



A **N** easy way of removing a ring that has grown too tight for a finger is to thread a needle with thread that is strong but not too coarse. Soap this needle and pass it eye first under the ring on the inside and toward the palm of the hand. Pull the thread through a few inches, and wind the other end of it around the finger toward the nail, and then unwind the end that has been passed under the ring. With this unwinding the ring will come off.

**M**RS. MARY LOWE DICKINSON relates a funny experience of hers of recent date. She was requested to speak before a club upon the subject, "The Influence of Environment Over Heredity." She thought it all over carefully, as to the inner life and as to the outer life, but she felt it all to be a muddle. She picked out such notables as the Emperor of Germany and the Prince of Wales for examples, and in studying them she found the Emperor of Germany with a German father and an English mother, a thorough German, and the Prince of Wales, with an English mother and a German father, all English. She appealed to a man, who told her this story:

"There was once an Irishman, a bog trotter, who lived in a shanty in the mud out in a vacant lot. He was a bog trotter in appearance and in character all his life, never rising above it. But he had a big family of children, all of whom went to the public school, and one, a bright boy, even worked his way through college, and is now a professor of Greek in his alma mater—and his father is still a bog trotter."

And so she gave it up, and changed the subject to something she felt better acquainted with, "The Heart of a Little Child."

**A**MONG the methods employed by carefully groomed women to perfume the coiffure is the thin silk wadded nightcap, which is saturated with sachet powder. Other women slip tiny sachet bags into the pompadour frame.

**T**HE cry is: "Trim it with fur!" no matter what you order—especially opera cloaks. What a craze! What prices. What a bonanza for furriers! Every noted tailor or gown-maker is keeping a natural history museum of skins belonging to furred beasts. The whole skin is the craze.

**W**HEN black lace has lost its freshness, says a woman who looks carefully after the details of her own wardrobe, wash it first in lukewarm water and a little melted soap. Then prepare a deep blue water, and mix with it some gum arabic. The usual proportion is one tablespoonful of gum arabic to a pint of the water. Dip the lace in this mixture, squeeze lightly with the hands, and then pin the lace out on a clean piece of muslin to dry. When nearly dry, iron on the wrong side. Another method is to dip the lace in a mixture of milk and water, squeeze well then iron with a sheet of tissue paper over it. Black veils can be freshened in the same way as black lace.

For washing white lace, prepare some soap lather and half fill a wide-mouthed bottle or jar with it; place the lace in it, and shake well, holding a clean cloth over the mouth of the jar to keep the water from escaping. As the water becomes dirty change it for fresh soapy water. When the lace is clean rinse in clear water, then dip in a mixture of dissolved gum arabic and water in the proportion of one teaspoonful to half a pint, squeeze gently in the hands; pin out on a clean cloth, fastening the plain part of the lace first,

afterward the points. Be careful to make the lace even while wet; then, when nearly dry, iron lightly on the wrong side over a thick ironing blanket or sheet.

Common lace may be washed in lukewarm soap lather by squeezing with the hands, then starched in thin hot-water starch. After starching roll it in a cloth, and when it is nearly dry it may be ironed on the wrong side with a moderately hot iron.

In coloring white or cream laces, if a deep yellow is desired use yellow ochre or coffee. It is best first to test the shade on a small piece of muslin before putting the lace in. When using coffee great care must be taken to see that no grains are allowed to get on the lace, as that would make it spotted. It is a good plan to mix the coloring material with the starch to insure even coloring and yet not take the stiffness out.

**T**HERE is a form of mental exercise in regard to which the outside world hears nothing whatever as to whether or not it is practised among girl students in schools or colleges, and that is debating. At any time an excellent educational force, it is of special moment to the woman sex, now that girls and women are addressing audiences all over the world on subjects that take in the wide range of every human interest. Debating, properly carried on, has the unqualified endorsement of so distinguished an educational leader as President Hadley, of Yale, who urged a body of 200 Yale students, that had assembled in answer to a call to consider this college subject, to give heed not alone to the substance of debate, but to the manner of it as well, the students being advised to deliberately cultivate rhetorical style.

**T**HE queen jewel of the moment is the emerald—not the diamond cut emerald we are most familiar with, but large square-cut stones, green cubes set in diamond frames, for every purpose a stone of such value could be put to. An emerald from India is also high in favor, and newly introduced in elaborate necklaces with separate pendants, having floriated diamond settings. As cabochons of great size, oval and square, as well as in pear-shaped drops, they are exquisitely lovely. In color they are paler than the more precious emerald, and have less brilliancy, but their effect is none the less beautiful and imposing for corsage and neck adornments. Opals from Mexico, colossal in size, but less aflame with vibrating color, are having their success as corsage brooches—heart-shaped, mounted with a rim of large and brilliant diamonds. There is a massiveness about this ornament which suits some tastes far better than more artistic conceptions. The turquoise is still a great favorite, as it must always remain, but it has been so ruthlessly imitated in pinchbeck, that the craze is no longer what it has been. Pearls reign triumphant year after year, being found in greater beauty and size than was thought possible when their modishness was slumbering. Now, one string alone is looked upon as a certificate of social value, and one's rank is determined by the added rows, length of string and the size and lustre of the individual pearls. These stones retain their brightness and color by being constantly worn, it is said; and for that reason has the fashion crept in of wearing one or more strings above the high neck-band of one's gown. Foreign women are never seen without them, night or day.

GERALDINE.

**T**HE Montreal Conservatory of Music will hold its 26th pupil concert at the Conservatory, 938 and 940 Dorchester street, to-morrow (Saturday), at 3 p.m. sharp. A lengthy and interesting programme has been prepared.

**M**R. AND MRS. FRANK W. NEWMAN sailed by the St. Louis, on Saturday last, for the South of France, owing to Mr. Newman's continued ill-health.