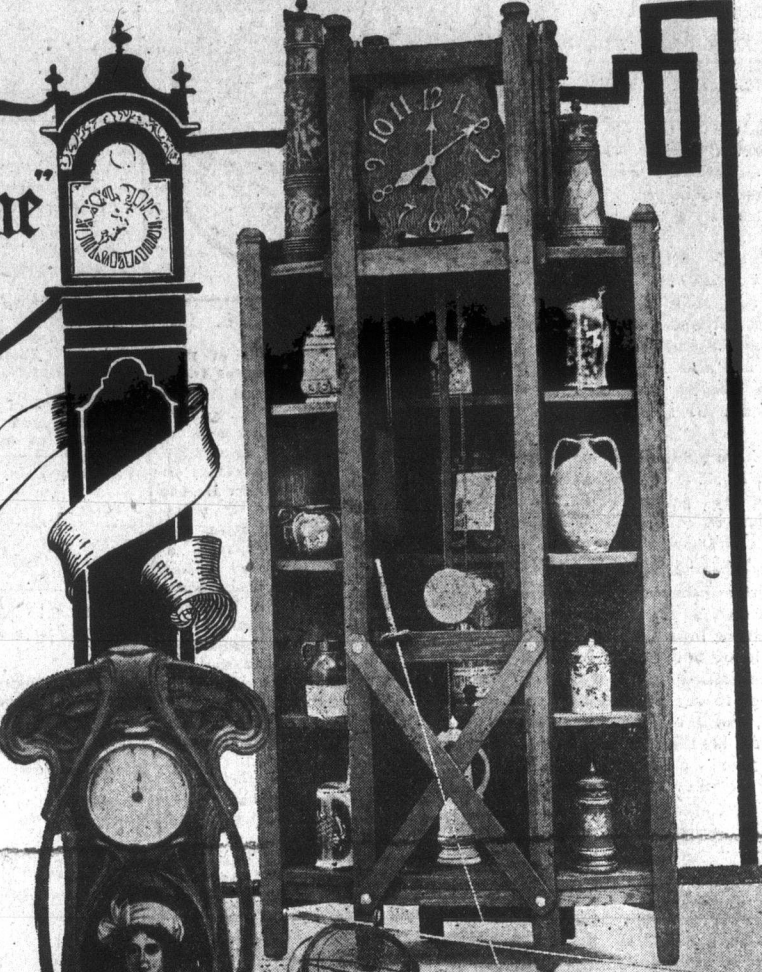


For Every Woman According to Her Needs



SINCE Alfred the Great divided time into periods eminently to his liking by means of a series of wax candles, clocks have developed into wonderful affairs that grow more wonderful with each year. Not more wonderful for nothing could be put together in a more complicated way than some of the famous old clocks, like the Strasbourg clock, for instance, which, although the machinery was most delicate in construction, was finished by a blind man (the maker himself, whose sight had given out), but whose delicacy of touch accomplished the apparently impossible. Clocks have fashions, like everything else at the present.

But there never were such wonderful crystal clocks before. Some of them are almost severe in their beauty, the exquisite clearness of the crystal being the only ornament; and some of them are enamelled, in patterns like mosaics, with every color of the rainbow, and all sorts of black and white to throw the figures into sharper contrast. Almost all of them have brass mountings, which set them off still more.

There's variety even in the enameling, for some are enamelled with quaint little columns in a winding pattern; and others have the open "floor" of colors clock set in regular patterns of colors like miniature tiling; and still others are more ornate, and use enamel as jewelry.

Here and there you see a crystal clock with the dial set high and the lower part of just the clear, beautiful crystal; it runs with a spring, instead of a pendulum, ten times over.

Even pendulums vary, the most crystal of all crystal clocks having a pendulum—crystal, too, but curiously cut, from which some famous old-time beauty smiles at you perpetually, and glows with the soft pale colors so exquisite when ivory is the background.

The queerest idea of all is a brass pendulum, moulded, of course, to look like the sun, with the funniest rays in the world sticking out around a beaming face.

There are round and square and oddly shaped crystal clocks, with an occasional one patterned after the clock that perhaps the very beauty miniaturized told time by.

Colonial clocks are coming in style again rapidly, and make mighty attractive mantel clocks for library or sitting. Most of them are made of mahogany, which seems to carry out the idea of the style better than any other wood. Some are inlaid with a lighter wood—the merest tracery of line, though. "Grandfather's clocks" have a place in the home of everybody who can afford it. It's a lot nicer, of course, to have had some ancestor look out that should come to you; but if he hasn't, there are some very dignified ones to be had, and some which serve double purposes.

Mission ideas have invaded clocks, naturally enough, and some unusual ideas have found expression, such as a hall clock with a lot of little brackets for the vases and bits of bric-a-brac every housemother owns. Or, perhaps, the lower part does duty as a little chest.

But mission clocks are only good where the hall is distinctively mission all the way through. And the plainer, simpler styles of making are always best.

The chimes ring out, you close your eyes for a moment and slip away in fancy to some dim old cathedral. You open them, your cathedral vanishes, but you're standing before a hall clock.

There's another invalid clock, with a tiny electric bulb, which flashes its light directly on the face of the clock when you press a little bulb attached to a long rubber tubing.

Automobile and driving clocks have the French people at it; of screwing on, so that the clock has to be unscrewed. It's a way of getting around the stealing of dashboard clocks, which has flourished so freely that one man dryly remarked that it cost him a clock for each trip.

Traveling clocks that strike the hour (and half and quarters), and repeat as often as you press a certain spring, come in a hundred styles, the prettiest of them all looking like a small leather miniature case, with the clock set in like a miniature, and made to prop itself up against the sides or fold up into the smallest possible space.

And the silver clocks to go with the silver set on her bureau, and the chess chess stands time each other's moves and make the other fellow get through his turn in three minutes; and the old-fashioned Swiss clocks, with cuckoos calling the hour; and the clocks that show the lunar months, and those that keep tabs on the very days of the week—there are dozens of kinds for dozens of uses, a new clock (or a new use) cropping up every day.

"How do you take care of a clock?" a practical clock man was asked. His answer was graphic: "Don't! Half the trouble with clocks comes from their being tinkered at by well-meaning amateurs. Keep them wound regularly and then let them alone. If something goes wrong, take them to clock specialists—it's a long way cheaper in the end."

Choose Thine Own Time

A stem-winding clock

A colonial clock of mahogany

Clocks should be wound regularly

For a dressing table

Comfort for the Hands

With a cellarette for base

built on simple, dignified lines; and, if you've got to be reminded of the hours slipping away so irrevocably, it's mighty pleasant to be told so in tones "so mystically, musically mellow."

Clock makers match woods, now—

OLD AND NEW MAY DAYS

MAY DAY is one of the prettiest times in all the year to give a child's party; for the day itself, in "Merrie England," a few hundred years ago was the most popular of all with lads and lassies.

There were no lagging or that morn'g in those days, but through the villages hurried those earliest up, waking the rest with glad shouts and calls to "hurry up." And the others sprang up, dressing in their prettiest for this first May party.

Then off to the woods, to gather May blossoms, and then stringing them in garlands and bunches, and most difficult of all—only to be entrusted to the dearest flower-arranger in the party, crown for the prettiest girl in the party.

to be crowned Queen of the May.

Then the crowning, and the picnicking, and the trooping home in the evening, tired and happy, and laden with flowers, which they shared with all the village.

And a pretty custom sprang from it of parties scouring the woods for blossoms the last of April, and then up early on May morning, running around from door to door, leaving posies to be found by the person who opened the door first.

hurried the lads and lassies, perhaps hiding (if the recipient was especially dear) to see the look of delight with which the flowers were received.

Children love to have the form of posies, so why not have a May Day picnic? having the flower frolics and the crownings, and all the other jolly customs; going a step further, perhaps, and having a costume picnic, which the May Day procession, which older people indulged in—where Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Friar Tuck and the rest of the merry outlaw crew held sport.

But, if you do, stipulate that the costumes shall be of cheap materials, so that the youngsters may romp to their hearts' content, without thought or care for damage.

Flower games of all sorts should be arranged for, and a picnic basket, of course, and the largest bunch, or the most artistic bunch, or who finds the first of a certain flower—the contest announced, of course, before the starting out on the flower hunt.

If the weather is damp or cool, too much so to permit of the outdoor luncheon, bring the youngsters and their gear back to the house after a long morning, have luncheon and let flower games finish the afternoon.

For the luncheon, the dining room may be arranged in picnic fashion. The table should be removed and flowers and greens put around in a great profusion as possible. Mats or straw cushions might be dropped at intervals here and there, instead of chairs, and the picnic side of things emphasized as much as possible.

Fortune-telling games are popular, and by the way, May day used to be a great time for the telling of fortunes. Drop the white of an egg in a glass of water, and watch the form it takes; it will be emblematic of your future husband's business—so said the old wise-women. In fact, most of the charms worn on May Day. There's sure to be some one in the party who can interpret them, and take care that the interpretations are favorable.

The charms are only for the fun of the thing, and should be treated so, no matter how many older girls and boys are included. When charms cease to be fun, and are taken seriously, superstition steps in.

Have them, by all means, if the children are as old as 12 or 14; but treat them as the nonsense they are.

WORKING FRENCH IDEAS INTO YOUR LINGERIE

WITH all the wonderful French ideas for inspiration, and a very pretty knack of hand, and of creating ideas radically different, yet as lovely as the French, the girl of today turns out some exquisite bits of lingerie.

It is no longer the fashion to do needlework, and the wonderful work we hear of our grandmothers doing is no whit more perfectly executed than our own.

It is one of those curious freaks of fashion that in a strenuous age, where women spend their time grappling with great problems, work in offices, teach or study, constantly striving for development and the power to do things, needlework should be taken up in a passion of relaxation.

Polled seams, delicate veining put in so well that the seam is lost, and the piece seems put together in some miraculous way; embroidery that is like a bit of engraving, so delicately is it designed and executed, and the tiniest of baby bairn stitchings—these are some of the characteristics of the work.

The chemise and corset cover pictured are designed especially to show the prettiest way of using the little bell-shaped medallions of embroidery so popular this year.

A trick worth knowing is that some of the allover embroideries are made up of figures in just this shape, which can be cut apart, if they are to be set in a material, or edged with lace; and, of course, they're not cheaper that way. Some of them are even defined by a little line like beading, and can be cut out close to this line and whipped to the lace.

The Swiss embroidery should be chosen for the chemise and corset cover in three pieces and the chemise with the fullness taken out by a box pleat, finished with beading like the rest.

Both long and short petticoats could be included in the set.

The simplest fashion of all for these hand-made things, and by the way, every stitch should be taken by hand, is the plain little scalloped edge, finished with a narrow strip of lace insertion, perhaps joined onto the rest by the narrowest of bindings. This, in turn, is finished with an edge of lace, and ribbon draws the cover, or chemise, up into place.

The idea might be carried out through the corset cover in three pieces and the chemise with the fullness taken out by a box pleat, finished with beading like the rest.

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Furnishings for the Boudoir Desk

ADESK SET, made all of the clearest crystal, set off by the merest touch of silver, is the most stunning thing for desks that has yet come out.

Everything that is used about a desk is represented—almost too many things for the average woman to spare room for, with her stationery and her bridge scores and the thousand and one things that make a desk a torment and a delight at the same time. The ink-well is a joy, if she writes a great deal, for the great square block of crystal has a comfortably large well, instead of the miserable little hollows found in so many of the cut-glass ink-wells that let the ink dry out constantly.

Besides the ink-well, there's a pen-tray and a mullage pot, a roll blotter (it's a beauty), a candlestick—as severe as a thing can be—and as rich—even the penholder and the letterholder are made of it, and the ink-scraper, of course.

With a mahogany desk the set is shown off at its prettiest; but it's mighty good looking with any wood.

Most of the new desk fixings are the plainer sort of things—the fancier styles are almost impossible to keep clean. And plain things, where they are made of stunning materials, are richer than any of the others.

Couch Covers

TO THE woman who stays in town most of the summer, linen (or cotton) furniture coverings are almost necessary.

Where money doesn't have to be considered, linen is much better; that is, wears better and is cooler than cotton. But cotton coverings come, too, which wear better and look almost as well.

Couch covers are especially easy to adjust, unlike chairs and other furniture, which have to have the covers cut and fitted to them. But the couch covers are just straight, wide things with fringe to them, which are thrown straight down around the sides.

Slips come for the pillows of linen or cotton material to make so that the whole couch can be turned into a cool, comfortable thing without the worry of working over it.

Old Easter Beliefs

AN OLD belief which prevailed over almost the whole continent of Europe, in Catholic countries, at least, was the silencing of the bells from Good Friday until Easter. No bells were rung during the three days, except for tolling, the reason given being that all the bells were away, at Rome, learning a message for Easter.

The "Easter Bunny" is a hare, which drew the chariot of the goddess of Spring; and was turned into a hare, every year, as the anniversary of her coming rolls around, the hare remembers, and in remembrance of the original bird nature, lays the eggs as an offering to Spring, and to Youth, which she symbolizes.

It was considered bad luck not to wear something new on Easter Day, as the rhyme from "Poor Richard's Almanack" bears witness:

"On Easter see your clothes be new, Or else be sure you'll rue."

Among the many charms tried by young girls to win lovers and husbands, none has been more popular than the wearing of the yellow garter. It should always be the round garter, and the shape of the wedding ring; and the shape, of course, must carry out the idea.

The garter must be given you by your dearest married friend—a bride, if possible, and should be worn (so successful weavers say) night and day upon the left leg for a year. Inside of the year it will bring a lover, who will become a husband within three years.