



THE DRESSING TABLE

Edited by MARIE

WITH the approach of Christmas, one's thoughts turn naturally to the dressing-table gifts which nearly every woman profoundly desires. There was a time when it was considered hardly "correct" to bestow presents of perfume, soap or other dainty necessities of the dressing-table. These have become so excellent in quality and attractive in appearance and wrappings that a woman may regard them as almost impersonal in meaning. However, there are some persons who are yet very sensitive on the subject. Hence, it would be just as well to ascertain beforehand whether a box of soap or perfume would be acceptable to relative or near friend. Above all things, avoid anything cheap or highly-perfumed. It would be better to spend less than a quarter on a pretty card or book-mark than to send a commonplace or tawdry article, such as those referred to. There are quite reliable and attractive toilet articles in powder-boxes, soap or sachet bags for fifty cents or under, which ought to appeal to the fair recipient.

Sometimes there is a home-made recipe in the family which provides one with the means for manufacturing welcome little gifts. I know a resourceful woman, the wife of a doctor who sent half-a-dozen girl friends the daintiest white jars containing a rose-colored lip-salve. Pretty labels with gilt lettering, "Creme Rose" and each girl's initials, were pasted on, and when tied with rose-hued baby ribbon each jar made a gift worthy of any girl's liking. The salve was so healing and beautifying that the giver was besieged with appeals to divulge the secret of the recipe; but it has remained unknown to this very day. Yet each girl receives a box on Christmas morning and knows what a reliable "giftlet" awaits her.

A good brush and comb are always welcome, but the quality of the brush or bristles should not be sacrificed to a fancy "back." In these days of barrettes and other hair ornaments, it is easy to find at the hairdresser's, a pretty trifle which will add to feminine pleasure. Then, there is a variety of jars and powder-boxes of all kinds, from the tiny jar for salve to the imposing powder-box. Cut glass with silver top is the favorite style; but some of the prettiest powder-boxes come in china with a Dresden design. Ornate silver colors are not considered in good taste. A plain silver top with engraved initial or monogram is the most suitable and satisfactory. Nearly every girl likes the tiny "vanity box," which fits into the corner of a shopping bag and holds a fairy puff with just the requisite sprinkling of powder to remove the "shine" from nose or cheeks. These boxes come in silver and porcelain, the latter prettily decorated with painting of marchioness or shepherdess, and are welcomed by any dainty dame.

Of sachet bags there is no end at this season. Do not buy cheap sachet, as its fragrance lasts for such a short time. You may make any number of pretty bags at this time out of the wide Dresden ribbon, in which there are so many bargains during the month before Christmas. The "softer" odors are more pleasant and lasting than the heavy, and you can hardly make a mistake with violet, crab-apple, amber, or lily-of-the-valley. Then there is the perfumed "hanger," which makes a highly-valued feature of the modern wardrobe. It is absolutely essential that the modern woman should have several of these hangers, in order that gowns and coats should preserve their correct lines. Then the uncovered wires are likely to leave an ugly mark; so, there is nothing for it, but to wind scented wadding around them, cover it with silk or ribbon and—behold, there is a perfumed hanger which will impart to gown or cloak just a subtle hint of flowers, which will satisfy the fastidious wearer.

CUCUMBER juice is obtained by slowly boiling the thinly-sliced vegetables, skin and all, in a small quantity of water until they are of mushy consistency. Strain first through a fine sieve, then through a piece of muslin. Of this liquid take 10 ounces; essence of cucumber, 3 ounces; oil of sweet almonds,

4 ounces; powdered white Castile soap, 1/4 ounce, and two-thirds of a drachm (teaspoonful) of tincture of benzoin. Into a large glass bottle containing the essence drop the powdered soap. Shake often and vigorously. When the soap is dissolved it is time to add the fresh cucumber juice. After a thorough mixing the liquid is poured into a china bowl so that the oil and benzoin may be conveniently added. During this process the whole is constantly stirred until the mixture resembles cream.

FRENCH women know full well how to keep dry hair clean and sweet without constant use of the shampoo. They manage this by careful brushing. The entire scalp is gone over, a small strand of hair being taken at a time. A series of clean brushes is necessary for the process. Sometimes a cornmeal shampoo precedes the brushing. Fine cornmeal—ground much finer than that used for cooking—is mixed with a little pulverised orris-root. The powder is scattered well over scalp and through the hair allowed to remain a few minutes, and is then thoroughly brushed out. The final color of the cornmeal will prove to you its efficacy as a cleanser.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

L. M. G.—We notice what you say with regard to the effects of the preparation recommended. Would not its continued use be a benefit, even if it were necessary to repeat? I have no personal knowledge of its benefits, but, judging from what you say, it has already done you good. In some cases of such trouble as yours, where the affliction is of long standing, it is advisable to consult a professional dermatologist.

FREDA.—Violet or lavender sachet is very pleasing. My own preference is for a subtle odor like amber, but I could hardly advise you without more about your personal tastes. In answer to your second question, I should advise deep breathing exercise and regular exercise for at least fifteen minutes a day in extending the arms, level with the shoulders as the breath is inhaled, then slowly exhaling as the arms are lowered. Patience and practice are needed before any improvement may be expected. Your third question is rather indefinite, as the term is applied to two different objects. A florist's shop would supply you with it.

MARGARET.—So, you are anxious to have rosy cheeks—and another girl correspondent has just been complaining of blushing easily and has asked us to recommend something which will cure her of the blushing habit. Perhaps you are anaemic, Margaret, in which case you had better consult your physician, and get a good tonic. Also, try a brisk walk daily and avoid sweets. Perhaps you are naturally pale. You see, your name may have something to do with it. Tennyson writes about a "rare, pale Margaret." Of course, you are aware that the name means a pearl or a daisy, and the fairies who danced at your christening may have decreed that you are to have "white roses in the place of the red." Try ordinary means, such as exercise or diet, if you so desire, but don't resort to artificial coloring—for that is nearly always tawdry and obvious.

Dress Shield Hints

MANY women have had difficulty in fastening dress shields in a blouse with kimono sleeves. One woman has found a clever solution to the task. She has a bolero of very thin lawn. On the washable shields she sews narrow elastic for shoulder straps; then she sews the shields into the bolero, stitching them in place along the line of stitching on the shield binding. Next the material under the shield is cut out and the neck line of the bolero is cut down both back and front; the front of the bolero is fastened with tapes. This bolero is easily laundered and may be worn time and again with different blouses.



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