



# FOR EVERY WOMAN ACCORDING TO HER NEEDS

## The PRACTICAL GIRL and her FADS

## SHE CONSIDERS APRONS INDISPENSABLE



**A** CERTAIN old-fashioned dictionary defines an apron as "a half skirt 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 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 have, gain—its 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 mental 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, awns, organdie and silk; aprons for knitting and sewing, for serving afternoon tea or manipulating a chaffing 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 housekeeping woman needs little initiation into the apron-wearing fad. The practical girl is very apt to find 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 handkerchief linens, with trimmings of cindy, valenciennes or tuchen; with accented-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 this era of domestic difficulties and a somewhat unenviable 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 1/2 yds 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 gored 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 gorges 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, bind the armholes and hem the bottom. The backs 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.

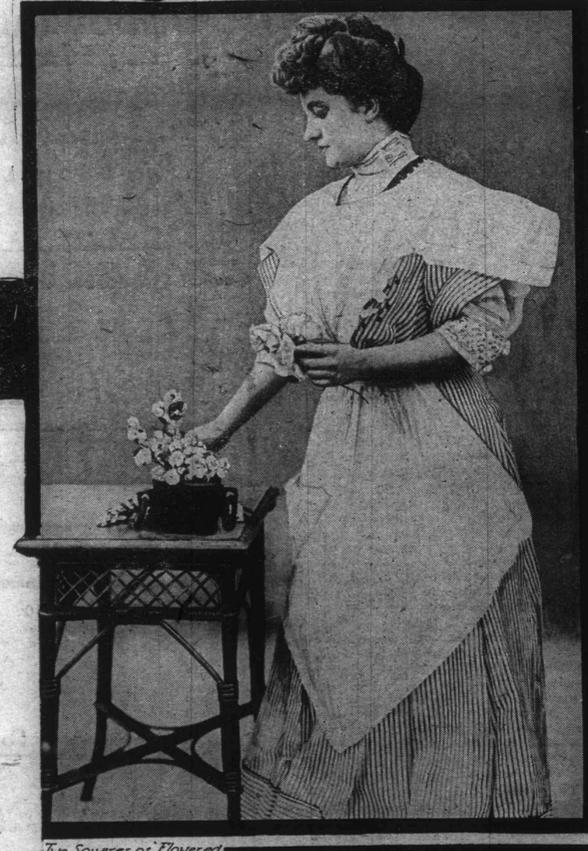
These gingham aprons are very pretty made of blue and white or pink and white checked gingham of a fine quality. Sometimes the neck is cut a little square. If a touch of trimming is wished, the neck and wristbands may be braid-edged, or they may even be of a plain dark color to match the deepest tone 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 de-

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Two Squares of Flowered Organdy Made this Apron

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The practical girl with a cross-stitch pattern worked in colors on scrim. This apron is equally pretty made up in white linen, trimmed with a blue banding, a white embroidery ruffe 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

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### 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 stiff 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 as fine a 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, working on the right side. The word "slowly" is used because this particular kind of darning can never be done in the most haste, first, because the woolen thread will break under very slight strain, and, second, because the work is very particular. By wasting a few moments, the thread may be carried by a needle with round eyes, and the darning done 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 wide, is found very convenient; on the back of a screen rack, at the top only, a strip 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 it will protect from dust. The screen can be pretty well folded and secured with a cord, thus injuring the work in the least.

When attaching 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 and the formation of unnecessary 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 sifting musing anything not needed at the moment.

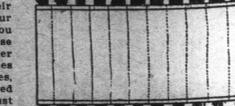
#### An Ounce of Prevention

**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 a fellow plays football or does any other of a thousand nice things that may be done if one never thinks of them. This can be cut to fit around the knee, and 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 it will be a foundation in which to do any darning that begins to wear, which last will prevent the appearance of those hideous, big, cross-hatched darns which look like nothing so much as a prison window.

#### A Novel Holder

If short of a bodkin, 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 good 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 more than one) and ten inches deep. Fasten to this another piece eighteen inches long and ten inches deep, after hems have been turned down on both sides. Stitch the pieces together at the ends, leaving difference in width on both sides, and one inch, which makes a space for each silk. Finish with a hem on the top. The silk can then be drawn from the top as needed, and is thus kept from tangling and from being soiled. The hem with which to draw the silk is in place, and a safety pin, as it supplies a longer loop.

#### 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

**T**HIS 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 knit 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; trust them and love them. Why, there is so much you can do for them, and what you give to help them, 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 begin to be truly 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."

#### White Dimity with Crossed Back Straps

erally 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 apronless state of the office girl, since 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 sera lines piped in red sateen, with shoulder ruffles of sera embroidery and trimmings of Oriental cotton banding.

Such an apron requires 1 1/2 yards of linen, 3/4 yards of banding, 3/4 yards of embroidery and 3/4 yards of sateen. The apron is made with a gored front and two side breadths, the seams be-



An Iron Linen Apron with Red Sateen Piping

comes 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 shirtds in paper mache over white blouses, and gen-

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