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Mother's Column

SEWING-ROOM SUGGESTIONS

The following method of "hanging" a skirt is one used by some of the best tailors, and can easily be practised by the home dressmaker. Slip the skirt on and pin carefully at the waist line; then place the yardstick against the dress, with the end resting firmly on the floor, and place a pin or chalk-mark where the other end of the stick touches the skirt at the hips. Repeat this process round the skirt—being careful always to have the end of the stick resting on the floor—until a row of pins or a chalk-mark encircles the hips of the skirt. If it is desired to have the skirt two inches from the floor, measure thirty-four inches from the line of pins or chalk-marks and turn the hem at that point. By following this method it is impossible to have a poorly hung skirt.

Strong tapes stretched along the wall of the sewing-room from convenient points, say from the door-frames to the window-frames, will be found a great convenience. Paper patterns and parts of garments may be pinned to the tapes, and one may be sure of finding them when needed.

When making buttonholes in a lace or net waist one finds the need of a solid background upon which to work. This may be obtained by firmly basting a piece of cotton or silk on the wrong side of the lace where the buttonhole is to be made. After the buttonhole is worked the cotton or silk may be cut away from the stitches and be wholly unnoticed, while the result will be a firm buttonhole.

In a material that may ravel, like pongee or brilliantine, it is best to work the edge of the buttonhole before cutting. This is easily done by placing a basting line the proper size where the buttonhole is to come and working round it. A sharp knife may be used to cut the opening, and if a little care is taken there is no danger of cutting the stitches.

The dressmaker will find a supply of small safety-pins a great help in fitting a gown, as the common-pin is very apt to get out of place or be lost entirely in removing a gown that has been fitted. A trial of this method will convince one of the great advantage over the old way.

The tucker attachment on the sewing machine will be found a great convenience when one desires to make hand-run tucks in baby clothes or underwear. After attaching the tucker to the machine place the goods as if the tucks were to be sewed on the machine, but remove the thread, both upper and under tension. The result will be a clearly defined crease to show the line of the tucks, and the holes made by the machine needle will be so regular that the hand stitches cannot be irregular.

WINTER VEGETABLES

The greatest problem that confronts the gardening housewife is the indoor storage of winter vegetables. Few homes are equipped with a proper outside root cellar, and there are nowadays few house cellars but have the serious drawback—to the vegetables only—of a furnace. The unheated cellar, if it is well ventilated and may be protected against freezing, makes a satisfactory storage place, or even where there is a furnace, if space is partitioned off, ventilated, and made heat-proof, it will serve. An unused room upstairs where the temperature will not fall below freezing, nor go above 45 degrees F., is a perfectly practical storage place. Cabbage, however, and turnips should not be kept in the house or indeed in the cellar, for in decaying they become very offensive. Cabbage is best stored in a well-protected cold frame, or in an outdoor pit. Such a

pit need be no more than a foot deep, wide enough to hold several heads in a row, and of any desired length.

The cabbage should be placed upside down in the pit and covered with several inches of straw. When freezing weather arrives, six or eight inches of earth may be added and still later a "great" coat of manure if the weather is extreme. If they must be brought into the cellar, they should be packed in barrels and covered with sand.

Celery we plant closely in boxes of damp earth in the cellar. If you have both the golden self-blanching and the green winter celery, use the former first, as it does not keep so well.

Of the edible roots two things are to be remembered: that they keep best when not in contact with the air, and if kept a little moist their firmness and succulence is better preserved. This applies to beets, carrots, parsnips, celeriac, and salsify. Carrots are very easily injured and spoil quickly unless handled with great care. In the North boxes of moist sand offer the safest means of storage. The roots should be packed closely, but not touching.

The handsome highly colored pumpkins and winter squashes may be left in the open until the vines have been killed by frost. These require still other conditions for their safe keeping. They should be kept fairly warm—about 50 degrees F., and should be exposed to the light and air. My country neighbors spread them out on the attic floors, and we find a swinging shelf in a warm dry cellar a good place for them. Squashes and pumpkins, like melons, should be picked with an inch of vine; this keeps them from rotting at the stem.

PRACTICAL HINTS FOR NURSING

1. Selection and Care of a Sick Room

When one is seriously ill, you will of course get a trained nurse if you can. It is seldom that the professional is not better than the amateur, no matter how zealous. But in any case, every woman should know something of how to care for the sick, and some times she must act as nurse herself. What she must do will be found clearly and competently set forth in this and the following papers of the series, but anyone who attempts to put these instructions into practice must remember that the nurse, no matter how well trained, is the subordinate of the attending physician, and that she must follow no directions, even these, without his full knowledge and approval.

When a member of the household is sick, it is of first importance to put him in a suitable room. If possible, select a room of good size, having one or two windows and an open fireplace. The fireplace not only makes possible the most approved method of heating, but is of great use as a means of ventilation.

Before taking the patient in give the room a thorough cleaning. Place in it only what furniture is needed, leaving no upholstered chairs, no heavy curtains or draperies, which catch the dust.

The best sort of bed is a high, single one. It is much easier to lift and handle the patient on this than on any other kind. Place it so as to be able to get at both sides easily, and so that it will not face a window, as strong light is trying for a patient's eyes. Use a hair mattress, or at least one that is firm, and select bedclothes which are of light weight. Even in very cold weather it is possible to keep the patient perfectly warm without heavy spreads and comforters, which are oppressive and tiring when one is weak; a hot-water bag placed in the foot of the bed will serve to keep a comfortable warmth. A sheet may be used as a top cover, unless a very thin counterpane is available.

A good plan is to take out of the room everything in the way of bureau covers and table covers that cannot be