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**Good Night
 Stories**
 By Branch Star

**THE FOOLISH LITTLE BEETLE
 MOTHER**

My goodness, but wasn't Mama Beetle proud of her little eggs! She placed them in the trunk of the dead maple tree because she felt she could watch them better. For Mama Beetle was very young, and hadn't learned that most beetle mamas lay their eggs and leave them to hatch themselves.

This little Mama Beetle was too proud of her eggs to run about the meadows gossiping while her eggs hatched. She went every day to the old maple tree to see just how they were getting along.

One day when Mama Beetle went to the old maple tree she had the shock of her life. Instead of her lovely little eggs wrapped so snugly in their cradle cases, she found the ugliest white crawling worms one could imagine. My, but Mama Beetle flew into a passion.

"You horrid little creatures," she cried, wringing her fingers. "You have broken into my nursery and eaten all my lovely eggs! And here I've been watching and waiting for them to hatch so I could show them to the meadow folk. Oh, dear! What shall I do?" and she beat her foolish head with her paws.

"What!" cried the largest. "Brother mine, have you eaten anything—any eggs. I mean—since you began to breathe?"

"Indeed, I have not," answered the brother. And the largest worm went from one to another, asking the same question. When he reached the last one, he turned to the sobbing Mama Beetle and shook his funny white head.

"No, madam, we have never tasted an egg," he said. Then he laughed merrily. "Why, madam, we couldn't



"What Shall I Do?"

see to eat eggs, because we have no eyes."

"My goodness!" exclaimed Mama Beetle, horrified. "You have no eyes? How did you know that you didn't eat my eggs?"

The largest worm shrugged his body and shook his funny little head. "I can't say for sure," he sighed, "but I mean, I hope we've done no harm. You see, we just hatched ourselves this very day and I'd hate to think we had started life stealing. If we ate your eggs, it certainly was a mistake."

"Then you did!" cried Mama Beetle. "You ugly little things!"

She was about to pounce on the largest worm when Mrs. Tree-Toad, hearing the commotion, came bounding into the doorway.

"Well, well," she laughed. "No wonder you're shouting. I'd shout myself. What a lovely family you have, Mrs. Beetle." And she went from one white worm to another, stroking their heads. "Indeed, they're fine."

Mrs. Beetle's face broke into a smile. She realized where her eggs had disappeared to, and she gathered the ugly little worms as close as she could get them and looked up at Mrs. Tree-Toad sadly.

"But they have no eyes," she sobbed, and Mrs. Tree-Toad laughed so loudly that Mama Beetle had to hold her ears.

"There, there, little mother," she croaked. "Anyone can see this is your first family. I heard you accusing them of eating your eggs. Why, my dear, most beetles are hatched blind."

"There! there! Dry your eyes. These little white worms will soon go to sleep again in their cradles, which they will spin for themselves. Then when they come out again they will look just like you, my dear. For when you were their size you looked like them."

Croaking to herself, Mrs. Tree-Toad tripped out of the door, leaving Mama Beetle with her babies. She was so happy that she soon forgot their ugly faces as she watched them scurry here and there after food, for beetle children never think of anything else but food.

Mama Beetle was so happy when she crawled into bed that night that she had to laugh at her foolishness.

Just About.

A Philadelphia clergyman is the father of a son whose habits of unpunctuality are a sore trial. Nevertheless, the youth's ready tongue is a source of secret delight to the parent.

Once the young man appeared at Sunday breakfast twenty minutes after the appointed time.

"Son," said the minister, reproachfully, as he held his watch so that the youth might see its accusing face, "do you think this is right? Do you honestly think it is right?"

"Well, father," returned the young man, regretfully, "I wish it were about twenty minutes fast, but as you ask me to say honestly, I am afraid it's just about right."

HOME-MAKING HELPS

"Everything About the House Helps to Make the Home."

By WANDA BARTON

Do You Know the Big Secrets of Successful Mending?

The old saying that a hole is an accident of a day, but a patch is premeditated poverty, loses its significance in the present age of thrift and the revival of numerous old-fashioned needle arts. Patching and darning are now taught as a branch of household art in women's schools.

Mending in its highest development has long been taught and practiced by the women of France, who are expert menders. They frequently use a strand of human hair in the work when they fail to find thread or floss fine enough and they excel in lace mending.

There is an instance on record of a French needlewoman who found a rose in the pattern of a fine damask table cloth worn thin, and breaking away, so she inserted a petal from an old bit of damask, then embroidered the flower, repeating the work in the other three corners, thus making a lovely cloth and strengthening the worn spot so that it was quite as good as new. This is real thrift.

In mending table linen, threads drawn from old linen are best to use. If the breaks are too small for a patch, strengthen the piece with a darning stitch, running the threads surrounding the break to a distance sufficient to protect the weak spot as well as possible.

If a patch is inevitable, lay the piece to be inserted under the hole, making sure that the threads run the same way, and baste it neatly in position, then turn in the lips of the tear neatly and sew down the edges with as fine and careful stitches as possible. Next, turn the cloth on the other side and trim the patch neatly, then ravel the edge a little before turning it under. The raveling makes the turn-under softer. Now, sew down the patch with a little stitch on the right side and a longer one underneath. This is the best that can be done, and after laundering, it does not look badly for common wear. Oftentimes, a dollie or dish may be used to cover the spot. When the cloth gives out on the edge of the table, it is cheaper to make a centre-piece of the top and napkins of the rest, for it is impossible to mend a long, thin piece so that it will not show.

If crash towels wear out in the middle, use the ends for wash-cloths, finishing the edges with a buttonhole stitching or narrow, crocheted scallops. Ravages of moths on men's clothing, today, are corrected by shops that take matching pieces of the material, ravel them and weave in the spots so that they are scarcely discernable and the suit need not be discarded. Home mending, even the finest, can hardly compete with this new method, which is not unduly expensive, considering the work.

In mending baby things or shirt-waists, a fine piece of footing may be set under the thin place, or small tear, and then the darning may be done with a very fine thread, using the net as a foundation. If carefully done, the work will not show badly and the net is very strong. Men's shirts are so reasonable in price nowadays that it hardly pays to do much mending on them, though some women, who have plenty of time and patience, insist on putting on new neckbands and reversing the French cuffs.

Almost everybody has her own particular way of mending stockings, but in families where the men and boys wear the guaranteed kind, which wear an unbelievable length of time without repairs, the work is materially lessened. Silk stockings can be mended only with fine, soft silk floss, and even this shows if not hidden by skirt or shoe.

In darning the ordinary stocking or sock, slip it onto the hand, straighten the edges of the hole and draw it together, trim off the irregular bits, run a darning thread around the hole, then plaid it neatly and evenly. This method makes a thin and smooth darn that holds well and does not hurt the foot. It catches every side of the hole evenly, stops the course of running threads and makes the place firm.

Buttonholes that have not been worked deeply enough may have the edges neatly trimmed off, and after running a firm thread around the entire hole to keep the material from slipping, the edge may be buttonholed again, taking a deeper hold in the material. This work should be done as soon as the trouble is discovered, before the goods have commenced to pull away badly, especially if the material is likely to ravel.

Torn or broken embroidery may be mended by putting a bit of net underneath and darning it down neatly with small stitches on the heavy edges.

11 WOMEN LAWYERS.

Lately Called to the English Bar—Even Dozen Now.

Eleven members of the fair sex were "called to the bar" in London making a total of twelve English women now authorized to practice law on equal terms with men. The only woman hitherto privileged to practice law in England was Dr. Ivy Williams, who donned the legal robes and wig several months ago. All the women who were admitted to practice passed the legal examinations some time ago, but have been completing their preliminary work by studying in the law courts. One intends to practice in the divorce courts.

The noblest spur unto the sons of fame is thirst for honor.

**Steacy's
 January
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—are now at their height. With stock-taking but two short weeks away, stocks must be cleared regardless of cost or former selling prices.

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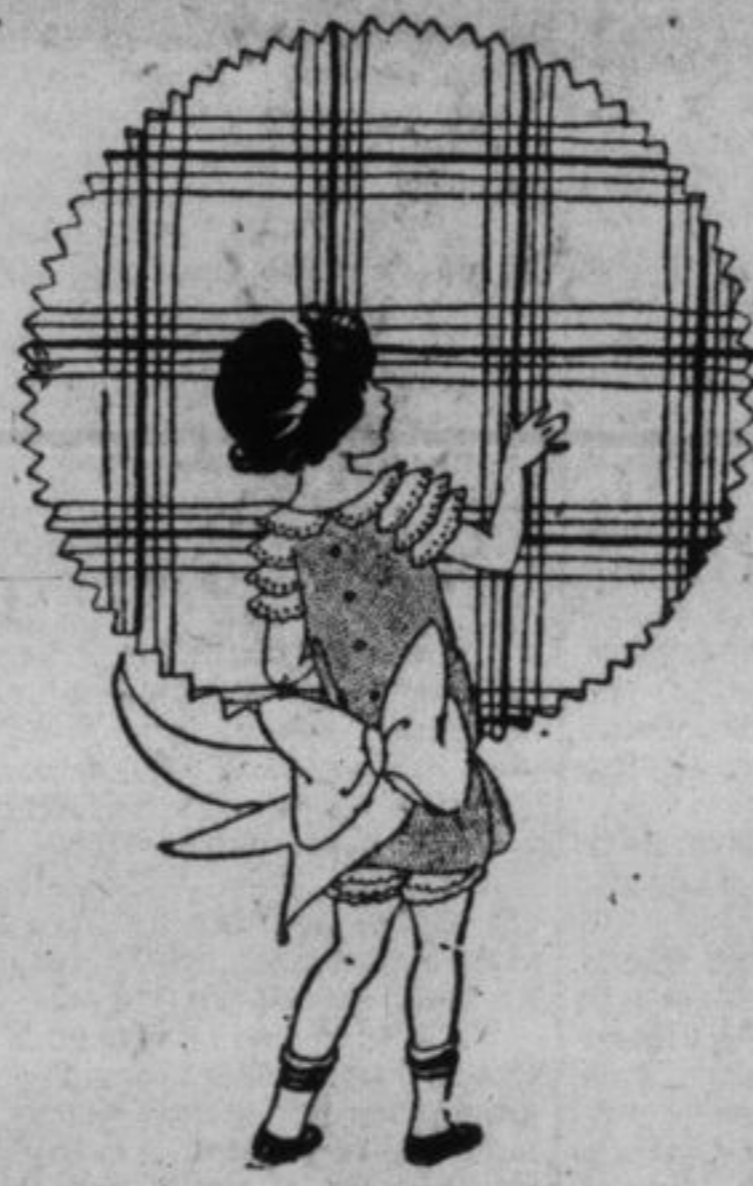


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