

## INTERESTING THINGS FOR LADY READERS

Home and Other Helps with the Latest Notions  
in Dress from the Near-by Metropolis

### Musical Matters

A few days ago a young girl journeyed from a neighboring city to gain my opinion about her voice. She has the desire to become a singer, and wanted to know, if her voice was worth spending upon it, the large amount of money necessary to become a great artist.

She also wished to know if she should go abroad to acquire her musical education. She has a beautiful, rich, powerful voice, a voice which if it were combined with the other qualities necessary, would enable her to become famous. She also has a great love of music and ambition to succeed. But she is only seventeen.

I told her honestly, that I, nor any other vocal teacher, could not predict her future. I could tell her as to the quality of her voice, but as to whether she would become a great singer depended upon many things which the future alone could reveal. To become a great singer and earn the large salary that an operatic star commands, to sing before kings and have the world at her feet, will mean a long, hard, uphill road for that little girl of seventeen.

Will she have the strength of character to overcome the many obstacles that lie along her path? Will she have the determination to stick to her chosen work? Will name and fame and other plaudits of the world, be worth more to her than a home and children and love? Will she have the physical strength to stand the strain? Will she have the business ability? Will she have a level head that will not be turned by flattery?

Who can tell this little girl of seventeen, of a certainty, that she has all the necessary attributes, which are necessary to become a great singer? From the dizzy heights of fame to the student taking her first lesson in voice culture, there are many degrees of musicianship. Every lesson leads towards the goal. Every lesson helps the student to sing with more understanding. Every lesson should make breath control (that corner stone of all singing) easier.

The study of singing is very delightful. Every lesson is a pleasure, so let the young girl who cannot afford, or who has no desire to take up the study of singing as a life work, take as many lessons as she can. One term of voice lessons may be of sufficient help, so that she can practice by herself and improve gradually.

### Renovating Feather Pillows

A man who traveled about with the machinery in his wagon to renovate feather beds and pillows obtained almost innumerable orders by producing, as an argument, a small bottle containing some of the "things" his method had drawn out of the feathers. These were not at all clean or pretty and made one feel miserably uncomfortable upon a little reflection, and almost every one who conveniently could do so had their pillows renovated at once. The feathers certainly did appear delightfully fresh and fluffy after the renovating, but alas! their weight had decreased decidedly more than the removal of dust, etc., would account for, and in our neighborhood we agreed never to have our feathers renovated in the same fashion again.

Another time, after an illness in the household, when there were pillows to be renovated, there was some question as to a reliable place to send them. A landress overheard the discussion and promptly assured us that she could do the renovating quite as well as a professional. She proved as good as her word, and beside being clean and sweet, our pillows were not in the least dwindled in size or weight.

To cleanse them successfully, make as many muslin bags as you wish pillows renovated (it is wiser to do only one or two at a time, unless you have abundant help), having the bags a little wider and longer than the ticking pillow cases. Rip the ticking half across one end, and carefully turn the feathers out of the pillow into one of the muslin bags. Tie it with a strong cord very tightly and securely, and put it into a strong suds made with white soap and a little ammonia. Soak it in this for several hours, beating it with a light stick and turning it about and up and down in the water, so that all of the feathers will get well stirred about.

After three or four hours' soaking, press out the dirty water, and put the bag into a clean suds; let it soak as before, giving it a vigorous beating from time to time and sousing it about in the suds very thoroughly. If this water seems soiled, use still another suds, and after rinse well in several fresh waters, until every trace of soap has disappeared. Pin the muslin bag to the clothes line, and leave it for three or four days, where rain, wind and sunshine will assist in the purifying process. If no rain falls, rinse it in clear water each morning. After the third day the feathers must not be allowed to get damp again. Let them hang all day where the sun shines, but remove them to the house in time to avoid all dews and dampness. A week of this sunshine, with frequent vigorous beatings and fluffings, will not be too much to make the feathers thoroughly dry. Rub them with both hands to make them as fluffy as possible, and turn them again into the freshly washed, ironed and aired ticking cases.

### Cleanliness in Food

The cleanliness of food was admitted as essential even by those Spartan Scottish parents of a bygone generation whose children were taught to eat what was put before them or "do without." The porridge refused at breakfast that turned up at dinner was clean and well cooked, and the Spartan idea was justified in the healthy men and women whose children grew into, with simple tastes and with at least one characteristic of up-to-date good breeding—that of eating their hostess' fare cheerfully, whatever it might be. People who have travelled much acquire this convenient quality as a matter of necessity; for much unhappiness and discomfort are apt to be the lot of the man or woman of delicate appetite and fastidious taste when away from their own home, where they have at command what suits them. For instance, two American women, who were excellent traveling companions, perhaps because so dissimilar, once arrived after a half day's travel without food at a little station in Italy. There was nothing to be had on the train, and as the stoppage was only for five minutes it was impossible to get out and hunt in the station and town. However, a man approached with one of those wooden trays, containing rolls like small cannon balls, with an interlayer of ham.

The two hungry Americans hailed him joyfully, and each bought a cannon ball; but distance had lent enchantment, and, though the healthy traveller munched hers with satisfaction, the delicate one merely looked at the rocky object she held and laid it down on a trunk, where a porter found it and carefully put it in the breast pocket of his blouse. The next morning a cosy little Italian inn seemed just the thing for breakfast, and the two looked forward to the tea, eggs and rolls ordered. But alas! when the tea arrived it was in a metal teapot, and another meal was spoiled for the delicate member. The Scottish-American meanwhile thanked her early training for capacity to enjoy the novel atmosphere without a thorn in the rose.

### The New Boas

Immense bows with very long ends are the latest trimming for boas, which are short, just going round the neck, and

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are all sizes, the full roll, those with a narrow band running through the centre and the gathered ones of pleated chiffon. With so many designs to select from, it is usually quite easy to find something becoming, and one of the latest modes is to match the hat and ruff in color, which gives a very chic effect if the color suits the wearer. The other day I noticed some soft plumage in a pretty green shade on a bargain table at 29c a bunch. A tall, nice-looking girl came along, spotted them at once and took the lot, about four or five bunches. A few days after that I encountered her on the street. She wore the plumage on her hat, and a ruff of tulle exactly matching the plumage and hat, and she looked the smartest of anyone I saw that day. Which goes to show that a person with good taste who invests in bargains judiciously may dress well on a very limited allowance.

### ABOUT WEAK TEA

"Very weak, please," is becoming a familiar phrase to the pourer of tea. Are Canadians developing into a race of nervous wreck, or are we so much more sensible than our forebears? Men and women alike are forsaking the "good-cup of tea" and taking to the wishy-washy. In fact some people declare they dislike the taste of strong tea. One remembers that when the Chinese beverage was still somewhat of a novelty and luxury quite good housewives used to put a handful or so of tea leaves in the pot, give it a thorough boil and then dispense it. We certainly owe them a grudge, dear simple souls, if that concoction is responsible for the nerves of the present day, and for the request, unwelcome to the good tea-maker's ear, "Very weak, please!"

### Seasonable Petticoats

Petticoats with stockingette tops are especially seasonable, and now, with all superfluous underwear done away with, a woman will find these skirts not only very comfy, but so smoothly fitting they may be worn with any street gown. The cheaper grades have saten frills, while the high-priced ones are finished with a finely pleated deep ruffle of taffeta on the lower part, so that anyone who fondly clings to the silk rustle may still gratify their inclination without sacrificing their comfort.

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS

#### Soft-Sugar Cookies

Cream one cupful of sugar with butter the size of an egg; add one egg, one half cupful of sour milk, one small teaspoonful of soda and two cupfuls of flour. Drop onto a greased tin with a teaspoon. Press three raisins into each one before baking, if liked. Put far enough apart on the tin so they will not run together. They will be the size of ordinary cookies when done.

#### Lady Baltimore Cake

One cupful of sugar, one half cupful of butter, one and three fourth cupfuls of flour, one half cupful of milk, the whites of three eggs, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Flavor with rose, and bake in layers.

For the filling, make boiled frosting of one cupful of sugar and one egg, and add to it one half cupful of chopped raisins, one half cupful of chopped nuts and three chopped figs.

#### Wash for Fire-brick

Some prefer a mixture of fire-clay and cement for plastering the walls of furnaces and combustion chambers, but it is best to use fire-clay alone, as the heat takes all the water out of the cement, leaving the fire-clay to crumble and fall from the walls. A mixture of fire-clay and salt is good to preserve the walls, making a glazed surface to which soot will not adhere. Five shovelfuls of fire-clay to one of salt gives good results, but it must be mixed thoroughly.

#### Waterproofing for Labels

Clean up an old celluloid film and cut it up into small shreds. Place these shreds in a bottle and cover them with amyl acetate, or acetone. After a few shakings and a little time the celluloid will dissolve, says the Photographic News, and give a clear fluid, which may be brushed over the labels with the aid of a soft brush or a feather. Another useful mixture for this purpose may be formed by dissolving Canada balsam in chloroform.

#### Ever-Ready Library Paste

One ounce of gum tragacanth and one and one half pints of clear rain water. Soak over night. When dissolved add a few drops of any essential oil, to keep it from souring. Put in jars keep well covered, and it is always ready for use.

## HOME HELPS

### Tea and Coffee Stains

Tea and coffee stains may be taken from any white goods by soaking the spots with glycerine and letting stand for several hours untouched. Afterward wash with soap and water.

### Purify a Drain

A good method to purify a drain: dissolve 4 oz. of copperas in a gallon of water, and pour it down the drain. This treatment should be continued for two or three days.

### Simple Newspaper Rack

Two tapes tacked vertically to the wall, about fourteen inches apart, will be found convenient for holding old newspapers, which accumulate so quickly and which one does not wish to destroy.

### Turkish Towels for Glass and Silver

The most satisfactory towels for wiping plain glass and silver that I have ever used are the small Turkish bath towels that may be bought for ten cents. On account of their rough surface, they give a brilliant polish with little labor.

### Lemons Good

Use the lemon that has been squeezed for cooking to clean brass lamp burners. Rub them with it, adding a little salt, and the black will come off easily. Then wash them, and polish with a cloth and a bit of bath brick or chalk.

### A Button on the Dish Cloth

A flat brass button sewed on your dish cloth will be found a great help in dish washing. It removes instantly, without injury to the finest china, bits of food that have dried to the dishes, and takes less time than scratching off with a knife.

### To Tighten Machine Belt

When you are in a hurry, and the sewing machine belt comes loose, do not stop to remove it in order to tighten it. Simply put a drop of machine oil on it; turn the wheel a few seconds, and proceed with a tightened belt.

### Tissue-Paper Ball for Kitchen

Cut white paper into six-inch squares, fold each square into a smaller square, and then fold that diagonally; string these on a stout thread, tie into a ball, and hang up in the kitchen. When you want to grease a pan or need a bit of clean paper to use about cooking utensils, one of the pieces is easily detached.

### Hat-Pin Skirt Hanger

A simple and efficient skirt hanger is a strong hat pin. Fold the skirt twice at the band, and stick the hat pin through and back in two places, leaving enough of the center of the pin exposed to hang over a hook or nail. In this way the skirt is never pulled out of shape.

### LIFTER FOR HOT DISHES

Take a wide shingle and form a handle by cutting away part of the wood at the end and shaving down the other end until quite thin. Bore a hole in the handle so that it can be hung near the stove. When baking, this is very handy to slip under hot tins or dishes, in order to draw them out without getting burned.

### Egg Shells for Cleaning Bottles

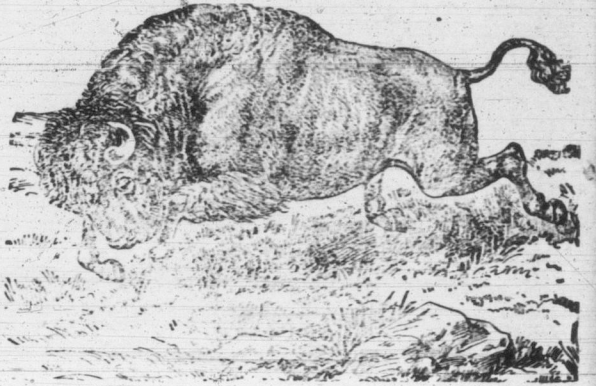
When using eggs, save the shells, for they are better for cleaning bottles than anything I have ever found. Crush them, add put into the bottle with clear cold water, shake thoroughly, remove, and rinse with cold water. One can clean successfully in this way medicine and milk bottles; also cut-glass water bottles.

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### PSALMS.

#### Psalms 18

25 With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright;

26 With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward.

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

28 For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried; he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

31 For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?

32 It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

### PROVERBS.

16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, he shall say to him,

17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

#### CHAPTER 9.

1 The Proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

3 The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

4 He becometh poor that dealth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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