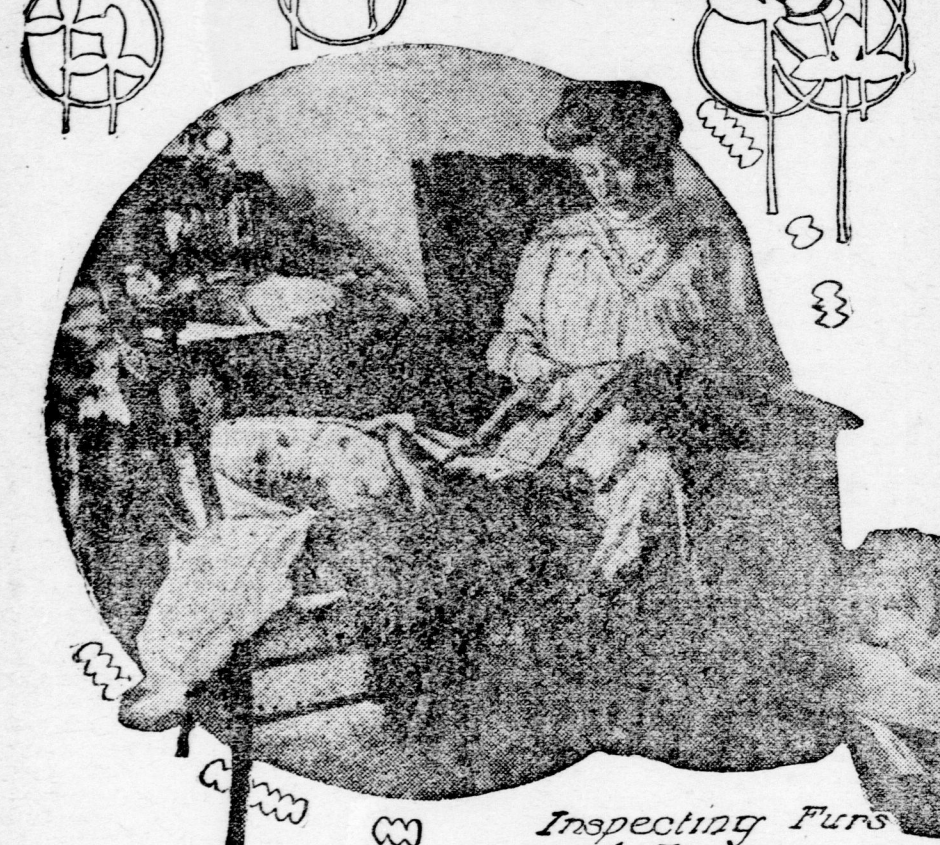


SCHOOL FOR HOUSEWIVES

BY MARION HARLAND

GETTING READY for WINTER



Inspecting Furs and Feathers

BEFORE the first suggestion of frost is in the air the housekeeper begins planning for winter.

In one way she may be said to have begun with the first appearance of early summer fruits and vegetables, for all her cunning and pickling and preserving are in reality laying up stores against the day when fresh fruits and vegetables will not be within reach.

But as the season wears on there is more method in her work. She is able, by the time September comes, to take account of stock and see what she has on hand and what she will have to do to supplement short supplies.

September, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness," gives a chance to gather together goodies that are better even than those of the younger season.

Peaches, apples, pears, grapes, quinces, tomatoes, in greater profusion than ever before, make up well for the berries that are past and gone, and are far more satisfactory as winter dainties than the small fruit. Directions have been given recently for pickles, catsups, and in former times I have supplied instructions for preserving and canning both fruits and vegetables.

This part of getting ready for winter should not find the housekeeper unacquainted for intelligent effort.

All is not done when the cupboard is filled. The contents have to undergo a periodical inspection lest the fruit that was put up with pride may be spoiled by a defect in a rubber band, a neglect in sealing, which means fermentation and destruction.

When the housekeeper is getting ready for winter she should take all the preserves and pickles from her pantry, go over them carefully, one by one, to see that all are keeping perfectly, wipe off any stickiness which may have gathered on the glasses, and scour the shelves before returning the conserves to their place.

TO PAVE THE WAY

If this is done promptly it will be one tedious item out of the way before the fall housecleaning.

A similar inspection should be given to other closets. The spring is the season when the moth-miller is generally supposed to get in his deadly work, but the moths hatched in the spring will lay eggs wherever they find a tempting opportunity, and their traces should be carefully removed before the winter sets in if one would avoid the risk of eggs lying hidden during the cold weather and hatching in the spring small creatures who will work havoc among the woollens.

Clothes that have been hung away in closets or laid in boxes or drawers during the summer should have an airing in the autumn breeze and a vigorous brushing, and the places from which they were taken should be swept and secured before the woollens go back into them.

In most homes there is the habit of taking down heavy draperies during the summer, when they would gather dust, and putting up lighter hangings in their place, or leaving the doors and windows bare of curtains during the dust-gathering season.

Some forehanded housekeepers go over their hangings when they come down and see that they are in perfect condition to be put back in

place before they are laid away for the summer.

Others are so overwhelmed by the pressure of spring duties that they put the curtains away as they took them down.

Many feel that it is a waste of time to be laid aside with starch in them, and so have the dirt rinsed out of white draperies and leave them unstarched and unironed until the fall.

This sort of work must be done now, and the housekeeper is wise if she undertakes it before the autumn dressmaking begins and while affairs are still in the informal state which accompanies summer and early fall days.

EASIER THAN OF OLD

The prevalence of rugs and bare floors has done away with one large amount of work. In the old times it was taken for granted that the carpets must come up and be beaten in the fall.

In some homes of which I have known, notably at the South, matting was laid down in summer, or the polished floors were left bare for the sake of coolness. This habit is still followed, in a measure, in some parts of the country, and when such is the case carpets and rugs have to be looked over and

of getting out furs, and yet, if these were not put up in perfect order, they should be overhauled now.

Repairing and alteration will be done at the shops in September more promptly and reasonably than later. The woman who waits until snow flies before she makes sure that her last winter's fur collar or boa is in order will probably have

to wait until the shops are closed for the season.

It is put in hand now, it will be out of the way when tardy housekeepers wake up to their need, and the woman who has made ready in advance will have complacency as well as comfort to cheer her on her way with the winter work.

SAVING FUTURE WORK

With this thought in mind, it is well to have the more delicate fabrics rinsed out and the garments put away rough-dry. A stitch will be required here and there with these also, and if the work seems burdensome, the housemother may console herself with the thought that labor now spells immunity in the spring days.

This, too, is the time to begin planning for the fall dressmaker. Account of stock must be taken, as it were. Last year's garments must be inspected to see if there is making over to be done and to ascertain what supplies will be needed.

Have a pad of paper at hand and begin your memorandum, adding to it as items occur to you. It will

virgins who have neglected these precautions, but many are the households in which work of this sort has been crowded out by other more immediate tasks.

The thick stockings for the children, the heavy-weight nightdresses for their mother, the woolen underwear of all the family, must be seen to now. Patches must be set, breaks darned, buttons sewed on. One never guesses how much there is to do until the garments are inspected.

What is to be done for the heavy garments it is well to do also for lighter clothing which is about to be laid aside. A trunk may be filled with thin wearing apparel which will not be needed until hot weather comes around again.

I have already spoken of the tendency of wash goods to rot if they are laid away with starch in them.

With this thought in mind, it is well to have the more delicate fabrics rinsed out and the garments put away rough-dry. A stitch will be required here and there with these also, and if the work seems burdensome, the housemother may console herself with the thought that labor now spells immunity in the spring days.

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needed repairs made before they are laid again.

The same course must be followed with winter bedcoverings. The heavy blankets and comfortables that were put away in camphor at the beginning of the hot weather should be inspected before the first cold snap.

As a matter of course, they should have been washed or cleansed in the spring, but if this care was omitted then, it must be taken now.

Don't put it off until later. It does seem a little like a work of supererogation when the hot days of early fall still linger with us to pull out thick spreads and fleecy blankets. But in our climate changes come swiftly, and the coverings deposited one day may be gratefully welcomed the next.

September is a bit early to think

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