

FEMININE INVENTIONS

Among the many inventions exhibited at the World's Fair was one by Mrs. Anna Dormitzer. It attracted me particularly because it was invented by a woman for women's use.

This invention is a window seat and standing chair for outdoor window work, and of a folding indoor ladder which hangs on the wall as an ornamental panel, and can be lifted down and opened by a child, while capable of supporting the heaviest man. At the Fair she received a medal for her inventions. But she is in no respect a business woman, and for this reason her inventions are unknown.

The window chair and platform is made, as the illustrations show, to fasten to the window inside. It folds into so small, simple and light a compass that a boy can pick it up in the cellar, get to the top of the house, unfold, attach and mount it ready for work within a space of two minutes. By it all possibility of slip or accident is prevented. The most timid servant can adjust it to sit or stand upon, and while cleaning windows pursue her work with the same feeling of safety she would have on the main floor of a building. It combines a scaffolding for painters, glaziers and



THE LADDER FOLDED UP.

sawing hangers. It holds the pails for water and cloths or paints and brushes.

The ladder hangs in your library or drawing-room not only with propriety but with actual ornamentation. "There are two folded up there," said Mrs. Dormitzer, traversing the length of her suite, including library, dressing-room and bedroom. Every corner was searched. Nothing that could under any circumstances possibly suggest a ladder, however ornamented or concealed, disclosed itself. Mrs. Dormitzer crossed over and took down lightly from the wall what was to all appearances a long rich panel of Oriental embroidery in a frame of polished oak.

It did not stand forth from the wall with any more prominence than an ordinary flat picture frame, this result being achieved by the steps of the ladder being made to fold slat-wise, like the Venetian shutter. A slight push, and down fell into form as complete and secure a step-ladder as ever helped mortals to rise to the cobwebs. From one side draws up a round, firm rod, by which you can steady yourself on the top rung or on which you can attach a pail for cleaning purposes. A small cavity in the top opens with a brass slide, and there are matches. By a single push the ladder is out again.

Mrs. Dormitzer lifts it from the ground and hangs it again on the wall, as ornamental a bit of furnishing as any picture upon it.

"How did I come to invent them? I'll tell you. Some years ago I had a valued man servant. One day he fell from the first story window, where he was cleaning, into the basement and was seriously injured. This made a sad impression on me.

"Two years after there came a day for housecleaning. I had a dear maid whom I had brought up, and I came down to water my bulbs in the back garden, leaving her to begin work in the fifth story back room. Suddenly I looked up. The blind had been drawn together and tied with a ribbon, and away below them there fluttered suddenly Jane's kirt. She was coming down. I felt. In my mind's eye I saw her



THE WINDOW SEAT IN USE.

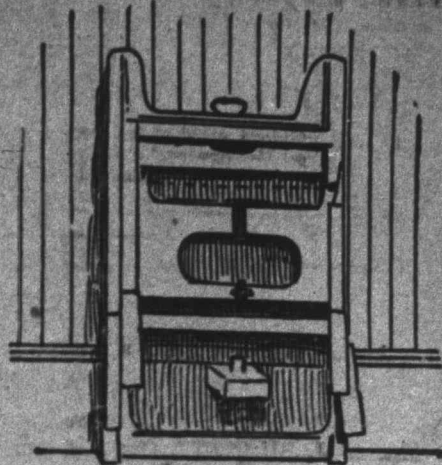
dashed to pieces before me, and then I remembered no more. It seemed for a time I had a sort of paralytic shock. By and by I became conscious, and my servants were all around me begging me to speak, and I tried to, but could not utter a word. Then I felt a cold, firm hand on my pulse, and 'It's Jane, Mrs. Dormitzer, won't you speak to Jane?' broke the strain. I broke into sobbing. She was safe, but I knew what might have happened.

"In the first words I spoke I said to my servants: 'I promise each one of you as a lady that I shall never ask you to risk danger again. I shall never rest until I invent something to avoid it.'

Then Mrs. Dormitzer went to work. She became absorbed in her models. She can't draw in perspective, and she couldn't work in wood or rattan, though she tried to and destroyed several sets of fancy tools. Her health failing, Mr. Dormitzer used to say, "Do give this up. Let me buy your thoughts and present them to some one else to develop." But she kept on. When seven out of eight sections were complete, the eighth somehow wouldn't fit. At last it did. One

For every addition and improvement I have both. And now, after long years, I have both. heavy burdens, suggested the ladder. To allow women servants to carry shelves and corners, and my objection less by a ladder. Well, out of the way. They can't be reached unless some medicine in the middle of there, reaching to the ceiling. One little oak presses above that washstand the ladder. "You see," she said, "those in the same way she followed with complete. invention of the window platform was box and cut and fitted until, presto! took her scissors and the lid of a band. night Mrs. Dormitzer got out of bed.

until each article leaves no room for improvement Mrs. Dormitzer secured a



THE WINDOW SEAT FOLDED.

patent. The window seat is covered by eleven patents and the ladder by five.

To secure a good place for exhibition in the Liberal Arts building, at the World's Fair, Mrs. Dormitzer paid \$800 to an agent, who did not do his duty. They were placed in an obscure position and a fashionable young woman had been put in charge who didn't seem to care much about having the things mentioned. But the judges saw them, and awarded Mrs. Dormitzer a medal.

"In the hands of a large manufacturer," says Mrs. Dormitzer, the window seat might be turned out for, probably, \$1.50, and the ladders as low as \$2 each. I have had a few of the seats made, and six ladders. The ladders cost—at amateur rates—\$29 for the six. The window-seats were made by a handy old man under my direction, whom I knew I could trust not to give away my idea. You see, I have been afraid to call in professional workmen lest the thing would be appropriated from me unawares. A man from North Carolina has just written me for a hundred ladders, but I cannot get them made cheap enough.

"I would be glad to see both articles in the hands of a big manufacturer who could give the public the benefit of them. If I ever sell my patents I want to establish a fund to provide free trained nurses for the poor."

Mrs. Dormitzer, is the wife of a merchant who retired from business many years ago on an ample fortune, and her only incentive is to help the working classes. She is a woman of singular charity, and unobtrusively does great good among the poor and distressed.

KATE JORDAN.

An Expensive Article of Clothing.

Gloves are expensive articles, no matter how sedulous the care bestowed upon them. But gloves will last a third longer than they usually do if pulled off the hand from the wrist down, and turned inside out, as is done when they are tried on in the shops; if laid by themselves, properly straightened, and not crumbled into a tight ball, and if mended at the instant a rip shows itself, a pair of gloves will retain their pristine freshness. It is good policy to have best and second-best gloves, and gloves for shopping and running about. In our chilly winters the last-mentioned should be of dogskin, and sufficiently loose not to cramp the hand. Light gloves may be cleaned more than once to advantage. —Harper's Bazar.

The Young Maiden's Desire.

Nearly a thousand different colored sewing cottons can be obtained in Great Britain.

On This Side the Water.

Rightly educated women do not need a chaperon.

described in last letter forward, resting first upon the foot. A total alteration in gait by stepping upon the flat foot or heel, as in practice (it is this thudding heel which "clanks" of course this must not be, and it will not be after a natural, but in the chamberward is absolutely necessary—it changes the whole feelings even.

ature of "toeing out" the unnet the physical expression of mentality that it is, a practice would be invaluable to walk well. ghtly forward, not stooping out directing the mind in a front of the body, is speed. Bending the knees is also helpful. The swing would come from a symmetry of the whole body, not a notion of any part of it. It would be motionless, which "stiff" if the body is here must be no "wobbling," "ducking" or affecting.

ringing by the side would be a pedestrian appearance few care for in ordinary walking. It would be made graceful and light to speed. One arm should look like a windmill, the triangular shape by crossing both hands, regulated, not one short of one. Above all, the engine of the advance of every step, making away from it—after an unconscious conclusion.

you are going and mind out. Lookout for the puddle of water, the post, the loose brick, the neighbors. No need of people so. If one steps it is caught in a store sufficient to maintain our grace. Turn corner.

What a test of womanly in which she turns a pace sufficient for your the iron grating, the obstruction on the in either than go off on a g. "jamming" and in space like a clumsy your dignity, your eyes the many as they are now subject to, graceless walking. NIE EDGAR THOMAS.

Are Deaf.

as snake charmers preface to the music, but they never hear it. A deaf ear, and perhaps only through his senses bodies in contact with it. They hear also of the tongue, but do not sound as we do. They are very much alive to the charmer, or to the of his confederate; he prepares to strike, and no other snakes are alarmed and in a He is not dancing to making ready to strike O'Reilly, in May St.

Word Captain.

go often used in the fleet.