

The Country Homemakers

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after the child gets well. The spoiled infant, for it certainly will be spoiled by illness, rules with an iron hand, and everything is made to bend to its wishes. Gently but firmly the mother should show the child its rightful place, for even children are quick to grasp such things, by giving the husband and father the attention that is his due. If the baby learns that by crying the mother will desert the table; will remain all the evening rocking and walking and singing in a vain effort to put it to sleep; if the child is the ruler of the house, then be sure the small tyrant will make life interesting for the parents henceforth.

But on the other hand if the baby learns that the father has first right and his rights must be respected, a quiet, orderly home will be the result. And when other children come and other emergencies arise, the orderly system will carry the family over many difficulties, and will insure for the children a respect for law and order that will be the best legacy they can ever receive from their parents.

"THE MOTHER OF IT"

(By Grace E. Cody, in The Mothers' Magazine.)

Virginia came in with her cheeks aglow. She deposited her wraps on the hall tree and read the card which invited her to a club reception given in honor of a distinguished author. The sparkle vanished from her eyes and as she laid the card back on the table she sighed with girlish regret.

"There's no use in considering it for a moment," she said, "I've nothing to wear."

"Couldn't you wear your pink waist and black crepe de chine skirt?" suggested her mother. "They're perfectly good."

"I know, mother, but I couldn't! The other girls will all dress in light colors, and anyway the skirt is horribly old-fashioned. I suppose I might match the pink waist in some inexpensive material, and have a skirt to go with it, but I'd have to hire it made, for my studies don't leave me a minute to sew, and no one else has time. The bother is, I used every cent I could afford, for my winter suit, and I need the rest for Christmas. I may not have occasion to wear a pale pink dress again all winter. Still, I do want to go, and that skirt wouldn't cost so much."

"Those novelty silks, like your waist, are almost impossible to match," came the gentle demur of experience. "If I were you, dear, and wanted the fun of meeting a celebrity, but couldn't afford to spend any money, I should just wear what I had, and try to enjoy myself in spite of being unfashionable. After all, no one except yourself will really care."

But Virginia was deaf to advice. During the next week she made a wearisome tour of the shops, and, in the end, found nothing to match her waist except one piece of very expensive silk. That was beautiful with it, but—the cost!

At last, in the recklessness of fatigue, she bought the silk and ordered it delivered at her dressmaker's, but she was ashamed to tell at home how much she had spent of her little hoard, and it was a genuine relief to her when, on the afternoon of the reception, the skirt came home so late that there was no time to ask or answer any questions about it.

It was daylight when she started, but before she came back, the evening lights were on, and the family had gathered in the sitting-room. Suddenly a dejected-looking Virginia appeared in the doorway.

"Look!" she commanded, tragically. Then she threw open her long cloak, and revealed—a peculiar, lavender-gray skirt worn with a pink waist! "I matched those pinks by daylight," she confessed. "Never once thought how evening light changes some colors; And everybody must have imagined I chose this combination!"

The picture she made was comical, and, in spite of themselves, her sisters laughed. Only one person saw the tears gathering in the disappointed girl's eyes, as she turned reluctantly to face her mother. All the way home Virginia

had been dreading this moment—the moment when her mother would remind her how much better the black skirt would have looked. Now it had come, and the mother-lips parted.

"You poor child, come here," they said. "There! We all make mistakes, and never mind, dearie; they look beautiful together in the daytime, anyway!"

"Oh, that's the mother of it!" sobbed the grateful girl. "You had a perfect right to say 'I told you so!'" But she whispered, as she kissed the soft cheek pressed against her own, "I'll listen to you next time—see if I don't!"

HOUSEKEEPING KINKS

Every second week we will run a column at least of these practical suggestions to which we would be glad to have as many as possible of our readers contribute. Write us of any short cuts you have learned to take in housework or of any better way of doing things that experience has taught you. Address your letters to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

For the Silver Drawer.—Place a few pieces of camphor gum in the box or case where you keep your silver, this will keep it from tarnishing.—H.W.B.

A Winter Hint.—To prevent ice from forming on the windows, rub the glass with a sponge which has been dipped into alcohol.—J.C.

Use for Old Quilts.—Never throw away old blankets and quilts. They make the very best sort of stair carpet pads, lengthening the wear of the carpet greatly.—S.C.V.

To Remove Wax Stains.—Candle wax stains can be removed from table linen by several applications of alcohol.—O.J.C.

To Prepare Pig for Roasting.—Before roasting a pig, let it lie in cold water for a quarter of an hour. It should then be carefully wiped inside and out with a dry cloth.—W.D.G.

To Wrap Christmas Packages.—When you have packages that are to travel a long distance, sew them up in strong unbleached muslin over the wrapping paper, writing the address on a tag. I had one come across the continent, protected in this way, and it arrived in perfect condition.—L.C.

Home-made High Chair.—Remove the top of an apple box and the top and one side of a cracker box. Stand the apple box on end and place the cracker box on top and nail securely. This makes a splendid high chair for a child, as it brings the child at exactly the right height to eat from the table.

Such a chair can be made quite attractive by covering with art burlap, using brass-headed tacks. My children prefer them to their regular high chairs, and they come in handy when visitors come with little ones.—F.G.

Eyelet Tape.—Of the many convenient and cheap "notions" for sale in the dry goods store eyelet tape is one that will prove its worth to the home seamstress. A two-yard package costs ten cents. A strip of it is much more quickly sewed to a waist or undergarment than a row each of hooks and eyes can be. The loops or eyelets are to take the place of buttonholes tediously and perhaps imperfectly made. With stout eyelet tape once sewed on there need be no fear of torn buttonholes, lost hooks and eyes, rust spots from hooks, or humps when clothes are ironed.—A.V.

Soap Economy.—Put two tablespoonfuls of alcohol into a pint jar of water, and set it in a convenient place in the bath room. When the pieces of toilet or bath soap become too small to use conveniently, drop them into this jar, and the pieces will be saved instead of going down the waste pipe.—C.V.R.

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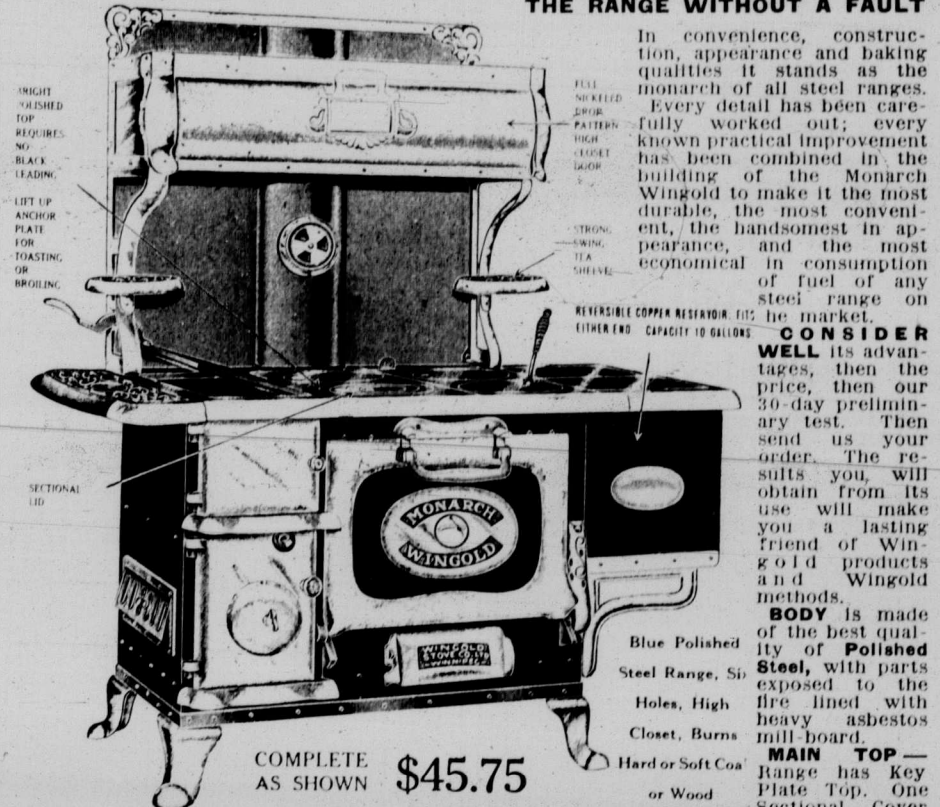
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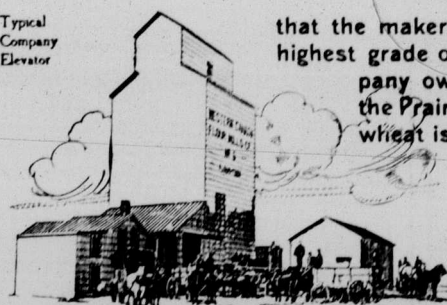


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