Household Notes

HOME DRESSMAKING.—This is a theme of great interest to well directed housholds. Ellen A. Huntingdon, B.A., of the Boston Household Training School, says:—

There are three kinds of plain sewing that the beginner should become thoroughly acquainted with.

First, making sheets and pillow cases.

Second, making and caring for table linen.

Third, mending.

From plain sewing one may graduate into the making of underclothing and finally dressmaking.

One should begin by learning the various stitches, from the simplest, running and basting; catch stitching, buttonhole stitch, blind and feather stitching and the making of felled seams and French seams.

The running and basting stitches are so simple that they need no description.

Doing neat buttonholes is one of the first requisites in making any kind of clothing. Cut the hole with a pair of buttonhole scissors with a gauge regulating the size of the hole to the button to be used. Begin to stitch by placing the needle at the inside end. Hold the thread and the buttonhole between the thumb and finger of your left hand and run the needle through the cut edge and the loop which is formed by holding the thread down with the thumb. Draw the thread taut, thus forming the edge of the buttonhole. Work all around the buttonhole in this way, taking care to make your stitches even.

Blind stitch is used to conceal the thread under a turned edge. To do it neatly only take in two or three threads of the goods. It is done by putting the needle under the turned edge of the goods and catching lightly so it will not show through on the right side.

The French seam of a garment is made by running the right sides of two pieces of cloth together, as in the under arm seams of a corset cover. Turn the garment, take in sufficient seam to cover the raw edges and stitch together again.

A felled seam is made by having one edge of the seam a little wider than the other, which admits, when it is stitched up, of the wider edge being turned in and made to cover the raw edge of the other. The hem is then caught down with a hemstitch, so as not to show through on the other side.

For mending there is the darning stitch. This should be practiced on various materials so as to imitate as nearly as possible the texture of the cloth that is to be mended. It imitates the woof and warp of the goods. It is best to take a thread of the goods if possible.

Mending of gloves should be done by turning them inside out and sewing up the rips overhand with cotton thread, not silk. Silk cuts through the leather in kid gloves.

It is a very fine art to mend laces so that the mended parts will not show, for the modern machine-made laces are difficult to preserve the patterns of by hand stitching. Skillful lace mending is something that can be acquired only by practice and ingenuity.

The most expensive laces are handmade, and these require even more skill than the machine laces—in order to imitate the fine stitches of the original lace-maker and following the intricate patterns.

Embroidery now plays quite a part in it. Nearly every householder wishes to have some embroidered table linen. It must all be done in white, with no colors at all. There is a good deal of artistic taste required for this, particularly if the seamstress is expected to design, stamp and work out the entire embroidery scheme of a full set of table linen.

The making of underclothing is the next stage for the plain seamstress to take before attempting dressmaking.

A great deal of taste and skill can be shown in the making of lingerie. All the French underwear is handmade and hand-embroidered. Its use has become very general in this country. Most of the home-made lingerie is patterened after the French handmade work.

French underwear patterns can be bought everywhere. These may be made up very plainly, or very elaborately with hand embroidery, drawn work, lace and ribbon trimmed, as the taste of the wearer dictates.

The sleeves of night robes are one of the special features. The sleeve may be long, flowing, elbow, angel, kimono, or low-necked and no sleeve at all, having the armhole finished with a fall of lace.

No lady's assontment of underwear is complete to-day without chemises. These are made very fancy, much embroidered and lace betrimmed. Being a sleeveless garment, cut to fall low on the shoulders, simple in its outlines, it requires a great deal of trimming to give it the smart effect which is wanted. A chemise is cut in two parts, front and back, and sewed at the sides with a French seam.

The neck is where the elaborate trimming is done. Yokes and tucks are much used. No end of ingenuity can be displayed in finishing this part of the garment.

The bottom of the chemise is usually finished with a plain hem, though sometimes it is extended to form an underskirt and is then tucked, finished with an embroidered ruffle or lace trimmed.

A corset cover has to be very carefully fitted or it will destroy the effect of the waist that is worn over it. Not a raw edge should appear. French seams must be made throughout and the armholes either faced or bound. The long seams may be stitched by machine.

It is easier to buy a pattern than it is to draught one from measuring the person to be fitted.

Then comes the putting together, the fitting and altering. It is well for the beginner to cut rather larger than the pattern and cut down afterwards, rather than run the risk of cutting too small at first.

Shirtwaists are an easy stage in working up from plain sewing and the making of underclothing, to dressmaking proper.

There is now a fad for hand-made shirtwaists. Not so much as a single seam may be stitched by a machine. Embroideny is also used to a great extent. So shirtwaist making is well nigh a distinct art in itself.

Cut the shirtwaist collar by laying the pattern on the goods lengthwise, as a collar cut lengthwise does not stretch. Put an interlining into the collar of white cotton. Join the collar together by laying the two right sides of the goods together and the interlining against the wrong side. Stitch around the collar and turn, which will bring the lining between the two right sides.

Baste around the upper part of the collar, cut a notch in the middle of the lower edge. Place this notch with the corresponding notch at the middle of the back of the neck of the shirtwaist. Baste and sew the outside to the neck of the shirtwaist, leaving the inside of the collar loose to be felled down onto the neck seam.

The sleeve is a very particular thing in a shirtwaist. Cut the sleeves with the line of small single perforations, which will be in the pattern, lengthwise of the goods. Cut the waist band in the same manner.

Baste the two wrong sides of the sleeve together so as to finish with a French seam. Gather the sleeves along the upper and lower edges between the notches indicated on the pattern.

Place the double perforations, which are in the top of all the sleeve patterns, at the centre of the top of the shoulder, and the double notches at the front. Baste the sleeve and try it on.

Sew the wrist band to the lower edge of the sleeve with the corresponding notches together.

In making a shirtwaist baste the parts together on the right side of goods. Fit it by pinning up seams where too loose. Take off and make a crease so you can see the line to baste the wrong side. It is well for a beginner to try on the garment again and make any other alterations that may be necessary before doing the final stitching together.

Of course, in dressmaking in general a person should do as much of the work as possible by machine. A seamstress should master her machine thoroughly learning how to regulate stitch and neddle, practice stitching a skirt straight, the making of gathers and stitching a hem.

Plain sewing is the foundation of all dressmaking. Upon it depends the finish of a dress. After a dress is cut, fitted and stitched comes some of the most exacting work. As soon as the skirt is hung, fix the placket, put in the hooks and eyes and finish the seams.

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

"CHRISTMAS IN PRISON."

The evening was closing in rapidly
In a far distant city well known,
The wind blew the snow flakes
Fluttering all over the ground,
Pierced through the passer-by, chilled to the bone,
The little waifs, left all alone in the streets to roam,
In the distance one could see a glimmer of lights,
A bustling crowd and all kind of sights,
For 'twas Christmas Eve, and every one was preparing
For the great event that on the morrow would come.

Shop windows were decorated in every style,
And decked with splendor where the houses,
Filled with visitors from far and near
Who had come to join in the Yule-Tide cheer.
And all the world was bright and gay,
But in a prison so cold and damp,
Of all the comforts bare. A young man sat,
With bowed head, convicted of a crime 'twas said
A murder committed in cold blood
The penalty was that he should pay
His own life's blood in a few short days.

And as he sets there all alone
His thoughts are of his happy home,
Of his mother kind, and his sister dear,
How happy where his boyhood days,
Spent at this time every year. ...
When gathered together they knelt and prayed,
That God would protect them in the coming year,
But I am innocent he cried aloud
They have locked me here
While the rightful coward is allowed to go.

I am condemned to die
To be hanged on a scaffold high,
Without a friend not a soul to cheer
Me in my dying moments.
Oh, if I could only make them believe
The awful deed was not by me,
But they will not listen,
So I am compelled to stand and behold
Them flock to give evidence so strong
That my heart has sunk lower,
And my spirits have gone.

The night grows darker, not a sound is heard,
Save the steady tread of the guard,
On his midnight walk, his foot steeps echoing
Through corridor passing by gloomy cells,
Till he stops at one, listens raises his head,
Looks about him and says,
To think that he so young could be
The one to stab Lord Lently
He looks so sad, he feels so bad
One would think he were innocent.

But hear a sigh, a tear drops from his eye,
If he should not be guilty,
God help the one who would see it done,
And see him suffer for the murder,
He goes to a window, and there looks out,
At the gloomy court yard, and the gallows there,
And turns away with a chill of dispair,
But the prisoner still has not raised his head,
Buring in thought he looks like dead,
He hears not, the guard's steady tread.

'Tis now struck twelve, the church bells ring
There merry chimes in the clear frosty air,
To announce that Christmas is already here,
With a start and a dart, he jumps up
From his seat on the floor, to the door,
There he hammers until his knuckles are sore,
I'll have to get out of this he cries
For one short hour, then I'll come back
But Midnight Mass I cannot miss
So let me go please I insist.

But no one answers his heart's rendering cry,
His voice is lost he grows faint
Staggers falls on the floor breaths his mother's name
Closes his eyes to open them no more,
The morning dawns bright and clear,
All the world wakes up with cheer,
In the prison the convicts have risen
Except the one in cell thirty-seven;
Guards have breakfasted and prisoners too,
And time is passing wearly.

When all of a sudden in the distance
A sleigh is seen at break neck speed,
The driver urges the horses on
Till they stop in the court yard
Enter and then 'tis the judge who beckons
The keeper who draws near,
Beholds a woman with hair turned grey,
A saddened face, and convulsive sway,
A young girl on who's golden hair
The sun of twelve summers have shone.

'Tis the prisoner's mother and sister
Accompanied by the judge she has come
With a pardon for her only son,
The prisoner, where is he, cried the judge?
We have found the murderer, the very one
That stabbed and killed Lord Lently,
Come this way the guard replied,
He must be weak for he never eat
Since he came here, but all alone
He sits, and calls for his mother dear.

At twelve last night with all his might,
He tried to break the door,
My heart was sore. The temptation strong
To have him gone,
But duty's call was first of all
And saying so he opens the door,
There on the floor with hand on his heart
Eyes closed, his lips apart,
The prisoner lay cold as clay,
Dead, yes, dead for his heart had broke
In a prison cell on a "Christmas Day."

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SUPERIOR COURT.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
District of Montreal.
No. 1970.

Dame Marie Louise Gougeon, of the City of Montreal, wife of Alphonse Vallee, polisher, of the same place, has, this day, instituted an action in separation as to property against her said husband.

Montreal, 5th January, 1904.

BEAUDIN, CARDINAL,
LORANGER & GERMAIN,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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ST. PATRICK'S T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, at 3.30 p.m. Committee of Management meets in same hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. Director, Rev. Jas. Killoran; President, W. P. Doyle; Rec.-Secy., Jno. P. Gunning, 716 St. Antoine street, St. Henri.

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