

Some Amusing Letters
Written to Miss Alcott.
Read the Doctor's Talk.

WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS TO KNOW

Billie Burke's Advice—
Look Ahead, Not Behind.
A Chic Afternoon Gown.



Afternoon Tea Gown in a Golden Tone of Panne Velvet

Although we hear that the rage for yellow is decreasing, we see no signs of it as yet. At every afternoon tea or reception we find at least one-third of the women wearing gowns of some shade of yellow.

The illustration shows an afternoon dress of gold-colored panne velvet made in that delusive style that is so popular at present—a style that looks as though it were very full, but which is quite as narrow as ever.

The skirt of this frock is slightly gathered about the waist and is caught up at the side just over the front with buttons. The waist is cut with the long shoulder, and is fastened across the front with another group of buttons and buttonholes that match those on the skirt. These buttons are of clouded amber. There is a slit across the right side of the waist, and in it is inserted a triangular piece of lace. Little triangles of the same lace form the trimming on the long sleeves.

Under the panne velvet there is a very narrow petticoat of gold satin trimmed with marten fur. The satin also is used for the belt and for the bow, which is tied below the marten collar. The hat worn with this gown is of plush, the color of the marten fur, and it is trimmed with a beautiful bird of paradise in the natural shade.

LEMON SAUCE.

Take three eggs, one, and one-half cupfuls of sugar, one cupful of hot water, one-half tablespoonful of butter, the juice of two lemons and the rind of one.

Stir these ingredients together, and just before serving place them on the fire and stir all the time until the mixture is as thick as syrup.

This sauce is delicious with all kinds of puddings.

KICKER.

"I have just discovered why it is customary to baste a turkey," said the man who thinks the world is against him.

"To improve the flavor, of course."

"No. It's to make it as slippery as possible when I come to carve it." — Washington Star.

Author of 'Little Women' Received Many Letters

Both Praise and Blame Expressed in Numerous Epistles Found Among Effects of Late Authoress.

Some letters found recently among the effects of Louisa M. Alcott, which are in the possession of her nephew, John Pratt Alcott, suggest the question what she would think of the present dramatization of "Little Women," and how she would feel about the publicity she and her work are now securing. These letters were sent to her from admiring readers, self-appointed critics, and the idle curious, after the publication of "Little Women," says a writer in the New York Sun. They were copied neatly in the fine, painstaking correct hand of her nephew, who learned to write in the early seventies, when penmanship was still given its due, and they are annotated and prefaced by Miss Alcott herself.

Letters From Everywhere.

The letters are from all parts of the earth, from Honolulu to St. Petersburg, and from foreigners as well as Americans. They are from mothers, from ministers, from men and maids, from perturbed uncles and gangs of boys, as often as they are from the girls for whom the books were written especially. A group of the letters from her sentimental admirers has been labelled "Gush," and another, "More Gush."

The sterner and harsher the criticism she found in these letters the more they seemed to interest and to please her. Because of the free intercourse of the girls in the March family with Laurie, the boy who lived next door, because the boys and the girls in her books romped together and went skating or tramping through the woods unchaperoned she was sometimes censured as having a bad moral influence on the young! One correspondent writes an earnest appeal for more mention of church and churchgoing in the Alcott books.

"Most of our Sunday schools," he writes, "feel that they are compelled to omit your books from their shelves because so little mention is made in them of the excellent practice of churchgoing. There is so much that is excellent and truly moral in your books that I want them to have this crowning grace of frequent piety so much needed in these days of laxity and unbelief."

Opposed to this is the testimony of a lovely old Dutch lady, the mother of a translator, who had asked for the

rights to translate "Little Women," so that her country people could read it, too. "There are so many wise and truthful things in the book that I want my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren to enjoy it."

Requested Money.

Another writer thought her book so moral and religious that he thought the proceeds from it quite fit to provide for the necessities of his church. This is what he writes:

"As God has seen fit to reward your efforts with large returns, I have no hesitation in asking you for \$500 with which to purchase a new communion service for our church."

Another yet quite so bold, asks first how much money she is making "in her books—preparatory to making a modest loan, no doubt."

Who the girls, of course, want to know which marries whom. Many are the suggestions for happy endings and felicitous turns in the plot. "Does Jo get very good now that she is older?" writes one, apprehensively.

One young man, already in a state of despair about woman, sent in an appeal to "Please tell me where I can find an old-fashioned girl."

There is no note to indicate whether this request was granted.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

PAPER SAVES LABOR.

If grease falls on the stove wipe it off with a newspaper. Instead of darning a cloth. When cleaning out the coal range spread paper on the floor and no dirt can touch it. When cleaning fowl or preparing vegetables cover part of the table with paper. Whistles sweeping up dirt of dampened paper and strew over the carpet to save the dust.

SPICY BREAD BOX.

If a small bag of spice is kept in the bread box a most agreeable odor is imparted to the contents.

WITH LITTLE FUEL.

To boil a ham without much fuel place it in a boiler, cover with cold water and allow it to boil one hour. Then cover up all crockery to keep in the steam and leave for about twelve hours. The ham will be thoroughly cooked, and if the hour's boiling is done in the afternoon it will be ready for use next morning.

USE ONION WATER.

The water in which onions have been boiled is excellent for cleaning gilt picture frames. It removes specks and dirt, and brightens the gilt. It should not be used until cold.

PINCH OF SALT.

When making a cup of cocoa put into it (when mixed) a pinch of salt, and you will find a great improvement in the flavor. This also takes the watery taste away.

SUN CURES SCORCH.

If a shirt front or any other article has been scorched in ironing, lay it where the bright sunshine will fall directly on it, and the brown spot will disappear.

COCOA STAINS.

To remove cocoa stains from tablecloths and serviettes, wash in cold water, and then boiling water should be poured through until the last vestige of the stain is gone.

Heated Carriages.

Closed, heated carriages for all occasions. Palace Livery, Phone 338, Ross & Boss, proprietors.

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Billie Burke.

THE FIRST WORD—When you begin to look backward instead of forward you are on the last lap of life.

Are you looking backward? If so, think of that man or woman the mistletoe of doing this and was turned into a pillar of salt. If you do not look forward you may be sure that some of the sweetness of your nature has grown acid. If you can no more see the light and beauty of life if you have become blind to the pleasures of hope while regretting the joys that are gone; if this is so you are growing old very fast and it is time for you to make some new plans of living and start following them before the beginning of the year. There is nothing that is given to man or woman that will prevent hardening of the arteries as surely as a long look ahead. A friend of mine said to me the other day that Sara Bernhardt told her that if she accomplished all that she had planned she would be one hundred and thirty years old. I immediately said to myself upon hearing this: "There is Sara Bernhardt's secret of eternal youth."

The future must hold something for you, even up to your latest breath. There is no such thing as the past. Remember the past is past, and you poor little girl who is crying because you are quite unworthy of you has left you with a broken heart. But take hope in the knowledge that there is a future for everyone, and the greatest and most wonderful thing that is given to man or woman is not love, but life. Live it and love it. Don't whine as the years begin to stretch out behind you, and, above all else, never look back, for if you do you will become like Lot's wife, without power to march away from the place where you are standing.

MISS BILLIE BURKE.

JUST ONE LAST WORD—Instead of regretting yesterday, do something today that will make rosy the hopes of tomorrow.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR HOUSING REFORMS

[BY A PHYSICIAN.]

One of the most difficult problems of our cities is HOUSING. It is of interest to the laborer, because proper housing saves him the expense and trouble of much unnecessary disease. It is of interest to the health department, because much less work of curing would fall to its door if proper housing were always possible. It is of interest to the employer, because he would not be troubled by sick or half-sick workers as frequently as he is now.

The best time for a city to plan its housing is when it is in the making. The next best time is NOW, whatever its age and condition.

Housing involves the site of small homes; the window space of homes; the number of people living on a given area; the sanitary arrangement of buildings and the disposition of factories.

The "housing committee" is a feature of most good-sized cities. It would be well if it were the first to be organized in a newly created city. If the tuberculosis sanatorium and the smoky factory were put far enough away from the school and the home, the city would be a much healthier place. These institutions in different localities after the city has grown.

The housing committee should always have the co-operation of every class of society in a city.

Its purpose is to improve conditions of living for the benefit of all.

THE DAILY MENU

BREAKFAST.
Stewed Prunes.
Liver and Bacon.
Honey. Coffee.

LUNCHEON OR SUPPER.
Fish Croquettes and Peas.
Hot Rolls.
White Grape and Pecan Salad.
Tea.

DINNER.
Red Cabbage Soup.
Broiled Kidneys with Green Peppers.
Mashed Potatoes.
Fried Bananas.
Ginger Mousse. Coffee.

Red Cabbage Salad.—Put two quarts chicken stock into saucepan, add small amount of carrot, chopped fine, one small sliced onion, chopped, four apple sliced lemon, and a red cabbage cut in rather small strips. Cook slowly, season with salt and pepper, and serve when the cabbage is quite ready.

Ginger Mousse.—Dissolve one teaspoonful powdered gelatin in four tablespoonfuls boiling water, add one-half cupful sugar, mix and boil for eight minutes, then pour slowly upon whites of four eggs stiffly beaten, beat till cold, then fold in one cupful whipped cream, then add one cupful chopped preserved ginger, and turn into a mold. Pack in ice and salt for four hours. Serve with sauce made with the ginger syrup slightly thickened.

The Shirtwaist

Young girls are finding the mannish shirts made of striped or plain washable silk or crepe de chene very much to their liking. Most of the models are absolutely masculine in the severity of their lines. This, however, appeals to the girl who likes to exploit the latest fad of fashion. Those who dislike the plainness add a jabot of lace or a bow at the neck line, but the majority prefer the mannish blouse. The white is most becoming in girls. It exposes the throat in front and is comfortable. It differs from the polo collar, inasmuch as very little of it shows from the front. At the back there is ample width, and in some cases, considerable depth. Slate gray, blue, pink, violet and stripes are equally favored for fashioning the mannish blouse. The white with the cape collar is knotted and has loosely hanging ends. It may be of violet, striped silk or dotted satin. Flies of two colors, one side green, red or blue, and the other white, are the new notes. The mangle line of black and white is extremely popular.

ARTIFICIAL COW'S MILK.

An artificial milk, which is said to contain all the elements of the best cow's milk, and is useable for the same purposes, is being manufactured from soy beans, according to an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association. It is also stated that this artificial product is more digestible than ordinary milk, and its cream more nourishing. It can be used for all cooking purposes and good cheese can be made from it, but it will not produce butter. Being germ-free it will keep longer than cow's milk.

The process of making this soybean milk was discovered by three Germans, who spent three years perfecting the apparatus. The manufacture is said to be simple and the product is always uniform. It can be sold at good profit for 6 cents a quart, which is cheaper than milk in many localities.

Proper Proportions.

Dear Miss Grey—Please tell me the correct measurements for a woman. ANTHONY GIRL.

A.—The neck should measure twice the circumference of the wrist and the waist twice the size of the neck, it is said. Five feet, five and a half inches is about the medium height.

Escalloped Potatoes.

Dear Miss Grey—What's the best way to make escalloped potatoes? A.—Wash, pare, soak and cut four potatoes in one-fourth inch slices. Put a layer in buttered baking dishes. Sprinkle it with salt and pepper. Cover thinly with flour. Put in half a tablespoonful of butter. Put in enough hot milk, so that it may be seen through the top layer. Bake until the potatoes are soft. This will take at least an hour.

Home Cleaning.

Dear Miss Grey—I have some nice lace which I don't want to send out to a cleaner. It is very dirty. I don't think it should be put in water. Will you tell me how to clean it? HOUSEKEEPER.

A.—The best way will be to dry-clean it, I think. Wash it in flour. Rinse the lace in as you would soap. Let the lace lie for a while in the flour

Stock-Taking Prices Saturday

WE ARE now in the midst of stock-taking, and are anxious to clear out a number of lines before the final figures are made up. Saturday will see some big price reductions in all lines. We are clearing out a number of Sweater Coats; also many lines in Ladies' Underwear at special prices. A number of lines of Tweeds are being cleared, and a large quantity of Tablecloth Seconds will be sold at more than one-third off regular prices. Pay us a visit Saturday, it will pay you.

Clearance of Ladies' Underwear

MANY odd lines must be cleared out before next week. We have large quantities of Ladies' Winter Underwear, "seconds," job lots and odd lines. These are selling at special prices.

39c—A large quantity of White Vests and Drawers. A few Gray Vests and Red Drawers. All worth 50c garment, for. 39c.

59c—Vests and small quantity Drawers in white and flesh color. Also Black Tights. 75c lines, for garment. 59c.

79c—All-Wool Vests and Drawers, in gray, white and flesh color; also Black Tights and Red Vests. Regular \$1.00 and \$1.25 values, for garment. 79c.

LADIES' WHITE COMBINATION SUITS—A good winter weight. Job line. Special price, suit. 89c.

Ladies' Winter Coats

TWELVE ONLY LADIES' COATS of chinchilla and diagonal cloths in tan and brown shades, belted back style with high closing collars. These are made of the season's smartest styles, regularly selling at \$15.00 and \$16.50, but having these few odd sizes left (a few are misses' sizes), we are clearing them all out Saturday at. 9.50.

10 ONLY LADIES' LONG COATS of good quality Scotch tweeds, in dark colors, semi-fitting style, sizes 34 and 36 only. Worth up to \$12.50, for. 4.95.

Sweater Coats

We have moved our stock of Sweater Coats to the second floor.

Misses' Sizes 69c Each

A clearance of small sizes in Sweater Coats, gray trimmed with red or navy. Special price, each. 69c.

Sweater Coats \$3.95

In this lot are splendid Sweater Coats of the very best quality, made of heavy, soft, strong wool in pretty gray and cardinal shades, plain and fancy weaves. Sizes 36, 38 and 40. These are very unusual values at a time when you need them most, and we advise every intending purchaser to shop early. Sold regularly at \$5.00 and \$6.00, for each. 3.95.

Black Suits \$8.75

9 only Ladies' Black Suits—6 suits of broadcloth and 3 of all-wool cheviot cloth. Coats are semi-fitting and lined with twilled silk. Plain tailored skirt, panel back and high waistline. These are perfect-fitting suits. We have these in large sizes only. Price. 8.75.

GRAY'S
150 DUNDAS STREET.

WATCH FOR OUR
MOVING SALE.

STARTS ABOUT JAN. 10.

GRAY'S
TELEPHONE 1182.

OMOND'S 468-25c

Serious results easily follow a cough. This great remedy relieves coughs, sore throat, bronchitis, croup and wheezing quickly and safely. 'Tis pure and sure. A great preventive of sickness. Try it. Twenty-five Cents.

PERCIVAL, 344 Richmond Street, Phone 1261. LISTER, Wortley Road, Car. Craig, Phone 1920. OMOND, 468 Dundas St. Phone 1429.

NA-DRU-CO

Toilet and Medicinal Preparations are compounded by expert chemists. Always look for the Na-dru-co Trade Mark.

Vapo Cresolene

Cures Bronchitis
Used While You Sleep

put back in the socket and extended its entire length." She admits that a man who had once dealt in window shades showed her the trick. I had found me one day trying to tighten up the spring by twisting the little knob on the end. I had bruised my finger tips fearfully, and the spring had slipped back a number of times, and I was ready to use the shade stick on the world at large when he chanced along. He said something that I have never forgotten: "If you are going to do a thing, learn to do it in the right way." That was why I got me a kit of tools for the kitchen. I found that, with the tools, I could do a lot of things in the right way, and it saved time and bother and money. I have a small wrench for loose nuts; I have a solder outfit for the little holes that pop into utensils unexpectedly; I have a knife-sharpener; I have a bottle of oil for creaky things, door hinges and the like, and I have a small plane for warped drawers. I have never insisted that my maids use these things themselves, but, seeing how easily I "fix things," they nearly always imitate me, and I have turned out some fairly trained "tinkers" from my kitchen, and both the house and the things in it are lasting longer because of these little passing attentions.

EASY.

"You think she loves you?" "I am sure of it. She told me last night that I might have a kiss if I could catch her."

"But unless she permitted you to catch—"

"Huh! She had on a hobble skirt."

LAYING OILCLOTH.

It is a good plan to sprinkle sawdust evenly on the boards before laying down

WILSON'S INVALIDS' PORT WINE

(a la Quina du Perou)

"A sound mind in a sound body is a short but full description of a happy state in this world."

OPTIMISM!

The Result of a Sound Mind in a Sound Body

Wilson's Invalids' Port Wine, a big bracing tonic, will renew your flagging optimism because it clears away yesterday's cobwebs from the brain, conquers nerve exhaustion, corrects and strengthens weak digestion and assimilation, and permanently energizes and invigorates the flaccid muscles. Doctors know!

ASK YOUR DOCTOR
BIG BOTTLE ALL DRUGGISTS

COMFORT SOAP

Too Well Known To
Need Comment

FRY'S Nut Milk Chocolate

The Best of All Sweets for Children

oilcloth. The sawdust makes a soft foundation for the oilcloth to lie on, and it protects its wear. For a damp floor it is specially recommended.

The Birthday Calendar



IF THIS IS YOUR BIRTHDAY.

Vexation and annoyance will come to you, and your health will need good care. If you are able to see through the tangles to the main purpose you will turn the year to good account.

Those born today will have strong characters and will be tireless in the acquiring of knowledge. They should be taught to temper their energy with consideration for others, for they will be inclined to run to extremes and to lose friendships and influence thereby.