

# WOMAN and HER WORK.

I wonder why it is that we women are so much more conservative than our brother man? Why we do persist in clinging to the old way of doing things though it may be twice as laborious, instead of giving the new way a trial, and proving whether it is

wringers, or patent churns, she usually despises such aids and goes on in the same old groove, wearing out her life in the same treadmill her mother trod, and hastening to a premature old age.

Washing machines are a snare and a delu-



LATE SUMMER GOWNS.

The gown on the right is of figured crepon biscuit and brown. It is trimmed with dotted and embroidered chiffon. The dress on the left is of Japan crepe, with flat lace insertion trimming. The vest is of Japan crepe. The jacket is trimmed with insertion on the bertha collar and revers.

desirable or not? Men are always wearying of old methods, and seeking something new, something which will make the work lighter, and save as much time as possible. Only very few farmers now-a-days, and those few essentially from the back settlements, prefer to harvest their grain by means of a scythe and cradle, or thresh out their grain with old fashioned flails. They know too well the value of time, and that successful farming requires all the strength and energy a man can command without his squandering unnecessary force on work which can be better done by machinery. So he buys the best labor saving machinery he can afford, and finds that it pays him an excellent rate of interest on the money expended. He is always on the lookout for improvements, and anxious that none of his neighbors forestall him in making experiments; from the newest style of barn, to the latest method of feeding cows, he likes to be first, and does not object to spending a goodly amount of money provided he sees his way to making

lusion she thinks, tearing the buttons from the clothes, and failing to cleanse them as well as the old fashioned washboard aided by soap and plenty of "elbow grease". Wringers wear the garments out in no time, and the cold water, electric and other labor saving soaps, which are such a boon to the hard working housewives, she is certain must decay the fibre of the clothes on which they are used, while patent churns are difficult to keep clean, and give the butter a taste—at least so she thinks. And thus the misguided woman goes on making her own soap out of the grease she saves herself, and the lye she laboriously compounds from hardwood ashes and water, because she has no faith in the concentrated lye she has seen at the store, and is sure the soap would not turn out well. Every month or six weeks she has a soap-bubbling, and after the hard soap is finished, and poured out, more water is added, and a barrel of that most rascally compound known to domestic science as soft soap, is manufactured.



FALL GOWN AND SUIT FOR A LAD.

The suit for a boy from 14 to 16 is of mixed tweed. The coat is a cutaway sack. It is also shown in serge and diagonals. The gown is of rich gray figured silk. The waist is black faille with jetted trimming and ruffled sleeve caps of black chiffon. The sash is black velvet.

it pay in the end. But unfortunately his wife is not like him in this respect. She prefers to "housekeep," in exactly the way her mother and grandmother did before her, and no matter how willing her husband may be to buy her washing machines

When washing day arrives the clothes are first soaked in a suds made of soft soap and then washed, boiled in more soft soap suds, rinsed, rubbed again, and finally soaked and rinsed in blue water before they have recovered from the effects of the

soft soap, which removes the dirt, but leaves the garments a much worse color than when they went in the wash, and then she breaks her back, and strains the muscles of her arms, wringing sheets and towels without number, labor which a wringing machine would perform much better, and in one-half the time.

And then on churning day if the men are busy she will spend one to two hours, just as the butter is quick or slow in coming, dragging up and plunging down the dasher of her old-fashioned churn, and then wonder why her back aches so badly at night that she cannot sleep.

I am afraid this curious objection to new ways of doing things is not by any means confined to farmer's wives. Many of the best housekeepers in cities persist in doing an enormous amount of unnecessary work. They think it a shame to use any kind of prepared yeast, and would rather stew over the stove boiling and straining hops, thickening and cooking yeast, than they would use the best patent yeast ever made. They think baker's bread is not fit to eat, and they are not satisfied with making their own, but they imagine it must be kneaded, moulded, and risen at least three times before it is sufficiently light to bake. They iron their cup towels, their stockings, their bathing towels, and their socks in the family wash, and they are noted housekeepers, but oh! how tired they look, what multitudes of tiny wrinkles begin to show in their faces soon after they are thirty, and how little time they ever have for reading, for social intercourse or for walking. How seldom they care to go to a theatre or concert, simply because they are too tired to enjoy themselves.

Life is not all made up of baking and brewing, of sweeping and dusting, and there are more important matters to be



NEW UNDERWEAR.

This illustration represents the latest styles in underwear. Lace, embroidery, tucks and ribbon are all used for embellishment. The chemises are all cut sacque shape. Lonsdale cambric and jaconet are the materials best liked.

thought of in this world than good house-keeping, when that means making slaves of oneself to a domestic Juggernaut. Therefore if the woman of today would keep herself young and charming, and be able to enjoy life, she must give up that idea that the old way must necessarily be the best, and try to be more up to date in her methods of working.

It is hard to be ill, at the best of times, and the lot of the invalid is a sad one even where everything that is possible is done for his comfort, but unfortunately many people know so little about illness that the lot of the sick person under their charge is apt to be harder than ever, because in spite of their best efforts their utter lack of experience prevents their patient's comfort. There are many little devices which will tend to lighten the long hours either in illness or convalescence, and there are many nourishing dishes which may be prepared with wonderful little trouble if one only knows how. I think the following short hints for a sickroom contain many valuable ideas, and will be of use to many amateur nurses:

## To Please the Invalid.

For an invalid who is confined in bed, it is very convenient (when the side of the bed is next the wall) to have a shelf put up in easy reach. Have it about one foot wide by two feet long, a good size for books, papers, etc. Cover it with pretty cretonne, chintz, or anything convenient, but something that can be laundered if possible; have a lambrequin about sixteen inches deep extend around it, with a piece of the material eight inches deep run around the lower edge, turned up and divided into pockets. Have one for the watch, always leaving the chain partly outside that it may easily be withdrawn; others for brush and comb, hand mirror, etc., one for letters that so often an invalid may desire to peruse a second time. The principal thing is to fashion it in such a manner as is desired by the individual for whose pleasure and convenience it is designed.

For the table in the sick room, destined

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to stand near the bed for medicines, have a bouquet or a few attractive ornaments. It saves work and makes a bright spot to have covers of plain pink or blue material that will not soil quickly, and can easily be laundered.

When one is ill a long time, and it is an object to save laundering, it is nice to have neatly-fitting Mother Hubbard night dresses made of fast colored print or outing flannel in plain blue or pink, with wide, full sleeves. It is almost universally more becoming to the wearer than white, and takes away that feeling of undressiness which causes so much distress to some people.

Strengthening dishes are always in demand for the sick. A very good preparation to be taken morning and night is made as follows: Take two call's feet, two pints of water, one pint of new milk, and a little lemon peel; put all into a jar into the oven and let them stand five or six hours. When it is cold remove every particle of grease, and it is ready. It is very nourishing and is liked by most invalids.

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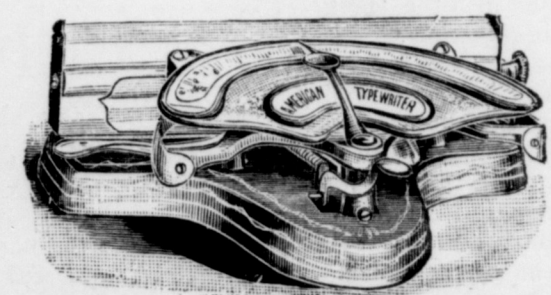
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