

with perhaps no more than a half-hour's machine stitching in its construction, of some inexpensive and pretty material carry off the red ticket, to the disgust of the hard, solid cushions, covered with silk or linen embroidered with dollars' and dollars' worth of silks. I was shown one on which the silks alone cost eight dollars. A fluffy comfortable, made of wash-silk, sateen, or even cheese-cloth, might win the prize from the small-patched, closely embroidered, unwaded, crazy patchwork quilt. I was told the embroidery silk alone on one cost ninety dollars, and then it was intended only to spread across the foot of the spare bed when it was not winning prizes at the fairs. If we counted the cost, would we make these awfully expensive fancy articles? The cost of that one quilt would pay for warm blankets for all the beds in the house. It would entirely furnish a bed-room with quartered oak and Wilton carpet, or if we were charitably inclined it would supply comfortable clothes for four or five children for a whole year, or it would pay the expenses of the maker while taking a splendid vacation. The time spent would enable her to read dozens of books, or explore the woods for miles in search of health and nature studies. The eyesight used might just be what she will require to give a happy old age. I would not have it thought that our homes should be entirely plain. We should try to surround ourselves and our homes with all things bright and pretty. But who dares to say that one growing pansy or rose is not prettier and by far less expensive than forty flowers embroidered or painted?

Can we not purchase pretty silks already flowered far cheaper than we flower them stitch by stitch. It would not so much matter if it were the wealthy classes only who do this work. I find that those, at least, who exhibit at the smaller fairs are oftenest our farmers' already overworked wives or daughters and the wives and daughters of the workingmen in the country villages.

Before we begin, let us count the cost of everything—materials, health, eyesight, and the time required, not only in making, but also in afterwards caring for these comparatively useless articles, and I am convinced we will simply never begin.

He Played Him.

Some little time back a German musician, a cornet player in a very fair orchestra, got into trouble quite innocently and unexpectedly. "Let's have that over again," requested the conductor, surprised at hearing a note which was not in the score. The note was sounded again and again.

"What are you playing?" he asked, at last.

"I am playing vat is on ze paper," said the cornet-player. "I blay vat is before me."

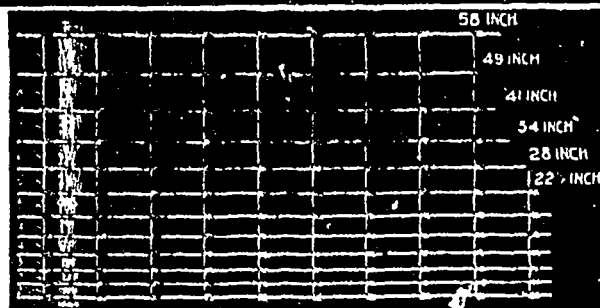
"Let me have a look."

The part was handed to the conductor.

"Why, you idiot," he roared, "can't you see that this is a dead fly?"

"I don't care," was the answer; "he was there, and I blayed him."

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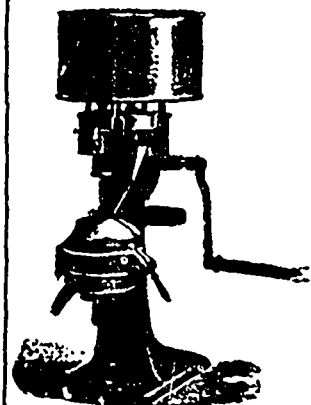
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