

# FOR EVERY WOMAN ACCORDING TO HER NEEDS



The Seam Board Makes Pressing Easy

## She Takes a Lesson in Pressing

"WHA!" a very pretty girl that was we just passed," recently said an older woman to a young married friend. "Do you know who she is?"

"She is pretty, is she not?" was the reply. "Sometimes I think Margery the most beautiful girl I ever saw, but her appearance is quite ruined because she always looks as if she had slept in her clothes. I have never seen her in a well-pressed suit, after the first newness had worn off, as for her summer clothes, they are a positive disgrace; they are always wrinkled."

"Of course, before the family lost their money things were not so bad, for there was really a stray maid to keep Margery fairly smooth; but now—well, it's only one more proof of the utter folly of mothers neglecting to teach their daughters how to iron and press. No matter how wealthy they are, there will surely come a time when such knowledge will prove useful."

Even if mothers neglect their duty, the really practical girl will want to master the art of pressing. And an art it is, as every woman can ruefully testify who has ever been unexpectedly called to press a disreputably wrinkled gown without the slightest knowledge of the process.

### TO SAVE THE PENNIES

Now, as the proper care of a woman's wardrobe involves frequent pressings, the really practical girl will wish to learn the very best and easiest methods of doing it. Some of these pressings must be done by the tailor, but there is much that a girl can accomplish for herself if equipped for the work, and thus save many a penny. Indeed, she may do much that she now relegates to the tailor, if she once acquires the knack of it.

The practical girl who would do her own pressing should own a skirt board (of which one end should be perfectly squared), a sleeve board, a seam board, a heavy and medium iron, and a small one with one end slightly turned. A tailor's goose is a good thing to have, but it is so heavy that the average girl cannot manipulate it; so the heavy iron must be made to take its place.

This last is used mainly for pressing the bottoms of skirts. When one has been caught in the rain the skirt should never be worn again until well pressed, especially at the bottom. No matter how handsome a dress may be, if wrinkled by the rain it is unsightly.

### THE REAL WORK

All mud spots having been removed, the skirt should be put wrong side out over a skirt board and a few inches of the bottom thoroughly wiped with a wet cloth. A dry cloth should then be laid on and the heavy iron, moderately hot, should be applied while the skirt is held taut and smooth. The weight of the iron will hold it down at one end, and the left hand should draw it at the other. After the entire skirt has been treated in this way, start over again with a moderate iron, this time, possibly, without any cloth intervening. It will be found that the material will be of a uniform dampness all around. Iron smoothly and unrelentingly until absolutely dry. Very often mere pressing with a moderate iron will be found sufficient for the rest of the skirt, as it is the bottom which suffers most on account of its thickness.

Frequently, if a dress of this material is wrinkled, mere hanging up smoothly in the damp night air will repair the evil. Better yet is it to fold it smoothly and lay it away in a trunk for a time. If necessary to really press, however, wipe lightly, one breadth at a time, with a wet cloth and iron with moderate heat, always passing from hem to band with the grain of the goods, never from band to hem and never across. If this injunction is not fol-

lowed, the set of the skirt may be entirely altered. It may be found too short all around or of uneven length. One mother is accustomed to give such orders as the following: "Iron the white skirt for width, but the blue one for length." Which means that the blue one must be ironed with the grain of the goods and the white one across it, the white being a shade longer, the blue, a shade shorter. A skirt that has shrunk in washing may often be humored in this way.

The same rule holds good with waists. They can be so pressed as to be utterly ruined, they will be so short-waisted and so large. In fact, unless extra width is desired, everything should be religiously ironed the way of the goods only.

What use can the practical girl make of the various other things? The square end of the board is needed for shoulders. Before pressing the sleeves, place the board so that the square end shall extend free for at least twelve inches. Over these corners, one after the other, slip the shoulders of the waist. A perfectly flat surface will be present, which can be treated as any other flat surface, and all difficulties in pressing the shoulders will be removed.

The use of the sleeve board is obvious, and the little iron is for getting into the gathers at the top of the sleeves. If a girl cannot have a sleeve board, the corner of the skirt board may again come into requisition with excellent results for pressing the tops of the sleeves. A roll of thick brown paper, say about four inches wide and about twenty inches long, will also make a very fair substitute, but be very careful about stretching out of shape; if straight, pull smooth while ironing; pleats should be pulled smooth and pressed hard on the wrong side. It may

be found necessary to rip some little tacking to do this, but the result will pay for the trouble, as the garment will look new again.

The girl who sews should specially learn to handle her irons well.

If the amateur dressmaker could only be made to realize the importance of pressing her work at every stage, "first, last and all the time," she would never let one little point go by. Too much stress cannot be laid on doing this part of the work well, for in proper pressing often consists the only difference between a gown that is tailor-made in appearance and one that is palpably the work of a novice. Especially is this the case in making over or remodeling, for a piecing well matched and well pressed is a piecing concealed, and even a darn neatly made, or a small patch under the arm or sleeve, if thus treated, will never be noticed.

### IRONING IS NOT PRESSING

But there is pressing and pressing, and many of the rules which are applied to garments already made are equally applicable to those only in the stages of construction. Ironing is not pressing, and will certainly prove more disastrous in unfinished work than that which has been completed.

## The Practical Girl and her Fads



Making Use of a Table Corner

equality of the shoulder, and, in the case of the under-arm seam, it is made least conspicuous.

Tuckings or pleatings should be thoroughly pressed before the material is cut out. If another pressing should be found necessary before the neckband is on, a stout thread should be run around the neck-line, and the utmost care should be taken to work only with the grain of the goods, in order that the neck may not be stretched.

And the little seam board? This is a stick of wood either square or round (a piece of broomstick will do). Cover with three or four thicknesses of muslin. It should be about twenty inches long, and the wise woman tucks a loop at the end that she may hang it up when not in use. Of

course, the pressing of the first seam in a sleeve with the turned-up end of the smallest iron is a matter easy to accomplish, but the second seam of the closed sleeve is often a puzzle. For this the little seam board is used. It is slipped in and out readily and leaves no mark on the material.

With this simple and comparatively inexpensive equipment the practical girl is impervious to dampness and uncertain laundresses. She can, if she will (and she will if she once realizes how much better she looks), press her lingerie gowns and blouses before each wearing. No more need the fear of cross mads hamper her dainty summer freshness. Moreover, her fame as the maker of her own clothes will certainly rise when she acquires a truly tailor art in pressing.

## A COLLEGE GIRL'S PARTY

VERY often the friends of one's schoolgirl days vanish after college days commence. Gradually new associations are formed, new friends made, until all the dear old friends whom one was always going to know have "folded their tents like the Arabs, and as silently stolen away."

But nothing will so rehabilitate dying friendships or so revive forgotten memories as simple little social gatherings, which bring together in a pleasant manner the old groups now so scattered. One such affair was given recently by two sisters to the High School club to which they had belonged, and many clever and original ideas were evolved.

Since five colleges and two schools were represented in the party, the college color idea prevailed, and gave the decorations a gay, almost bizarre, appearance. In addition to these, the club colors, green and gold, were liberally displayed.

As soon as all were assembled and the first greetings and buzz of chatter over, cards were distributed for the book game to be played. These were ordinary correspondence cards, folded double and tied at the fold with baby ribbon in the school or college colors of each guest. To this ribbon a small programme pencil was also attached. On the outside of the card were written the recipient's name and the date, and beneath them the musical score of the chorus of the High School song—an other reminiscence of old days. Inside the figures 1 to 20 appeared, also preparation for the game. On the back—there were intimate friends—was pasted a clipping from magazine or newspaper appropriate to the person receiving it. Thus to take a few at random—the girl from a Southern college received a column of fashions "for southland tourists," the Bryn Mawr freshman was informed of a party that pretty college town, and the unfortunate maiden who wore the "Don Quixote" picture of the first time that day was greeted by the single word, "John."

The game itself consisted of the guessing of thirty book titles. Pictures representing each of these were pasted on many numbered cards, and the contestants wrote on their own score cards their guesses. Often they were wrong. "Arlo Bates," "The Furians," for instance, was almost universally thought to be "The Pilgrim's Progress." The pictures were simple, and both classics and modern works were represented. Thus "Don Quixote" the picture of a donkey with O.T. printed under it—and "Wilkie Collins" "The Moonstone" the picture of the moon, and a large rock beneath—were included in the collection. The prizes given were simple, and the booby prize original. The first and second prize-winners received respectively a satin handkerchief case and a calendar, while the unhappy Cornell

girl, who guessed fewest of the titles, was told that since she was not literary she must be domestic, and was presented with a shot button "Aunt Dinah." This useful little gift, which is very easy to make, has its foundation in a clay soap-bubble pipe, inked or painted black, with white eyes and red lips, the spur at the bottom of the bowl serving for a nose. The stem of the pipe is fitted into a spool of shoe thread. She is then dressed in turban, skirt, apron and shawl, this last fastened with a large needle. Finally, to her skirt there is attached a little bag containing shoe buttons.

At the conclusion of the game, refreshments were served. The guests found their places by little painted paper flags of their schools and colleges, while at each place was a sachet in green and bright yellow silk—the first sign of the club colors. The paper napkins, too, were decorated with large yellow flowers, their green foliage very much in evidence, and at each end of the table stood a wheat-like stack of candy straws, one green, one yellow, each tied with the contrasting color. On each plate were a lettuce leaf full of chicken salad, a cube of currant jelly and two potted cheese balls. Bread and butter sandwiches, hot chocolate, nuts, olives, raisins and dates were also served, and at the end even the stacks of candy had vanished.

After about an hour the guests returned to the living room, and sheets of paper of about tablet size were passed around. On each there was written the name of some wild animal, and the guests were requested to tear out a presentment of the beast without drawing it. Some of the attempts were very good, some merely funny.

This ended the active festivities, and after a little more conversation the guests dispersed, brought once more into the close, familiar contact of past times. One and all joined in voting the party a glorious success.

If less elaborate refreshments are desired, instead of the regularly set table, a standing tea may be served. Coffee and chocolate with whipped cream, fancy cakes and bonbons would then be sufficient.

If enough time remains before the hour set for departure, the guests will be glad to gather around the piano and sing those college songs so dear to every loyal club member. It is hardly likely that there will be time for any set game, and the singing seems a fitting end to a truly "collegiate" entertainment.

Finally, for the game itself, any game may be substituted which requires prizes and gives opportunity for scoring.

## Various Time and Money Saving Hints

### As to Stuffing Needle Cushions

FORTUNATE does that woman consider herself who has a bit of clean wool with which to stuff her new needle cushion. It is so nice and light and lends itself so readily to manipulation. It makes such a smooth, neat cushion. It fills in at the corners so easily and stuffs out in the middle so beautifully. Ah, yes! It does all these pleasant things, but it is a delusion and a snare, just the same—for it absorbs and retains moisture. Therefore, needles that are kept in a wool-stuffed cushion rust sooner and worse than in any other kind.

Very fine cork dust is good because light and non-absorbent. Bran is good, but not light. Sawdust is heavy and absorbent. Bran or sawdust are good for large cushions for the bureau, where one is constantly changing the place, because it is heavy and does not permit the cushion to slide around very readily.

But for small cushions that are needed in one's workbasket, and in which some one needle may not be used for months, the most satisfactory stuffing is human hair. It neither absorbs nor retains moisture, and it is light and springy. Many women save their "combings" to be made over into some article for the coiffure. These same combings may be thoroughly washed (with a little ammonia in the water) and as thoroughly dried, and they will be ready for use. Or the clippings of the children's hair may be utilized. Once having used a cushion stuffed after this fashion one generally cares for no other kind.

### Shirtwaist Difficulties

EVERY woman recognizes the smart touch to be found in the well tailored shirtwaist, but she does not always realize where the secret lies. The sleeves make the most troublesome parts of any waist, and this severe sort are of the greatest importance. Yet the secret of making them in such a way as to avoid the crude homemade appearance, after all, is a simple one. The regulation shirt model is the only correct one for the plain waist, and it is in the method of finishing that most of the trouble is found. The straight, narrow cuff is the accepted one, and it should always be cut with the long edge lengthwise on the material. Washable fabrics require to be lined with one thickness of butcher's linen, flannel and silk, with one thickness of tailor's canvas. The cuffs should be put together and finished at the lower edges and the ends, and supplied with the requisite buttonholes. The opening in the sleeve must next be finished with the regulation point collar, and the under side and with an underlap on the under. Then the sleeves should be gathered and joined to the cuffs as the tailor directs, all the stitching being done with the greatest care and precision.

### Pressing Small Pieces

It may not always be convenient to have a hot iron at hand to press a small piece just at the moment one needs it, but the difficulty may be readily remedied if the material is a wash goods. If thoroughly wet, not dampened, and spread out on a window pane, mirror or marble slab it will be dry in a few moments, and will not only be as smooth as if ironed, but the under side will have an actual gloss. The material should be thoroughly wet, even dripping, and should be smoothed the way of the grain, both up and down and across, with a clean piece of old white muslin. If the sun be very hot one cannot use a window pane, as the water dries off before one has time to make the "stick." It will often be found convenient to dry a washed piece of material on one's mirror, and if carefully folded and placed under a book it will look as well as if ironed. In fact, many women who travel carry always in their trunk a pane of glass upon which to dry a handkerchief now and again.

### A Tailor's Device

THERE are many lessons in dress-making that can be learned from the tailor and his methods. One of the most valuable is to be found in a study of the way in which he makes the two sides of a waist or coat so that pleats to be laid or trimming to be applied shall be exactly the same in both. First, he cuts the two pieces and lays them together face to face; then he either places over them a paper pattern, which is carefully marked, or makes the proper marks on the upper piece. Then with a long double threaded needle, alternately one long and one short stitches over the indicating lines. Finally, then clips through the long stitches and proceeds to pull the two pieces apart, the material gently apart, clipping each short stitch as it appears between the two. When all done there remains on each piece a perfectly clear and true indicating line that cannot deviate in the least from the corresponding one on the other.

### Curious, But True

AN old-time seamstress is responsible for a piece of information, the truth of which has been proved. She says that in the sewing room should be kept a piece of smooth walnut board, such as a table-top, for pressing purposes. If the pressing be done on this, rather than on that usually provided, no dampening will be necessary, as walnut wood absorbs sufficient moisture for the purpose, which is given out again under the influence of the heat of the iron. And no matter how much one's board is used today, the next day the moisture will be there again just the same. Of course, if one uses a discarded table-top, one must be very careful to avoid the varnished side.

### For Slender Women

THE present style of dress often calls for a little manipulation if the slender woman is to appear to advantage. Blouses that are lined can quite easily and readily be made additionally becoming by the use of ruffles arranged about the shoulders. It is here that the blouse is apt to sink and so lose its perfect outline. If bias ruffles pinked at their edges are arranged over the lining on the inside the difficulty will be entirely overcome. These ruffles would preferably be made of tulle, but if mercerized lining is used it can be substituted with fairly good success.