

Feminine Fancies and Home Circle

HOW TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS

THE holiday mania has set in. Nothing else is talked of but the coming of the season. But the ways of spending holidays are diverse, as diverse as the types of human character. There is but one point upon which we all agree; there must be change; the holiday must be as different from the ordinary life as possible.

To withdraw for a season from the routine of daily civilized existence and live simply and naturally is a manna for half our aches and pains and strains. Contact with nature gives refreshment as nothing else can. Whether we enjoy this in the fine air of the mountains, or the sea breeze on the ocean waters little. The point is to get clean away from everyday surroundings, to cut adrift from ordinary trammels. How good to let the barbarous man within us have his way for once! All English people know the feeling; it belongs to the same nature that makes them such excellent colonists. What some call hardihood, others call the pleasure.

The same feeling it is that sends our young men out Alpine climbing, defying cold and danger, our men and women caravanning, cooking and finding for themselves, delighting in the absence of dress and dinner bells, and whole families to camp out in the woods where they go back as far as possible to primitive conditions.

"Nobody knows us; it does not matter what we do." The intense delight of living in the open, hatless, shoeless, collarless, with a bathing towel tied loosely round the neck, when this is a man's age! and what words of good it does them! To say that while on a holiday we must have rest as well as change is a truism that is a half exhausted to write it; but there are some who need reminding. To come back home from a vacation unrefreshed, just because attempts were made to do too much at the outset, and to crowd too many incidents into a limited period, is of all things disappointing. We have heard of people so spending holidays that it took a considerable time to recover from them after wards. This is particularly true of those people who spend holidays abroad, where the temptations to "eight see" are too irresistible to be evaded. In all cases, where there is a holiday, it is a capital plan to begin on holidays with a few days' perfect rest. Indeed, this is a prescription that would do good to most. Nor should long walks, fatiguing excursions, and too many incidents be undertaken by people who are quite out of training. It is better to lead up to them gradually.

"Where's" to spend our holidays is a much more difficult question to settle than "how," because the choice is now so wide, since travel is made so cheap and easy. For families who live inland, nothing can beat the seaside holiday. The sea is so companionable, and with "the children" for an excuse, even fathers and mothers can spend whole mornings happily on the beach, and play with them. Young Britain, here-legend on his sand, and the sea is a far more beneficial far as health is concerned.

There is one more difficulty: it is that nearly every one takes a holiday at the same time, which simply doubles the expense. Every place is so overcrowded. But then, when there are children, this is unavoidable, as the time is fixed by the school holidays.

FASHION FANCIES.

There is such a slight and subtle difference between the right and the wrong thing in the matter of minor details of dress, that one needs to give the most careful attention to the question of waist bands, and have come to the conclusion that this is one of the essential eticetars in which women are most apt to go wrong.

There is a strong and regrettable tendency, for instance, just now towards Swiss belts, with an up and a downward point at the back, and a piece of gold fancy galon on cotton frocks. Now either of these things spell disaster to an otherwise satisfactory ensemble.

The Swiss belt is quite one of the ugliest centuries that ever was invented, and anyone with an average capacity for noting the trend of modes, should be aware that it is no longer "worn so" by good dressers. For some people, however, the trouble of a little thought continues to encircle their waists after this fashion. Then the gold fancy galon with the cotton frock is an evidence of the style of dressing that betokens the lack of sense of the fitness of things in the matter of clothes. I was walking behind two sisters the other day clad in charming striped pink zephyr frocks, and one of the other wearers was outlined by a few folds of dainty pink satin ribbon. No stronger practical illustration could have been given of how wrong it is to wear a belt of plain silver ribbon, with a silver buckle as a complement to a linen skirt and lingerie blouse, and looking altogether "blen-misc" from head to foot. I drew the conclusion that the girl who wears such a belt is either a little bit of a dandy, or a little bit of a fool.

Yet, as a proof of how subtle is the line between the very smart and the thoroughly inferior in style, the following day I saw a girl wearing a belt of plain silver ribbon, with a silver buckle as a complement to a linen skirt and lingerie blouse, and looking altogether "blen-misc" from head to foot. I drew the conclusion that the girl who wears such a belt is either a little bit of a dandy, or a little bit of a fool.

Then again, there is an exception to this, for one sees white mink frocks and white mink blouses, and silver tissue belts. In fact, dogmatism is impossible. It is sufficient if one has convinced one's readers that their waist belt really requires as much consideration as their hat, and that there are in truth no such things as minor details, for a flaw in the tiniest pin will sometimes put a vast and entire mechanism out of order. Hand in hand with a vogue for embroideries and delicate stitcheries, elaborate and exquisite enough to become heirlooms, comes a rage for the simplest cotton frocks. Exclusively dainty these frocks are, and utterly charming in every way. Moreover they are a standing witness to the triumph of common sense over a dominating fashion. The erect collar braced by a wide lace in the boxes packed for country girls has been supported throughout this hot season by some self-made martyrs in the cause of fashion. But this with the usual, present-day view of the view in the matter of modes, the other extreme has been exploited by many well dressed women, and especially young girls. The simple turned-down collar of fine linen or lawn has been more popular on the cotton gown than the erect structures, and with the general exodus for the country it is the gown with this type of neckwear which will hold the larger space in the boxes packed for country girls.

It must be confessed that footwear, gloves and all such details play a most important part in the ostensibly simple mode of dressing. White shoes of white buckskin are a by no means uncommon accompaniment, though neat black or tan shoes also look appropriate. Colored leather shoes should never be indulged in by any lady, and a good many crimes have been committed even by them in the name of fancy footwear this season. Give me a neat tan or black leather shoe for a moderately well set woman, though I must confess a penchant for showy white for the wearer who can afford to live up to such possessions. Nevertheless, this season's fashion for white shoes with colored frocks—unless these be of cotton—does not appeal to me.

Another matter in which the craving for something simpler and less elaborate is in the gown all of one color, without the faintest tinge of any color, save perhaps for a double tulle ruffle round the top

of the collar. One charming gown seen at a recent function, of dead leaf crepe de chine, did it. It is true, however, a yoke of lace, but it was in blonde dyed to match the material. At another function, the most successful toilette was in bottle green, without a touch of contrast, except for that given to it by a huge black tulle trimmed hat. After the over-tastiness of many gowns, such simple schemes are most refreshing to the eye. And one only regrets that with the present rate of change in fashion, we shall in a short time tire of a mode which just at present has all the charm of novelty. Among the best dressed women, there still continues a furor for linen frocks, and coats and skirts, so that to be in harmony with the modes of the moment, one must go on writing on this subject and note the variations which the passage of time brings to the surface. I have even encountered a black linen coat and pleated skirt, with big round plaited coat buttons that looked admirable on a girl who was evidently in mourning, and suggests a most welcome notion to the matron who remains faithful to black, but finds it adds to her problem of how to dress in hot weather.

ETIQUETTE OF HOME LIFE

There are some things about which one cannot be too particular about which indeed a little ceremony even is best selected. This is especially true in the matter of meals and what may be broadly termed table manners, for it is really surprising how careless and indifferent some people are, and how unpunctual many are in their observance of the rules which are partaken of. Unpunctual, untidy, even slovenly are expressions not always too harsh to be used in connection with the observance of breakfast. Breakfast seems to have become a sort of privileged meal, as far as unpunctuality is concerned, to which the different members drop in as they like and when they like. This is a most unfortunate habit, and a large staff of servants to wait upon each person and to serve each with a fresh relay of hot dishes, but in a small household where these things are impossible and unpunctuality means everything that is inconvenient and uncomfortable, extra trouble, like warm food, and cold tea and coffee and in consequence late coming to the table, and the like, are all to be avoided. A right which they generally seem to avail themselves of, so that instead of being a cheerful, pleasant meal with which to begin the day, a breakfast sinks into an occasion of annoyance.

In many houses the meal has to be at what some might consider an exceptionally early hour, to enable the family to have time to get to their work. To work to enjoy it in comfort, there is nothing more injurious than a hurried scramble and the having to rush off the moment a meal is finished to catch the train, or to go to work. It is a pity that in laying down her household rules puts punctuality at meals at the head of her list and lets it be known that it is one which must be kept by all the members of the household.

How often does one hear it said—and in a tone of pride as if it were something to be really proud of—that such and such a meal is a model of order and "household." This may sound very pleasant and friendly, as if the house in question were a sort of liberty hall, in which each person could do just what he liked and when he liked it. A wise mistress knows this, and when in practice it is quite the contrary and a house worked upon these lines is one that is most uncomfortable either to visit or to live in. However it be otherwise, when there is a method of management, and the hour for meals!

Next to punctuality—indeed the two might well be bracketed together—the next thing to be considered in the matter of table manners is the question of cleanliness. To see a creased and dingy table-cloth upon which the forks, spoons, plates, etc., are placed, and in the midst of so many people, is a most unpleasant thing. It is so easy to see that the public in more senses than one, personal attention to have things neat and tidy, and need not entail any extra expense. For instance, to have the white damask table cloth smooth and uncreased, and to have the silverware clean and bright, and to have the table set with a different length and a different cloth should be spread over the table beneath it so that the white one will not "work up into wrinkles." This is a very simple thing to do, and it is a pity that a butler and young and untrained or only partially-trained servant is often ignorant of small things such as these, and even when told of them does not always remember to do them regularly.

Those who possess ample means and keep a large staff of servants to carry out their behests need not trouble about small things such as these, but those who live in either a small house or a flat, and can neither give large wages, nor keep more than one servant have to do a certain amount of training, and see that their maids do their work properly. It is a pity that a butler and young and untrained or only partially-trained servant is often ignorant of small things such as these, and even when told of them does not always remember to do them regularly.

Most people are apt to judge from appearances, so that when they see the various little rules of social observance neglected, they are apt to judge that the person who is neglecting them is neglecting the whole. As saying the table, waiting at table, etc., their verdict naturally is that the mistress of the house is either careless or stupid. It is a pity that a butler and young and untrained or only partially-trained servant is often ignorant of small things such as these, and even when told of them does not always remember to do them regularly.

All these little matters may sound very small and trivial, and one might say that they are of no importance at all, but they are quite wrong—at any rate as far as the majority of women are concerned, most of whom, if not all, like to know the right thing to do, and to have done. And it is not in the larger affairs of the outside world of society but also in the smaller, more intimate concerns of the everyday life of the family and home, that the right things to do should be known and should be done. The tactful word, the courteous act, will remove many an obstacle, make smooth many a rough path and bring into harmony many a discordant note, not only outside, but within the home.

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Chicken Puffs

Make some flaky pastry for these. Pass over a pound of flour through a sieve with a heaped teaspoonful of baking powder, and a pinch of salt.

Rub into the flour six ounces of butter, making it into a smooth and rather stiff paste, with a little cold water.

Roll it out across the board and place about it in small pieces six ounces of butter, sprinkle these with flour.

Fold the paste over into three, turn it, and roll it out again as thinly as possible across the board. Fold and roll again, give it one more fold and roll.

Then fold and, if possible, set it aside for some hours on ice, or in a cold place, putting it first on a floured tin.

Meanwhile prepare the chicken by cutting the meat from a boiled one into neat pieces about the size and thickness of a ten-cent piece. Put these into a basin, season with a little pepper and salt, and moisten them with a little white sauce, which has been made with white stock, nicely flavored with vegetables.

Roll out the pastry rather thinly, and cut into strips about four inches by three.

Place a spoonful of the prepared chicken on half the strip and fold it over, pressing the edges together. Place the puffs on a tin wetted with cold water, brush them over with a whole beaten-up egg, and bake in a hot oven, until they are a nice golden-brown color.

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powder. Put the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in a moderate oven for twenty-five minutes. Cover with a damp piece of paper if it is likely to become too brown. Turn out and remove the paper. When cold cut into slices, and spread one with nut filling, cover with another slice of cake, cut into fancy shapes, ice with glaze, and sprinkle the top with pistachio nuts.

Nut Filling—Flavor some soft royal icing with a little vanilla and mix into it some chopped almonds that have been baked a light brown.

Glaze—Put six ounces of sifted icing sugar into a steapan, with a little vanilla and a half pint of warm water and a little lemon juice. Just warm and use.

The above recipes besides being delicious to take on a picnic, are very suitable for light refreshments at a small dance or evening party.

PINS, HOW TO USE AND ABUSE THEM

A common, insignificant pin is an article that all women use and many abuse. How often one hears the remark, "That so-and-so is such an untidy person, her clothes are literally pinned on."

Now the fault lies, not in wearing the pins, but in allowing them to be seen.

For keeping a skirt in its place there is nothing better than a safety-pin, provided a neat belt hides it; but the safety-pin is not a safety-pin, if it is not fastened to the front or to the back as required, improves the fit of the whole thing. Any blouse will keep in its place much better if put on and pinned, if necessary, than if it is not pinned at all. So many variations can be made on a plain evening dress bodice if the "trimmings" are pinned instead of sewn on.

And the lace or chiffon scarf can be secured to the centre of the back, with a brooch, and draped over the shoulders, where, caught by tiny pearl pins, it is kept in place. One end "fluffy" carried to the front, and the other end, secured to the back, and draped over the shoulders, where, caught by tiny pearl pins, it is kept in place.

When the dress is pinned up in the form of a choker, then again a piece of lace is fastened straight across the front, and a collar is pinned to the front, and the addition of some flowers, natural or artificial, forms a very pretty garniture. A fichu is always becoming if worn demurely crossed in front, and it can be worn entirely the other way round—that is, fastened in front, and carried over the shoulders and fastened at the back.

And the great help when arranging lace, but taste, and a natural aptitude for adapting things is required, if the pinned trimmings are to be absolutely successful. A knot of flowers, a rosette, or something of the kind, may be pinned in just the right spot, should, however, never be stuck on without a meaning. Make it appear to be needed in order to finish the dress, and it will be the keynote of the whole costume. In the same way does the hat-pin effect the hat. It will make all the difference if these match or tone with the millinery. A pretty hat is often entirely spoiled by a badly placed hat-pin.

The black shiny head of the common bonnet-pin thrust through a white or delicate hat, is unfortunately a familiar sight, and the least of it is one with a white head and "yards" of black pin sticking through the other sides. These "far-reaching" methods are likely to be so easily forgiven, that the public in more senses than one, do not wear boots and gloves many sizes too large, so why should hat-pins be permitted to extend further than necessary? It is a simple thing to do, and it is a pity that a butler and young and untrained or only partially-trained servant is often ignorant of small things such as these, and even when told of them does not always remember to do them regularly.

Spread some fingers of bread with the mixture, and place a fillet of sardine on it, putting a strip of bread and butter on it.

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every shade are specially suitable for bedroom, nursery and bathroom use, another good mat for the purpose being the washable saratoga rug, whose characteristic is its dainty coloring.

For summer use it is well to mention grass matting, a fabric manufactured from prairie grass and which is to be obtained in a pleasing shade of greenish brown. It is ideal for country cottages, verandahs and schoolrooms during the summer months, while for the same period the wear and tear on stair carpets may be lessened by covering them with the new colored linen made for this purpose.

While on the subject it may be well to say a few words on the general treatment of carpets. While they are quite new it is a great mistake to beat Oriental or long-piled carpets too frequently. A great amount of "dust" is always brushed off a new carpet during the process, and unless this dust is given to the vacuum cleaner, it will gradually settle down into the body of the carpet and in a measure strengthen it. Mistresses would do well to purchase a proper vacuum for carpet sweeping and insist that it is used for the weekly cleaning; only a specially made brush will successfully get into the pile and free it from dust and dirt.

Those who live in a house and cannot have their homes upset for two or three days while the carpet is sent to be beaten will find it best to employ the vacuum cleaner, which is eminently satisfactory. When sending a carpet away to be beaten it is always wise to give written instructions stating the class of carpet which is to be cleaned, since each kind requires a different process, and unless these instructions are given to the man who cleans, the carpet will be ruined. The matter, a good carpet may be irretrievably ruined, or certainly not improved by the process to which it has been subjected. Once again I would urge the advisability of sending one's carpets to a reliable firm, when it is a question of cleaning or repairing. I once had a beautiful Axminster absolutely ruined by an unskilled cleaner, and the result was a loss of a man's helping hand. The youth in question was hopelessly ignorant as to the proper way to beat a carpet and my charitable desire to give him the necessary "helping hand" has left me a sadder and a wiser woman.

BEAUTY HINTS

The Care of the Teeth

Too much importance cannot be given to the care of the teeth, for good sound teeth are necessary not only to health and comfort, but also to beauty. Personally, one of the first marks of beauty to look for in a person is good teeth.

They often resemble a plain or even a really ugly man or woman, and one hears quite frequently, "So-and-so is not what you would call handsome but they have lovely teeth!" So it is that the care of the teeth cannot commence too early in life. Proper and judicious treatment will greatly alleviate the inevitable pains of dentistry. Many suppose that as a first step, at least, but a few years no special care is required until the permanent set appears. This is a fatal error, as upon the cleanliness and general health of the deciduous teeth depend the soundness, strength, and to some extent, even the form of the permanent teeth. Every child should be early taught that a thorough cleansing of mouth and teeth by the use of a brush is quite as essential to a proper toilet as the washing of the face. Indeed, it is a good idea to permit the child himself these indispensable offices, the child's teeth should be regularly and thoroughly cleaned by mother or nurse.

Never permit a child to come to the breakfast table with teeth unbrushed; so impress upon him this necessity that he will as soon think of presenting himself with unwashed hair, than with unbrushed teeth. The first teeth sometimes need temporary fillings, and during the period of change the services of a skilful and competent dentist are sometimes required. Afterwards as often as at least once a year the teeth should be thoroughly examined and any necessary attention given. As a last resort, artificial teeth are a poor thing, but no teeth should be spared to preserve the natural ones as long as possible. The teeth are covered with a fine enamel more or less dense in different persons. When the enamel is destroyed, either by carious action, or by wear, when once destroyed it can never be restored; the tooth cannot long remain sound, and requires to be carefully treated.

The preservation of the teeth depends not only on the particular pains necessary to be taken with them, but also on the regime best adapted to health. The diet should be such as to continue sound digestion, unwholesome food, with a stomach that but imperfectly discharges its functions, and with vitiated digestive juices, all these causes may contribute to the decay of the teeth and the consequent decay of the gums. The gums cannot be healthy unless they are firm and red and adhere to the roots of the teeth. These qualities depend, of course, in a great measure, on the condition of the blood, and the system, and wash as a remedy for spongy receding gums is composed of: Tincture of rhubarb, one ounce, tincture of iron, one ounce, essence of vanilla, two drachms, a teaspoonful of the wash to a tumbler half full of warm water and rinse out the mouth twice a day.

Good care should be exercised in the selection of a dentist, and the dentist should be one who is careful in the selection of materials and in the preparation of teeth, and as well as the best method of using them, ought to be well understood before any steps are taken in this direction. To ensure the perfect mixture of the ingredients they should be stirred together until they form an apparently homogeneous powder, which should then be passed or rubbed through a fine gauze sieve. Those who contain no lath or perishable substances, or which, like charcoal, are affected by contact with the air, should be put in short, wide-mouthed bottles, and kept closely corked.

A simple and excellent tooth-powder for frequent use can be made up from the following recipe: Finely powdered borax, four drachms; finely powdered myrror, one drachm, powdered orris-root, one ounce; camphorated chalk, three ounces. Another very nice aromatic tooth-powder is composed of: Powdered orris-root, three ounces; essence of vanilla, two drachms; precipitated chalk, four ounces; otto of rose, four drops; simple tincture of benzoin, two drachms; tincture of chamomile, two drachms; essence of vanilla, two drachms. Mix thoroughly and pass through a sieve.

The medical committee of the National Dental Hospital some time ago issued the following directions for the care of the teeth:

1. The teeth should be cleaned at least once a day, the best time being at night, the last thing. For this purpose use a soft brush, on which take a little soap, and then some prepared chalk, brushing up and down across the teeth. There is rarely any objection to the friction causing the gums to bleed slightly.

2. Avoid all rough usage of the teeth, such as biting thread, cracking nuts, as by so doing even good teeth may be injured.

3. When decay is at first observed, advice should be at once sought. It is the stopping in a small hole before it has become a cavity, and the prevention of a large filling preserves the tooth for years.

4. It is of the greatest importance that children of four years and upwards should have their teeth frequently examined by the dentist, and that the first teeth, particularly the back teeth are not decaying too quickly, and have the opportunity of timely treatment.

5. Children should be taught to rinse the mouth night and morning, and to begin the use of the tooth brush early.

With regard to the food of children, those who are old enough, wholesome bread, porridge and milk should be given. Wholesome is far more wholesome than white bread, and the former is far more wholesome than the latter. The following rules were carried out, fewer teeth would need to be extracted, and the maid with "pearly teeth" would be a being less confined to poetry, and more to the facts of life in the every-day world that is at the present time.

THE AMERICAN

The American people have given the visit messages were at States and a grate

While Commander North Pole in the hunt for the South northern regions has been little

In Portugal the content among the population are being It is feared that King Carlos and the government,

The young queen mother, Princess of Asturias, is said to be only her babies to a girl friend.

A very terrible blowing oil well at the flames reach a the fire began a whole from which the rivers of oil benea

Last week all feeling some excell Each of the public even. The priv there is no reason engage in a game in a boy. There are not for other boys So long as this is can take too much

Those who have country is very besraps and agriculrland and many vineyards. A convysted the best mmany of the spea made to blossom as

England, Newfo have agreed upon the season of 1908. have been a source of the later growth years United States which