

Examine the two trees two or three weeks later, and you will find that one trunk contains far more water than the other. One tree was sucked dry by the leaves, the other was trimmed of leaves and no pumps were at work to drain the trunk dry. When clover hay is spread out to the sun as I have stated, the leaves which contain these little pumps are put out of action, because they are shriveled and dried up, and cannot do their duty. If soon after cutting the clover is piled in fair sized cocks, and left fairly open to the wind, the leaves remain green and strong, and the work of pumping the stems goes on until the whole plant is dried out."

"What is the best way, then, to cure clover hay?"

"It is not my business to tell you that. All I can give is the 'philosophy' of the matter, as you call it, and this may be summed up in a few words: *Let the plant dry itself.* Handle the hay so that the leaves will remain green as long as possible. The perfect leaves will suck the plant dry much faster than the wind or the sun could ever do it. The best clover hay will always be made in the shade. Most of the older men remember on the old farm, how mother used to bleach cotton cloth, by taking it out on grass and leaving it exposed to the sun. That took the color out of the cloth, and if a farmer wants to take the color out of his hay, he should leave it flat on the ground, and exposed as long as possible to the direct rays of the sun. There is no reason, however, why this should be done, for the green color of grass is standard, as much as the yellow color of butter. —*Rural New Yorker.*

Household Matters.

(CONDUCTED BY MRS. JENNER FUST).

Reform of an absurdity must be good, and when it is worked for the good of the community at large must indeed be a blessing.

A slow but sure warfare has been quietly carried on for some time, as to the absurd fashion of people covering themselves with black on the loss of a friend or relative.

It is often worn as a mark of respect for the living, also to show in what esteem they held the departed one, and in such a case can be worn or not at the option of the wearer.

This what one might call duty-mourning.

The real trial comes to those people who wear and groan under the burden on a hot summer day. Widows, for instance, who think they are obliged to wear a certain number of inches of crêpe on their skirts for one year after the death of a husband. I was told by one of these good people, how thankful she should be when the year ended, and she could have some of the burden cut off, and I could not help thinking at the time how very little real mourning there was in this case.

However, the wearing of crêpe has almost gone out of fashion, and the sooner the heavy black follows suit the better. Why cannot people wear a sensible light material such as I saw a very nice young person wearing the other day, who had only lost her mother a few months, she had been a most devoted daughter to an invalid mother for many years. I feel certain she was much too unselfish to mourn in black for one whom she had watched suffer for many years.

Then this going into deep mourning often involves a debt at the store by those of limited means which is a constant worry to them till the debt is paid.

In case I should be called unfeeling, I may say since writing the above I have heard of the death of a dear and valued relative.

I shall not mourn her loss in outward appearance, but my heart will be as sore as if I cumbered myself with the deepest black.

I have expressed my feelings, at least as I look at the matter, through

MY SPECTACLES.

BICYCLING DRESS.

Although bicycling may not be so fashionable as it was a few years ago, when the craze for the exercise began, still almost everybody rides, and it is as necessary to have a bicycle costume as to have correct golf clothes. There is not a great deal of difference this year in the costumes that are worn for bicycling and for golf, excepting that the skirt of the golf costume is generally longer; but women are now riding the wheel in longer skirts than formerly, so that the same skirt will do for both. One of the newest styles is a gown of cover-cloth trimmed with stitched bands of the same material, and made with a most fascinating jacket, belted in at the back. The new cycling hat is one of the new white crin or heavy linen,