Womans' Sphere in Life and Labor

How to make up your own Hair Combings

Leprosy in Store Hair Goods

A painfully distressing case which will result in a speedy fatality occurred in a large Pittsburg departmental store a few months ago. Miss Gillispie, a store clerk, selling gloves, went to the false hair counter and bought a "switch." In two weeks' time her body, from the breast up, was covered with a horrible malignant growth. Her physician, Dr. L. M. Golden, after numerous examinations and consultation with the best medical authorities in Pittsburg, pronounced her disease leprosy and insisted on isolation. The young lady rebelled and refused to go to the isolation colony until the United States Government would trace the "switch" to its original owner, for it was human hair. The Government did this and traced the hair to the head of a leprous victim isolated on an island in the Carribbean Sea, where the Cuban Government send its most malignant cases. When this incident became known every employer of female labor in Pittsburg decreed that at the beginning of the year not a woman would be allowed to wear false hair in his establishment.

To cope with the present bulky style in hair-dressing necessarily a large percentage of the size is made up of false hair, or, strictly speaking, hair not belonging to the head upon which it is worn, and if women are determined to comply with the "fashion," they had much better make up and use their own hair which they know, than buy and wear the unknown, which may easily have contagion in it; in fact, it is quite likely to have, for malignant fevers, smallpox, etc., is often the cause of falling hair or of cutting the hair which might easily be made up and sold at high prices—and no one be the wiser, even though disease was spread by this means. In view of the dangers that may lie in store goods, there is really no necessity for using it, even though a woman has lost her natural quantity, if only she saved it as it fell; for combings can be made up beautifully by anyone having a little skill and patience, and the purpose of this paper is to give a few hints and illustrations that will enable any woman desirous of doing so, to make up her own hair—and she will know what she has got.

To begin with, unwind and untangle the hair as much as possible by taking a bunch between the hands, spreading and loosening out with the fingers exactly as one would a tangled skein. Then, when the bunch is straightened a little, take a comb and begin in the middle of the bunch, combing each way till a clear space is made. Wind this cleared space round the forefinger of the left hand, leaving both tangled

FIGURE. 1.

ends free. Now comb from the ends outward, working inward toward the finger. Surprisingly soon the whole bunch will be clear of tangles; but the hair will, of course, be very unevenly matched at the ends of the bunch. To obviate this difficulty, lay the bunch flat on the table, place a weight on top (a smoothing iron will do), pull a small pinch at a time from the extreme end and always from the same end (and very soon that end will pull quite even) and work this into the mesh as illustrated.

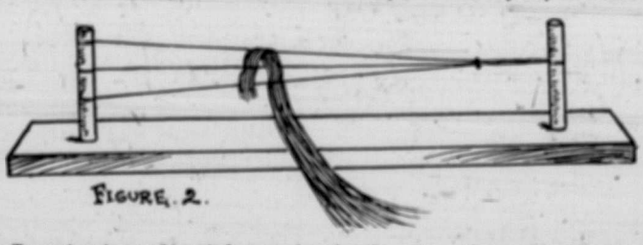

FIGURE. 2.

To make the mesh and framework, take a piece of planking or scantling, say two by four inches by three feet long, erect upright or perpendicular posts, about six inches from each end by boring holes in the plank and driving in stout pegs about ten inches high. They must be firm. Get strong linen thread. Take three threads, fasten them all together near the top of the right-hand post, three inches from the post. Tie all three in a solid knot, carry the threads across to the other post and secure them firmly to it, about two inches apart, leaving plenty of room to work below the lowest thread and the plank.

Now take the strand or lock of hair pulled from the end of the bunch weighted by the iron, and weave in and out, entering behind the lowest thread (and midway of the posts), then out toward you, then back over the second thread, round behind the top thread, over it and then back in the reverse way you went up, having taken only the end of the lock so that this end disappears in the mesh. Now take this lock and push it along the threads till it is tight and fast against the knot that was tied in the three threads, near the right post. Take a second lock, weave in exactly the same way, being particular to enter it behind the lowest thread every time and push it along the threads till it is tight against the first lock. Continue in this way till all your hair is worked in.

This will give you a strip of fringe of hair that may be sewed round and round a short piece of tape, and then you have a "switch" of your very own hair, which will match yours and be free from contagion and cost you, well, perhaps two days' labor; or, if the hair be thin a parting may be made round the head where the old-time hair ribbon was worn, combing all outside the parting downward, and the balance upward. Fasten the fringe round the head here, letting the hair fall downward till secured. Now comb up all the hair together toward the crown, loosely, and, well, just do it and you'll see for yourself.

Again, if your hair is thin around the face only, and you wish to replenish that particularly (a lady the other day said "reinforce" it), make up your hair differently. Take the strand near the middle, work in and out in the same way and there will be a double fringe in the same space. The hair must be reasonably long to make a success of this.

These directions seem complicated perhaps, but the process is really very simple when you get your materials and start the work.

On inquiry it was found that a good hair store, in this city, where hair goods are made to order, charges twenty-five dollars in cash and three months' apprenticeship to the novice who desires to acquire this useful trade. If any reader wishes further directions she has only to write THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE and fuller hints and illustrations will be published; or, if preferred, a private reply will be given, in a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

I.B.G.

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RUGS BETTER THAN CARPETS

The modern farm-wife has come to consider a covering for her floors (either carpet or rugs) an absolute necessity the year round, and if these are kept in a sanitary condition, they may be deemed a benefit and an adornment to the home; otherwise, a plain wood floor is a thousand times more preferable.

Although either rugs or carpets may be managed in a way not to endanger home sanitation, rugs are by far the superior of carpets. Some of the keener-minded housewives have recognized this superiority and are discarding their carpets as rapidly as possible, while many still cling tenaciously to the old-fashioned carpet.

The most objectionable feature about the use of carpets is the infrequency of lifting and renovating them, which is generally but twice a year. If they did not require stretching and tacking, this could of course be done more frequently, and here is where the adaptability of rugs is most apparent. They require no stretching, no tacking and whenever the housewife thinks conditions demand that the rugs be renovated, there is no putting off and dreading the job, as with carpets, for the rugs can simply be lifted, dusted, aired and replaced in the rooms in less than half the time one would consume in taking up and renovating the carpets.

But this advantage of quick handling is not the main point of excellence possessed by rugs over carpets. They lie flat on the floor; while carpets almost always have a padding between them and the floor. This filling is a veritable dust-collector, and, with the carpets above, absorbs about all the dust and other particles that settle to the floor, where the trampling of many feet works everything firmly in. If every housewife possessed the scientific instruments with which she could make an examination of this accumulated filth collected by carpets, she would scream in horror at the seething mass of disease-germ and microbes harboring there. As they are loosened by the feet of persons passing through the carpeted rooms, these dangerous germs float through the air, and are drawn into the lungs, their poisonous effect being diffused through the entire system. Under such circumstances, it is small wonder that the death rate from lung troubles is so appalling.

Then rugs, possess other points of superiority over carpets. They are more artistic in their arrangement and appearance, with their many variations and the border effect produced by the bare floor around the edges. Carpets are much more troublesome to fit, as the amount of stretching makes it difficult to know just what size to get.

Again, rugs are much more desirable than carpets from an economical standpoint. The seams joining the several strips of carpeting for a room are soon worn until they break, or else they pull loose in stitching, fraying and ripping the carpet. In either case, there is a shabby looking carpet, a lot of tedious mending to do, or a new carpet to be purchased, all of which could be avoided by the common sense of rugs. Thus we see that rugs rank above carpets in these four most important points of superiority: Appearance, ease of handling, economy and sanitation—a combination sufficient to enlighten the most skeptical.

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MUSIC IN THE HOME

Country folks seem hungry for music. They would willingly sit for hours and listen to good music. At the state fairs a crowd always gathers around the band stand. No matter where they are they give respectful attention to music while city folks chat on as though nothing was going on.

Those who don't know one note from another appreciate it just the same. They are really the more receptive for they are not critics.

Why not satisfy this longing as far as possible? Get a piano and give the children music lessons. Of course it will cost something. Every good thing costs. It will take time for daily practice. That will seem the hardest.

Maybe you have a piano and the daughter that played has married and gone. A piano player can be bought in this case. Anyone can play them. The boys with their hard hands and stiff joints can sit down and operate the instrument as well as anybody. So can the little girl who never took a music lesson.

Some farm communities can boast of a band or an orchestra composed of the young folks. This affords them many evenings of helpful social pleasures and is a splendid training. They can furnish music for picnics and farm gatherings.

But in case none of these suggestions will do and you long for music with a longing that can't be satisfied—hold on, it can be satisfied! There's the store of "canned music" to fall back on. Canned strawberries in winter when you can't get the fresh fruit taste mighty good. But there's a big difference in looks and flavor just the same. But "canned music" is so very much like the original that it is hard to tell the difference. They've got the thing down so fine that you hear nothing of the mechanical working of the instrument and only the clear sweet tones of the singer or the instrument represented. Put the little cylinder or disc on the instrument and sit down and enjoy a treat. That's all there is to do. Anyone can operate it. All can enjoy its immense variety of entertainment.

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MAKING PORK

"Goodness sakes, what have you now?" asks the weary mamma, as she watched her small daughter coming up the garden path that led from grandma's house.

Breathless, the little one came into the kitchen and deposited something in the baby's cradle, with as much ease as if it were an every day occurrence, to carry a pig into the house and rock it to sleep in the cradle.

"Well, I never saw the like of this," exclaimed the mother in dismay. "Why, Gladys, you must be crazy; Christian people do not bring pigs into the house and rock them in baby's cradle; where in the world did you get it?"

"Grandma gave it to me."

"You can just carry it back to grandma. What can we do with a pig like that? Take it back to grandpa and let him give it to its mother."

"Grandpa said it was sick, and its mother was dead and he gave it to me." Then tender hearted little Gladys commenced to cry.

"Oh, well, I suppose you can keep it till it dies; what do you think, Gladys, you can do with it?"

"I am going to make pork."

And mamma peeping over into that cradle, laughed merrily at the idea of that little, shivering, wrinkled specimen of swinedom ever making anything that resembled pork.

"But Gladys, it cannot eat; how can it make pork with nothing to eat?"

"It can eat like a baby," said Gladys; and running to the baby, she took his bottle, in spite of his decided objections, and soon the little pig was drawing the sustenance of life from the same source as the baby, and, seemingly, with as great relish.

Then papa came in, and they all laughed at the amusing picture until they could laugh no more; and papa said: "Well, Gladys, you can keep the pig and the bottle also, we will get brother another one; we can not depend upon one bottle for two such clamorous, greedy babies."

"Of course I'll keep it; Grandpa gave it to me to keep," answered Gladys.

So papa fixed it a snug place in the