cleansing cream opens, and a boric-acid wash for the eyes after the beauty treatment will leave them refreshed, rested and bright.

The cotton pads are merely folds of

absorbent cotton. The patten is a square of absorbent cotton placed in a basin of cold water, and folded under the water, so that a firm surface is obtained; when finished it is about four inches long and two wide. Use the patten by holding one end of it in the hand and slap the face briskly by flapping the other end against the skin. Ice is very beneficial to the skin; it makes the muscles firm and awakens the sluggish circulation. Use it after the massage and you will need no rouge.

## RONDEAU OF A HOT STOVE.

"When winter comes," says Ma, "I'll go To where the summer's overflow Of all the things our garden grow; Our berry patch; our orchard too; Stand waiting in a shining row.

"Atop my pantry shelves. You know, They're pretty, even as they grow, But prettier, I'm telling you, When winter comes!

"But stoves are hot in summer, so There's many hunts the portico, And fans themselves, and takes the view;

(I understand their feelings, too!) The same hot stove's a blessing, though When winter comes!"

## SECOND-DAY SANDWICHES.

When sandwiches have been left over and have become slightly dry, place them in the toaster and toast lightly on both sides. Serve at once.

The heat will freshen up the sandwich as good as new and will make a titbit, often more appetizing than the sandwich was in the first place.

One point to observe is to serve the sandwiches in a very neat and attractive manner, perhaps cutting them into triangles. If there has been lettuce in the sandwiches, this should be removed, and if it is at all wilted, replace with fresh lettuce before the toasted sandwich is served.

## KEEPING CURED MEAT.

When hams, shoulders, or other pieces are taken out of the brine and dried, sew each piece in a taut covering of cheesecloth, and brush it all over with melted paraffin.

When taken out of this covering, the meat emerges clean and there is no loss of meat or time in getting the paraffin out of the crevices.

## THE MAGNET CIRCUS.

For the boy who has outgrown blocks or for the convalescent, there is probably nothing which will furnish more entertainment than a large powerful horseshoe magnet and a box of assorted nails—preferably of the smaller sizes.

With the nails may be built swings with tack children swinging in them, and trapezes for the most exacting acrobats. On the top may be built an Indian wigwam with weather vane atop, and a horizontal bar with its crew of acrobatic actors.

Even cats and dogs may be made with tack legs and ears, a nail body and a shoe-tack tail.

## THE KITCHEN SHEARS.

Keep a pair of clean, sharp shears hanging on a convenient hook in the kitchen. You will find them the greatest possible convenience for many unexpected purposes. They are much better than a knife for trimming off the rind of bacon. They are especially desirable when snipping up marshmallows for a salad, and often save getting out a chopping knife and bowl when only a few pieces of green pepper or other garnish is to be cut in strips or small pieces. The shears should always be wiped and hung up where steam will not strike them to cause rust.

## PAPER LIGHTERS.

The little old-fashioned paper lighters are convenient when using a gas or oil stove, where you can light one flame from another, and they save striking a match every time. Cut a newspaper into strips an inch wide and about a foot long and start at one corner to roll diagonally. Turn over the top when done. They must be rolled tightly. We always keep a lot of them handy.

## IT SAVES MENDING.

It always worries me to see the corners of tablecloths, sheets or blankets flapping on the line in a strong wind, for I know it means that these same corners will be frayed and worn. On a really windy day, I always double these large pieces lengthwise and pin the four corners to the line.

At the foot of the Monument in London, is an order forbidding the beating of carpets against its base.

## Piano Duet Playing.

Four-hand playing is not an uncommon thing in Canada. Yet it has never attained the vogue it is entitled to. The reason for this, no doubt, is that piano pupils are not given sufficient encouragement to play duets by their teachers.

Yet, think of the entertainment possibilities of four-hand playing. This, of course, does not pretend to infer that ordinary piano solos are not as rich in entertainment value as duets. Many solos are indeed soul gripping and heart gripping. Put duets, when properly played, have the added charm of novelty. Often on a program there will be solo after solo—but when a duet is announced, there is usually found to be more interest evinced by the audience. The idea of hearing two play at once introduces the idea of novelty.

Now, while compositions for four hands on one keyboard seldom demand the digital dexterity of solo pieces, according to a writer on musical topics, they require in an even greater degree real musicianship. Duet playing is capable of as fine artistic effects as a string quartet, but needs to be not less assiduously practiced. Time-keeping, though the foundation, is only the foundation. The performers must be so in sympathy that every shade of expression is followed as by a single mind.

But even this is not enough. The balance of tone is as important as in an orchestral performance. There are melodies and phrases—not always in the treble—which must stand out above the accompanying parts, and to this end the touch must be constantly modified. Too often the bass player forgets that the lower part of the piano has greater power of tone than the upper part. Playing alone, one naturally and almost unconsciously makes this modification; but with two players this subordination of accompaniment, no matter in which part, is too frequently neglected.

Good pedaling is as necessary to artistic effect in four-hand as in solo playing. The position at the piano of the bass player gives him better control of the pedals, while the turning of the leaves is more easily done by the one who plays the treble part. If the corners of the alternate leaves are turned up it will be found that they do not stick, and there need be no fumbling or slackening of the tempo. But for a finished performance some one else should turn the leaves; or, better still, both performers should memorize a few notes on either side of the page, and turn the leaf only when a rest or pause provides for an instant a free hand.

Good four-hand pieces, played with intelligence and a certain degree of artistic finish, provide an attractive variety; and if two congenial players have frequent opportunities of practicing together, it will be found quite worth while to make a specialty of such performances. This can be done with much less expenditure of time and energy than is necessary to master satisfactorily even a small repertoire of solo pieces.

## Quite Some Traveler.

Teacher—"Who was the first navigator to land in America?"

Bright Pupil—"Noah."

Teacher—"What! Did Noah ever visit this continent?"

Bright Pupil—"I thought he was a steerage passenger in the Leviathan."

The stump speaker is living proof of the fact that no political machine can be run without gas.

## -AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



## STORIES OF WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE

### A Royal Corporal.

Monarchs frequently wear the uniforms of foreign nations, but King Alfonso of Spain is probably the only reigning sovereign who has held the rank of corporal in the irregular forces of another country.

Corporal, however, is the highest rank in the Italian Fascisti, of his connection with which King Alfonso is exceedingly proud.

When dressed in his Fascisti uniform, the King of Spain, who, by the way, celebrated his thirty-eighth birthday recently, wears a tunic of green-grey, open at the throat to show the black shirt. His headgear is a black fez, with, embroidered upon it, a large red eagle.

### Lipton Took the Tip.

How he once earned a shilling tip is amusingly told by Sir Thomas Lipton.

When I was crossing over from America a few years back (he said) I was gazing out to sea and thinking of nothing in particular, when somebody touched me on the shoulder.

Turning round, I found myself confronted by a man in clerical attire.

"Look here, steward," he said, "I want a deck chair put in that corner spot."

I got a deck chair and placed it there, and he said, "Here's a bob for you."

Being a Scot (concluded Sir Thomas) I took it.

### The Boy and His Job.

One day, a number of years ago, a



An idea of the size of this pair is obtained by the presence of the young man in the picture. The larger is a lunge, 35 pounds in weight, the smaller a lake trout of 24½ pounds. Both with many others were landed in one trip early this season at Kenora, Ont., on Lake of the Woods.

poor boy left his native town of Losiemouth for Edinburgh, and endeavored to obtain employment in the bakery of Messrs. McVitie and Price, the biscuit firm. The foreman told the boy, whose name was Alexander Grant, that there was no vacancy. Grant called again, and every day for a week he left a not in which he stated he could make better cakes than anyone else in the firm.

In the end his persistence was rewarded with a job. To-day he is chairman of McVitie and Price; he recently gave away \$500,000 to charity, and his wonderful career has now been crowned by the bestowal of a baronetcy. Sir Alexander's greatest friend is Mr. Ramsay MacDonald; they were poor boys together in Losiemouth.

### A Bonfire of Meredith Mss.

The manuscripts of famous books—and even the briefest letters of famous men—have a high value in the collectors' market. But it need not surprise us to learn from Mr. Walter T. Spencer's Forty Years in My Bookshop that George Meredith, the novelist, thought little of such relics and seemed to deplore in others the kind of sentiment that preserved them. No one with such light, dry, astringent humor would be likely to attach value to a bit of the material universe because it had been in contact with some worthy either of art or of the church.

George Meredith, says Mr. Spencer, placed no value whatsoever on the manuscripts of his novels. Once when he said so to Miss Nichol she answered teasingly that it was mock modesty on his part to say such a thing. To that Meredith merely instructed her to make a bonfire of his manuscripts at the end of the garden!

"But," she added, "can't I have some of them as keepsakes?"

"Yes," he answered carelessly, "take whichever you like."

She selected several of the precious documents, single sheets on which he had written out his short poems. Miss Nichol led us down into the vegetable garden, and there, a black little heap of ashes, lay all that remained of manuscripts worth who knows how much!



### A Futurist.

"When is that artist actually going to paint your portrait?"

"Can't say—he's a futurist, you know."

### New Varieties of Apples.

Seven new varieties of apples were originated in the horticultural division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture during 1922.

A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools.—Cicero.

Let them laugh, as long as the thing works well.