



FOR EVERY WOMAN ACCORDING TO HER NEEDS

The PRACTICAL GIRL and her FRIENDS

SHE CONSIDERS **
APRONS INDISPENSABLE



Two Sources of Flowered
Organdy Made this Apron

the practical girl with a cross-stitch pattern worked in colors on ecru. This apron is equally pretty made up in white linen, trimmed with a blue banding, a white embroidery ruffle and piped with blue sateen. The sateen should have the color set in salt water or sugar of lead before using.

A work apron that the practical girl is sure to find useful for her office may be made on the simple lines of the white apron worn by the stenographer. It is of checked dimity, with a tiny frill of lace around the neck. It has a rather narrow-gored front, fitting smoothly over the bust, with broad side breadths curved under the arms and cut into long straps, which cross at the back and button on each shoulder. Short ties hold the apron together on the hips.

The neck, armholes and straps are edged with a narrow banding. White

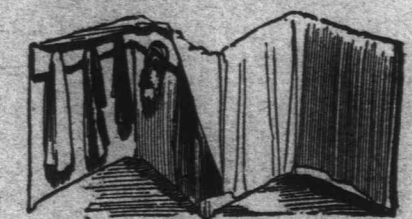
TIME AND MONEY SAVING HINTS

To Darn Cloth

TO DARN cloth, even though much patience is required, both in threading the needle and in using the material, threads of the goods itself should always be used. Sometimes these are only obtainable in quite short lengths; but, even so, they are better than anything else; and sometimes a little patience will be able to draw out more and more from a specially wide seam quite a long thread. Next to these comes cotton of the proper color; never silk, no matter how handsome the cloth may be. Baste the rent upon a piece of stiffish paper-writing paper, for instance—which will permit easy bending, but will not allow pulling away, the paper to be on the right side of the goods. Then, with a fine needle as will carry the thread, draw slowly together the lips of the rent, taking only the wrong side of the cloth. If the material is thick, then stitches should be carried in as far as possible without appearing on the right side. The word "slowly" is used because this particular mending can never be done in the most hasty, first, because the woolen thread will break under very slight strain, and, second, because the work is very particular. By waxing the end of the woolen thread it may be carried by a needle with a round eye, and therefore, a finer one than would otherwise be the case.

Unfinished Skirts

UNFINISHED SKIRTS should be hung up, not folded. In fact, much unfinished work is best for this treatment; but the hanging must be properly done or the result will be worse than that of folding. If one has not sufficient closet room to give the desired space for the regular season's sewing, the following will be found very convenient: On the back of a screen rack, at the top only, a strip of ticking about four inches deep. Over this tick, again at the top only, a piece of muslin, long enough to form a drop



Utilizing a Screen for Unfinished Coats

curtain, nearly to the floor and slightly full. To the under strip any amount of work may be fastened with safety pins. The curtain falling over will protect from dust. The screen can be pretty well folded and set across a corner without injuring the work in the least. When attaching waist to this device, fold together so that the shoulders are even, and put two safety pins at the neck, one at the shoulder and one directly in front. This prevents any sagging in the formation of unsightly wrinkles. Another advantage that hanging has over folding is that one can see at a glance just what is waiting to be done without turning over and pawing through anything not needed at the moment.

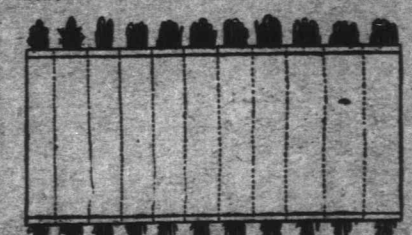
An Ounce of Prevention

A STITCH in time saves nine," it is said, but there are some stitches that may be taken even before "in time," and thus save more than "nine." Most truly is this the case in regard to children's stockings. Our grandmothers were accustomed carefully to "run" the heels and toes of new stockings before ever they were worn, which made them so thick that, darning, like the "evil day," was put "far off." The manufacturer takes care of that now by weaving the heels and toes double. But somehow he seems to have overlooked the knees. The little bones of children are sharp and soon cut through, especially when "darning plays marbles" or does any other of a thousand nice things that may be done if one never has to think of the consequences to one's clothes. Mother can save herself and the child many an uncomfortable quarter of an hour if she will take a little time before the stockings are worn at all, a piece of material from an old pair may be cut to fit over the knee. This can be attached to the new stocking by invisible stitches. It will not only form a pad which will prevent the stocking from going so quickly, but will be a foundation in which to darn when the stocking begins to wear, which will prevent the appearance of those hideous, black, cross-barred darns which look like nothing so much as a prison.

A Novel Holder

IF short of a bookie, did you ever try using a small safety pin in its place? If not, do so, as you will find it very effective. After all, what is needed is a smooth head to drive through the casing and a loop to hold the ribbon or tape. Both of these the safety pin supplies.

This plan is especially nice in filling a holder for embroidery silks. You haven't one you always use a book to hold them? Oh, make yourself a silk holder by all means. It is the simplest thing in the world and, of its kind, the most convenient. Take a piece of



A Case for Embroidery Silks

goods—silk, cheesecloth or whatever you will—about eighteen inches long (longer if you have many shades) and ten inches deep. Fasten to this another piece eighteen inches long and eight inches wide. Turn the edges of the material down on both sides. Stitch the two pieces together at the ends, leaving difference in width on both ends, and stitch again and again at intervals of inches, which makes a space for the skein. Finish with feather stitching. The silk can then be drawn from the skein as needed, and is thus kept from tangling and from soil. The best material to use for this is a piece of muslin in place is a safety pin, as it supplies a longer loop.

A CERTAIN old-fashioned dictionary defines an apron as "a half girdle, or garment covering the front of the person, used for workmen and others for the purpose of cleanliness," which definition is about as lucidly enlightening as many another prepared by learned encyclopedists. Had a reader whose lot it had been never to see an apron changed on that paragraph he would have small conception of the wonderful evolution of the modern apron. One idea he might, perhaps, gain—a mission in life to afford cleanliness to the workman. Strange to say, this view of the subject rarely presents itself to the workman himself—unless perhaps he is at some distinctly dirt-producing occupation. As for the working woman, she is beginning to awaken to the fact that if she is to be always fresh and dainty, an apron for the office as well as at home is simply indispensable.

APRONS FOR MANY USES

Time was when many a woman looked on an apron as a badge of servitude; the sign of menial occupation that must be rigorously concealed; but we have changed all that. Nowadays there are aprons for every purpose under the sun, where home use is considered. There are aprons of lawn, velvet, organdy, and silk; aprons with bows, frills and ruffles; aprons for knitting and sewing; for serving afternoon tea or manipulating a chafing dish; homely, comfortable gingham aprons for wear in the kitchen and others rather more ornate, but still strictly utilitarian, that play an important part in studio or workroom.

The homekeeping woman needs little titillation into the apron-wearing fad. The practical girl is very apt to include in her wardrobe half a dozen different kinds of aprons, for as many different purposes. Frequently she makes them herself out of delicately colored muslins, or handkerchiefs, linens, with trimmings of cluny, valenciennes or torchon; with accordeon-pleated or plain ruffles of the material, makes them with bibs of every variety, or without any at all; with shoulder ruffles and revers, with straps or plain buttoned bands, with long sash ends or little butterfly bows.

In fact, there is no limit to the dainty, frilly aprons a clever needlewoman can make for herself at very little cost. A yard or two of flowered muslin left from a summer gown will work up into the prettiest possible little apron, with a rounded front reaching half-way down the gown and square bib pointed at the upper edge and trimmed with bias bands that cross at the point and run over each shoulder to meet the waistband at the back. If preferred, these bands may be widened over the shoulders into revers that may be simply finished with machine stitching or edged with a narrow knife-pleating or a ruffle of lace. Such an apron will prove very useful for dusting and other light housework, or even for sewing.

GINGHAM FOR SERVICE

No apron proves more serviceable to the practical girl than a long, straight one of pretty checked gingham, built on the lines of a child's pinafore. With an apron or two of this kind she is ready for any emergency, even if she is compelled to do her own housework. It will so completely cover a gown as to afford absolute protection, even if she finds it necessary to wash dishes in a reception dress of delicate hue. In such a case of domestic difficulties and a somewhat unsolvable servant problem, such an apron is absolutely indispensable to every housewife.

Patterns for such cooking aprons are easily procured, but should one wish to dispense with a pattern it can be easily made from two . . . of gingham long enough to reach to the bottom of one's dress, and allow a two-inch hem, with enough more material to make the sleeves. Five yards of gingham will make one apron for a woman of medium height.

The front is formed of one breadth, while the other is sewed to make the two backs. As gingham is reversible, this gives a full breadth at the bottom, tapering to twelve inches at the top. Two four-inch gores are added to the

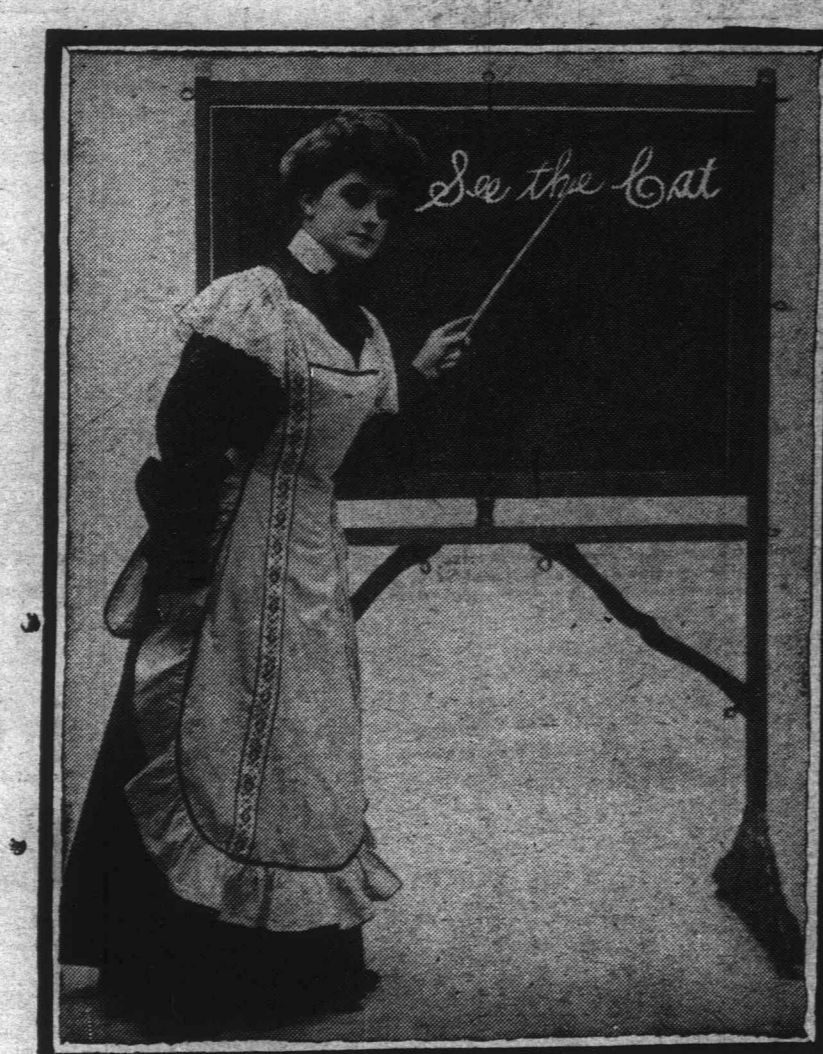
front seams at the bottom to give fullness. The armholes are made very large, so the apron may be easily slipped on and off without crushing the most delicate waist underneath. The sleeves are of the old-fashioned bishop shape, gathered into an inch-wide band at the wrist. This fastens with a button and buttonhole.

The fullness at the neckband front and back is gathered into a narrow band large enough to drop below the collar line. This also is buttoned. The shoulder seams are two and a half inches deep. Finish the seams in flat falls, blind the armholes and hem the bottom. The backer have the selvages turned back on each side for three-quarters of an inch and gathered into the collar band, but not stitched to the length of the apron. This gives greater width.

These gingham aprons are very pretty made of blue and white or pink and white checked gingham of a fine quality. Sometimes the neck is cut a little square. If a touch of trimming is wished, the neck and wristbands may be braid-stitched, or they may even be of a plain dark color to match the deepest tone of the check. This, however, scarcely proves serviceable, as it is difficult to find any material that stands frequent washings as well as a really good checked gingham.

Such an apron, besides being practical, is usually surprisingly becoming. Marked by absolute simplicity, yet essentially dainty, is a little apron that may be worn about the house by the practical girl on whom domestic

labor, or even ruffe, trimmed, and a frill of lace can be run around the neck. If made up in heavier materials, the hem may be braid-stitched all around. Or it would be very pretty with a colored hem stitched on to a white or ecru centre. The woman or girl who works in an office all day, strange to say, has not yet fully learned the possibilities of the apron. Though she has special need to keep herself always well



An Ecru Linen Apron with Red Sateen Pippings

groomed and neat, she, too, often takes small pains to do so. Yet there are few positions short of actual manual labor where sleeves and shirtwaist fronts are so quickly soiled and rubbed as at a desk. There usually remains but two alternatives—laundry bills of an appalling size or the wearing of blouses or gowns past their freshness. There are numerous makeshifts by which women seek to achieve this freshness. They deck themselves with ugly paper cuffs, stick great pieces of yellow paper into their belts, to reach half way to their collars; wear black sleeves or shawls in paper mache over white blouses, and generally

detract from their appearance. But somehow they rarely think of wearing aprons, or, if they do, choose those that are hopelessly unattractive. There is really no reason for this. There are many charming models she could copy at little cost; aprons so femininely dainty and attractive, yet practical, that employers, seeing them, will think, "How sensible!" Nothing could be prettier for a practical working woman's apron than the one worn by the teacher at her blackboard. It is a charming combination of ecru linen piped in red sateen, with shoulder ruffles of ecru embroidery and trimmings of Oriental cotton banding. Such an apron requires 1 1/2 yards of linen, 3/4 yards of banding, 2 yards of ecru embroidery and 3/4 yards of banding. The apron is made with a gored front and two side breadths, the seams be-



White Dimity with Crossed Back Straps

ing hidden under the bands. It is edged with a 1/4-inch ruffle, sloped to 1/2 of an inch at the waist line. This ruffle has an eighth of an inch piping of the sateen, and is headed by a band of the same 1/2 of an inch deep. A similar band runs across the bib just above the bust line.

The banding used on this apron is of cotton in an Oriental design in red and blue on a white ground. It can be bought for from 15 to 60 cents a yard, and is piped on each side in the red sateen. The bands run directly over the shoulders and come down in bounding points over a belt of the banding. The belt is sewed to the apron at one side and buttons at the other. Long ties with rounded ends, piped for their entire length with sateen, are sewed over the belt to tie in a loose bow below it.

If the cost of the banding seems excessive, a trimming may be made by

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One End of a Worn Bureau
Scarf May be Utilized

dimity sleeve covers, cut in a bishop model, held into a band at the cuff and finished with a little frill of the material and an elastic at the top, add to the usefulness of this apron. It is also supplied with a capacious pocket.

Whatever else the practical girl may do without in the way of clothes, she will find, when once she becomes accustomed to their use, that the apron is not only a necessary adjunct to her daily home life, but absolutely indispensable to her if she is one of that growing class of women who face the world as workers.

The Iron Gray Age

THIS does not refer to the hair by any means, although the expression "iron gray" hair is always dreaded by every woman. It refers to the mental wear and tear which all of us feel with advancing years, and it is a symptom which must be attended to promptly, if you would keep from contracting a chronic habit of looking at life through the dull gray of a November evening.

"The iron gray feeling." It is not exactly old, but it is tending that way. The blush is off the rose. About the best recipe I can give you is to hunt up all the young people you know, and enter into their joys and pursuits and endeavor to make them happy, to play their games and sing their songs, to know what they are talking about. Turn about is fair play, and what you gave to their youth, their youth must repay to your declining years. As you reap, so you will sow, and it's wonderful how these young people like to have an older person enter into their little games and sympathize with their small woes, which seem very real to their limited experience. Make them love you, trust you, and love them. Why, there is so much you can do for them, and the person never yet tried to help another but he derived more help than he gave from the effort. So if you feel really selfishly inclined, think of this. For, believe me, before you have gone far, you will have forgotten, in absorbing interest of the game you are playing, to think of yourself at all, and then you will be genuinely happy. Walk with them, talk with them, make them tell stories, encourage them to talk to you. You will be surprised to learn that you soon will feel "just as young as you used to be."