

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE HOME JOURNAL.

SIR—As I feel sure you are a practical admirer of the old saying, "Fair play's a jewel," I hope you will allow me room in your paper for an extension of the third division of Pere Grinator's remarks in issue of HOME JOURNAL, 9th inst. I shall commence my "extension" in the rather Irish way of eliminating the word "Chinese" from the division in question: Then the remarks would be most true, as far as the hideous nuisance of peddlers go.

For years, my life has been rendered a burden to me, by these peddlers, from whom I have never bought anything in my life; and, still they come; persistent, intrusive, annoying and disturbing hardened sinners they are; for, no matter how curt the "No thank you, don't want anything," may be, most likely the next week they pop up again, just as bad as ever. There are, at least, six white peddlers to every Chinese one who come to this house, and you have only to wave your hand or shake your head at the inoffensive quiet Chinaman, and off he goes; not so with the white people. Some of them put a foot inside the hall door, and so prevent your shutting it, whilst they descant by the yard on the merits of the particular thing they want to sell.

First on the list come the tea men; their name is legion, (why can't people buy their tea at the office or shop, as we do?) Then, the sewing machine men, who for many many years, I have informed that I have a sewing machine, and don't require another; I hope it will not be numbered amongst my sins that I refrain from adding—"and it won't work properly, and it is up in the attic." Then comes the oldish man with tapes and cottens, and the small boy with lucifer matches, and the little girl with Sunday School treat-tickets. Then there is the picture man, with the gaudily framed, smirking face of some local celebrity; he is followed by a stereoscope man with photographic views; he is generally a fiend—pushing—full of words and with an easy familiarity of address that makes you wish vaguely that you knew how to use a revolver. Then comes a Greek woman, swarthy and insolent, with her covered basket of heaven knows what goods; then often in summer and autumn demands fruit from you, and like a weak fool, being afraid of the hidden and ready knife, you give it to the creature in order to get her away. Then there is the patent man, with a twisted piece of tin, which he calls a sink-strainer, or shelves to fasten to the stove-pipe, or anything else, and last and worst of all comes the book agent. The men are generally quiet and curt, but the women are dreadful inventions! A female book agent has been always my idea of what a "Woman's Rights Woman" really is. Hard featured, big-boned, aggressive, noisy talker and objectionable all through, and these peddlers add to all their evil qualities, yet one more: they generally come about 10 or 11 in the forenoon, when one is wildly busy, and painfully conscious of looking exactly like Slavey in "Our Boys;" off you have to go to answer the door, and so lose some precious moments, and add to the day's work. I think sir, you must

The following is a summary of the customs returns for the four ports of the Province of British Columbia for the month of April, 1894:

B. C. CUSTOMS RETURNS.

IMPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTM'N	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Dutiable Goods.....	\$140,238 00	\$ 68,362 00	\$ 31,550 00	\$ 15,581 00	\$255,731 00
Free Goods.....	116,776 00	68,069 00	13,958 00	1,908 00	200,711 00
Total Imports.....	\$257,014 00	\$136,431 00	\$ 45,517 00	\$ 16,849 00	\$445,811 00

REVENUE.

Duty Collected.....	\$ 45,981 75	\$ 22,578 89	\$ 9,595 35	\$ 4,758 44	\$ 82,914 43
Other Revenue.....	7,475 61	8,548 16	162 49	863 20	16,999 46
Total Collections.....	\$ 53,457 36	\$ 31,127 05	\$ 9,757 84	\$ 5,621 64	\$ 99,963 29

EXPORTS.

The Mine.....	\$ 25,538 00	\$ 10,000 00	\$ 23,372 00	\$200,531 00	\$322,441 00
The Fisheries.....	21,200 00	1,226 00	9,881 00		32,307 00
The Forest.....	2,074 00	35,081 00	678 00		37,833 00
Animals and their produce.....	23,897 00	1,804 00	454 00		26,155 00
Agricultural.....	8 00	94 00	4 00		106 00
Manufactures.....	8,456 00	1,875 00	980 00		11,311 00
Miscellaneous.....	4,089 00	750 00			4,839 00
Total Exports.....	\$ 85,260 00	\$ 50,830 00	\$ 35,340 00	\$200,531 00	\$472,391 00

* \$2,280 gold coin, \$229 silver coin.

now frankly acknowledge that it is not the Chinese but the white peddlers who "are a worry and a nuisance to householders." Apologizing for the length of my remarks,

I am yours faithfully,

JAM.

Cradles have gone out of date for babies, whose little brains are injured, we are told, by the rocking motion. Whether this is so or not, certainly no one need long for the pretty swaying arks of earlier days who sees the lovely beds provided for the infant of 1894.

One is like a great basket mounted on cross-legs of wickerwork. At the head there is a sort of tripod which supports a canopy that does not come over the crib at all, but merely falls to the floor in tied-back curtains much like those at a draped dressing table. The body of the little bed is entirely covered with three rows of broad lace sewed to a lining that is fitted over the wickerwork. There are bows of white ribbon at the lower corners.

The cooking of vegetables is an art of no mean pretensions, requiring, like other cooking, close attention. All kinds of green vegetables need to be examined with care before washing, to see that nothing lurks underneath the leaves. Lettuce, spinach and cauliflower need to be washed in several waters and left in cold water a few moments before draining.

The comfort and daintiness of white and colored skirt waists cannot be denied, and since their earliest vogue, after improvements in shape and style, nearly all women have become converts to their utility. The new "tailor-made" waist has a slightly starched shield front, collar and cuffs, the plain flat shield ornamented with a fine vine embroidery. It comes in pink, cream and blue linen, in single colors in chambray and gingham, and in combination of dainty cotton fabrics, and is to be worn with and without an outside jacket.

Gowns which always look well are

tailor-made tweeds when not in too large a check. The basques of all these cut very full and rather short this season. It would not be impossible, by the aid of a clever maid, to make a last year's dress, if fresh and pretty, quite up to date by adding a very full, short, bias basque of moire, with full collar and perhaps, reverse to match. This material is so universally used as a trimming, that it has become almost a living part of well-dressed women. Perhaps the reign will soon be over, chiefly in consequence of this egregious popularity. One sees such dreadful sleeves made of the cheap sorts, and looking haggardly depressed, crushed and broken down. Why have moire at all, unless one has it of the best? It is not exactly a necessity of existence.

Soiled black garments may be cleaned by sponging with clear black coffee, with an equal quantity of water added and a teaspoonful each of ammonia and alcohol for each pint. A silk dress should always be brushed with a very soft camel hair brush. Whisk brooms are too harsh and cut the silk.

Do not blacken your eyebrows, rub them gently with a little cocoa butter, both morning and evening; this will darken them and improve their growth. You may color the lips by rubbing them gently with a little beet root juice. A very little is needed. Some ladies prefer a drop of eau de Cologne when this is on the lips, touch them again with a little milk or cream.

A hat for a little tot of from four to eight years is a combination of straw and pink gauze. It has a low round crown and a very wide brim in front slightly scooped shaped and narrowing to nothing in the back. The trimming is pink gauze, pink rosebuds, and pink ostrich feathers. The gauze is let into the straw in such a way that it is hard to say if the hat is straw or gauze, or straw and gauze. Either way it is very dainty and sweet, and when it is tied under its owner's dimpled chin by fancy pink ribbons, one can fancy the little tot will be utterly charming.