Simple Suggestions For Increasing the Longevity of the Wardrobe

By Helen Bruckius

Flour Sack Gowns An Economy?

A SEQUENCE of leaves to form a costume—there's nothing breath-taking about that. Eve sponsored the idea, and we accept it as the mode of that time, thinking it not unusual because they were spinning-wheel-less days.

A mesh work of grasses to clothe the shipwrecked Pauline in one of her Perils!'' It doesn't even cause a stir among the movie fans with mid-Victorian minds. But when we are confronted by the statement that one's washed out, re-dyed, flour sacks make modish smart frocks, we are apt to show our incredulity with a disbelieving giggle, and shades of Aladdin! Why shouldn't we?

''Faith'' may be the ''evidence of things not seen,'' but it requires something more than that estimable quality to credit the idea with practicability. Here-to-fore, if we were able to point to our casement windows where rather smart stenciled wash curtains flirted with the sun and say to our neighbour, ''They cost me exactly twenty-five cents, my dear, the price of the dye to stencil them. You'll never guess what they are made out of—sh! don't whisper it to a soul—flour sacks!'' we felt so clever. Or if we possessed a particularly absorbent dustcloth mayhap a dishcloth, stitched and restitched from corner to corner and prided ourselves on the fact that their cost was nil, because we utilized our empty flour and sugar bags, we mentally scored another utilitarian triumph. But we ask you dear readers in all earnestness, and we hereby solicit your candid experienced opinion, do you think it wisdom to put one's perfectly valuable time and patience into the task of ripping, washing, dying, cutting, sewing and perhaps embroidering or beading flour sacks into the semblance of a dress in the name of economy?

For four or more years we have been literally fed on make-over methods. We have put into practice some of the practical hints, viz.—turning inside out our all wool blue serge suits and dresses, using a passè pongee or foulard dress to re-line our two-year-old suit-jacket or top-coat; making father's silk and wool, worn-at-the-neckband-and-cuffs shirts into little school dresses for dainty Dorothy, or in our extremity fashioning a very sensible apron from the tail of that shirt; cutting the best out of big brother's ''civie'' ulster to make Johnny a school coat, or any of the following utilitarian ideas, but we have yet to advocate the flour sack dress as an economy.

The ideas described on this page are contributions from some of our interested subscribers, to whom we express a vote of thanks.—The Editor.

Reclaiming The White Elephant

Wool Reconstruction On A Practical Basis

Making Use of a White Elephant

ALMOST every family cupboard contains a white elephant. Mine, took the guise of an old-fashioned, many gored, dark blue broadcloth coat. It gave no promise of ever coming into style again, and because of its many gores, there was little possibility of ever making it over into something modish for myself. My young daughter of ten years was in need of a warm school dress, however, and, as the material in the coat was of excellent quality, having been bought many years before the war, I considered myself fortunate to have a ''white elephant.'' After having ripped apart the many seams, and cleaning and pressing them, I recut them into a little pleated dress which hung from a yoke, to fit my daughter. By way of making it a little distinctive, black braid was introduced on the belt and at the hem of the skirt between the box pleats (above).—Mrs. W.

A New Lease of Life for Faded Ties

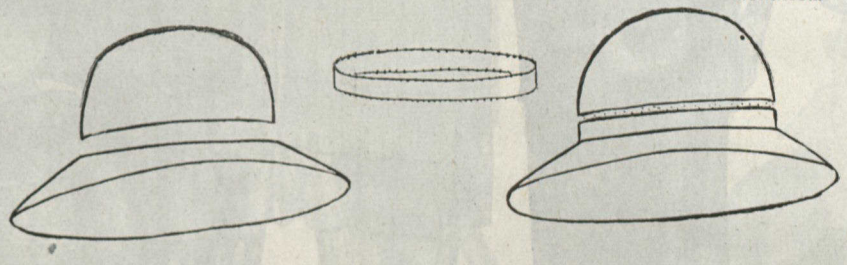
TO give a new lease of life to men's faded and soiled ties (they are no use as they are) wash gently, even tenderly and dip them into a small basin of purple dye or any other dark colour that suits the fancy. They must not be boiled or left in the dye too long as silk takes the dye quickly, but rinse well and press when almost dry, using a cloth between the iron and silk. This simple process makes them look quite new, especially ties of two colours. Half a package of dye will do for a dozen ties.—Mrs. E. Conomy.

Father's Suit Meets Daughter's Needs

ONE mother of my acquaintance made this smart little dress (right) for her eight-year-old daughter from a coat and vest belonging to the child's father. The trousers had met with some disaster—perhaps a nail in the fence, perhaps a burglar had ''borrowed'' them—while the upper garments were practically new and of wonderful material. The sleeves of the dress were cut from the sleeves of the coat, each in two pieces. The dress was made slightly narrower than the pattern, from necessity but it was a complete success. It was brightened by a shining leather belt and by a sizable round, white pique collar. Two of these collars were made in one afternoon by marking scallops with a thimble and pencil and two strands of cotton in the embroidery needle. With two collars the child need never wear one that is not fresh and dainty.

False Hair Again!

WHEN your switch is a poor match (false hair is coming in again) pin the top of it flat against the very crown of the head then fold your own hair over and around it, twisting it into one large coil. The mount of the switch will be completely covered and the strands of it will be mingled with the natural hair.



Cutting Our Crowns For Vogue's Sake

Father's Suit Meets Daughter's Needs

A New Role For Old Trousers

New Sweaters From Old

WHILE making a spring inventory of my wardrobe, my worn out knitted woollen sweater was one of the problems that confronted me. Realizing the prevalent price of wool, I was in a quandary what might be done with mine other than discarding it completely. It was badly worn and raveled at the elbows and pockets, so I cut out the sleeves and bottom of garment to just above the pockets and also removed the shawl collar. The two good tops of the sleeves I cut open and joined together and used this piece to line the back of the sweater, thus making it doubly warm. Around the neck, sleeves, fronts and bottom of garment, I crocheted a black edge. The sweater being a cardinal red, this contrast was most pleasing. The shawl collar made an excellent stove polisher, for as every house wife knows there is nothing like woollen goods for raising that extra gloss on stoves. The old lower portions of the sweater were used in my mop, saving just enough to make a pocket for the left hand side. For cool days in the house or for wear under one's suit coat, this sleeveless sweater (left) is indispensable.

Directions for Making Crochet Edge used on Sweater

CAST on eight or ten double, trebles (to suit desire of crocheter) in the same hole, chaining four to form picot on every double, treble and repeat.—Mrs. J. A. D.

Adjustable Cuffs and Collars

CUFF and collar sets for grown-ups may be fitted with snappers so that a dress can be quickly transformed by unsnapping, say, a plaid silk set, and snapping on sheer organdy cuffs and collar in a trice.—S. Weaver.

A NEW use has been discovered for the old-fashioned sailor collar of white organdy or Georgette crepe. It will be found very helpful to many wearers of fine blouses that are worn down the front from removing one's breast pin repeatedly. Reverse the old square collar, so that it forms a bib effect over the front of the blouse, thus hiding the worn places. It will meet at the back, where just enough of the white collar will be shown to be smart. It may be necessary to cut out the collar in the front to follow the neck line of the blouse. A bias bind around this neck line will keep the collar in good shape when being laundered.

Hats

THE crown of a hat may be lowered by simply cutting out a portion, near the brim, and sewing or stitching on the machine the raw edges together. Crown trimming of any description may be artfully used to cover this work.

A crown may be made higher by cutting it in two—also near the brim—and inserting a band of heavy buckram. Trimming will also serve to disguise the ''patch'' as indicated to left.

Preserve Your Shoes

VARNISH with shellac or ordinary varnish the soles and heels of new shoes and they will wear much longer than usual—deferring that inevitable visit to the cobbler's.

Sanitary Ever-ready Sweeping Cap

A MAN'S handkerchief, white, khaki or coloured, knotted at the four corners is very neat and smart and may be easily laundered when soiled with the dust and dirt of housecleaning.

A New Role for Old Trousers

THAT made-over garments can be quite as chic and up-to-date as bran new raiment goes without saying. I saw a dainty dress for a six-year-old girl made of white duck, scalloped around the edges of the skirt, sleeves and neck with old rose, washable embroidery floss. This fetching little frock (left) was fashioned from a pair of cast-off white trousers donated by the child's uncle.—Mrs. S. W.

WHEN sending in queries for re-modelling garments, please state clearly the size of the gown, blouse or wrap, etc., you wish to make over and if possible enclose a rough sketch of same in its present state. Also the kind and quantity of other material you may have on hand to combine with the garment to be made over. Perchance it is another skirt, a blouse, a coat, or a remnant of new material. Address all communications to "Fashion Editor," Make Over Dept.