

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I have often been asked what printer's pi was, but have never been able to give a satisfactory explanation of the term, for want of an illustration at hand. But that want was remedied last week, and my entire page would have served as a grand illustration of the word pi. I don't know what could have happened the M. S. for I numbered the pages as carefully as usual, but when I glanced over my own handiwork I came to the conclusion that nothing but the unimpeachable reputation of our staff and office could save me from the suspicion of having indulged in the flowing bowl to a perfectly reckless extent last week.

I did not know whether to laugh, or demand damages when I read the description of a very jumpy hat suitable for church or evening wear trimmed with white poppies with black centres—only the camp called them "entles"—followed by the solemn statement that the above mentioned hat would form a most unique not to say bizarre "costume" and the next step in its history would be the finding of a woman wealthy enough to indulge in such a luxury, and courageous enough to wear it. I should think so indeed! But when I explain that the above sentence referred to a very old, and expensive costume of bison fur, instead of the evening hat, it has a more rational sound. I next proceed to describe a new stock collar bearing the name of the duke of Marlborough's intended wife; and from thence plunge, without apparent connection, into a description of the food best suited for an invalid's taste, and after furnishing a number of examples, I pass without the least warning into the realm of fashion again, and pause in the midst of a recipe for arrow-root jelly, to resume the subject of millinery at the point where I dropped a whole column back, and after rambling aimlessly around through a column or more of assorted millinery and dressmaking, I reach the bison fur costume at last, and after discussing its merits and describing its peculiarities wind up with the statement that tapioca jelly is excellent, and then cling to the subject of invalid cooking, to the bitter end.

I only hope some of the readers of that page were able to classify it, and gain some instruction from its very varied bill of fare, for I think it is more than I could do myself. But still by taking up the thread from the line—"three large blood-red poppies," and skipping straight on until "a big hat of pink felt" is reached, it will make much better sense, and after that it will be comparatively plain sailing, the "unique and bizarre costume" applying to the bison fur, and the invalid dishes following the new stock collar, and continuing in proper sequence to the end of the page.

One effect of the Louis XVI craze will be welcomed by every woman who has a dress laid aside which is far too good to give away, or sell to the old clo' man, and yet the skirt of which is hopelessly narrow for the present fashion—and that effect is the revival of gowns having a front breadth different from the rest of the skirt. Many of the newest and most elegant costumes shown this autumn open down the front over petticoats of an entirely different material and color, and these petticoats are frequently either braided or embroidered in a very elaborate manner while quite as often the petticoat is merely simulated, and consists of a front breadth set in. This is the golden opportunity for made over dresses, as the addition of a front breadth will often expand the skirt to the proper width and transform it into a fashionable garment. The sleeves of such dresses instead of standing out in all the squareness and bravery of fibre chamois, are made quite soft, no stiffening at all being put in them, and several rows of shirring holding the fullness down below the shoulder, and giving the long, drooping effect sought with all Marie Antoinette costumes.

Though rough effects are so popular in all the autumn and winter fabrics the fine smooth faced cloths are too becoming to many women, to be altogether cast aside. A very smart street suit shown recently was of fine Venetian cloth in one of the shades of green, and looked quite as stylish and far more dressy than many of the shaggy costumes worn this season. The trim coat bodice was arranged with revers with fitted fronts opening over a vest of white covert cloth fastened with small plain gold buttons. The gown was trimmed with braid of green and gold each row attached to the dress with a small gold button. Horizontal straps of braid placed close together and held down at the edge towards the sleeves with these little buttons, trimmed the revers very effectively, and around the foot of the wide full skirt, similar scraps of braid four inches deep were placed at regular intervals. The coat was lined through out with silk shot with green and gold.

Bright colors are very much in favor this season, and the always lovely red, will find a place not only in house dresses and blouses, but also, to a limited extent, in coats and capes for out of door wear, though these will be chiefly confined to very young girls.

A pretty dress for a young girl is of accordion pleated cashmere in a dark red shade trimmed with several rows of very narrow black ribbon placed just above a narrow hem. On the blouse each pleat is fastened down with a row of the ribbon placed up and down to form a yoke. The full bishop sleeves are arranged in the same way from the wrists half way up to the elbow, to form a cuff, and the costume is very effective, and bright one for autumn wear.

Green is a very popular color again this year; it is especially effective as a trimming when used in combination with a little gold tinsel or yellow of just the proper shade, and is in great favor for trimming rough black clothes. Green velvet in two shades, one very dark, and the other very light, is effective in millinery when used in conjunction with the inevitable cut steel buckles, and black ostrich plumes.

Heavy green cloths are greatly worn as out-of-door costumes, and dark green velvet is a favorite combination with either black or white fur of all descriptions.

This is to be a velvet winter, the fashion authorities say, and it is also to be a fur winter, therefore if we desire to be well dressed and in the fashion we shall have to plunge our hands deeply into somebody's pocket—of course I don't mean in the sense of picking anyone's pocket, but merely that we must make serious inroads either on our husbands, fathers, or on our own incomes.

Sealskin and sable are announced as the fashionable furs for the coming season, but I have no doubt a great many of us will manage to look reasonably comfortable and stylish without either of those expensive luxuries, as numbers of handsome garments are shown lined with fur, and finished with rich facings, collars and cuffs of some good fur. This is in much better taste than an entire garment of cheap fur, and is quite as warm. Capes lined with squirrel are finished with a facing down the front, and a high collar of handsome fur.

White Persian lamb is being made up into the loveliest, it rather perishable winter capes, the fluffiness around throat and shoulder is counterbalanced by an odd trimming of heavily embroidered velvet points which is supposed to add to the becoming qualities of the garment. Toque, muff and cape are sold together by the best furriers, and though they seem very suggestive of early childhood, and rather inappropriate for grown women, I have no doubt they are very handsome.

Yards and yards of fur trimming will be used on handsome winter dresses, but its object will scarcely be to add to the warmth of the garment, it will merely be used as a gentle concession to winter, an acknowledgement of his reign, and also as an additional elaboration to the trimming of the dress. It is certainly very rich and warm looking for winter and probably no more expensive even in good quality than just velvet.

In spite of all threats against the life of the fancy bodice, it seems to be definitely settled that its reign shall be undisturbed for the present, at least as a theatre bodice. Its usefulness for this purpose is undeniable since few women care to spoil a handsome silk skirt by sitting on it for an entire evening and getting it crushed out of shape by her neighbors at each side; especially as she will derive no credit for the sacrifice since no one can see her skirt once she is seated. Therefore plain skirts, of correct material and cut, will be worn with elaborate bodices of contrasting color and material. Some of these bodices will follow the lines so long adopted and show blouse fronts, trimmings of lace insertion, and loose full vests of chiffon or gauze, but others will show the newer coat shape, and their low waistcoats and stocks with full of rich lace will suggest the Louis XVI. modes. Occasionally the skirts of these costumes will suggest a sort of distant association with them, by either a lining of the same color employed in the bodice, or slashes up the sides of a corresponding material, and color. The plain skirts will have the preference though, except in the case of box parties, where the costume may, of course be as elaborate as the inclination and purse permit.

Real Irish poplin is on eof the materials which will be in demand this year! The wiriness of its texture makes it especially desirable for the flaring skirts of the present mode, while its incomparable lustre gives it a richness unattainable in any other material. Skirts of black poplin are to take the place of the satin and crepon skirts which have reigned so long.

One of the newest and most popular designs in poplin is tartan, and the vividness and beauty of the plaids never appeared to greater advantage than in this lovely material. Tartan poplins will be used almost entirely for fancy bodices and trimmings, and invariably cut on the bias.

All stiff dress materials of the variety known to our grandmothers as "standing alone" are in great demand at pres

and that is probably the secret of the once despised alpaca's popularity. It must be some reason of that kind for no matter how fashionable it may, be how well made, or elaborately trimmed an alpaca dress can never be really elegant; you may call it moirai, brilliantine, lustre, anything you like but alpaca it is, and alpaca it is going to remain. But all the same there is every indication that it has come with the intention of remaining, for some time to come. The favorite weave of alpaca is very heavy and has a texture almost as coarse as canvas; it is especially effective in darkest blue, gray, or brown.

The newest boucle cloths show a weave so closely resembling crepon that it might readily be mistaken for that favorite material. The usual pattern is a disconnected raised ripple or spot, the continuous weave of crepon being avoided, in order to secure a newer effect. Striking as the rough cloths may be and stylish as they undoubtedly are they are not in the best of taste; and the best designers of costumes continue to prefer the smooth cloths for moirai orate occasions where cloth is the proper thing.

It is stated quite positively that earrings are slowly but surely making their way back to favor again, and will soon be generally worn, and not only the modest little button, or flower we used to wear pressed tightly against the lobes of our ears, but the real three inch-long [horror which drags down the lower part of the ear, and almost rests upon the shoulder, in the portraits of our grandmothers. I can scarcely believe it will ever come to this, because the spectacle of a three inch, or even an inch and a half ear pendant fighting for supremacy with two enormous rosettes, or the huge loops which ornament the modern crush collar, is something I can scarcely contemplate seriously, while the effect of such ornaments on a chiffon, or feather bow, is to be more readily imagined than described.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Suggestions on Various Points which Are Well Worth Remembering.

Before undertaking to make a cake or pudding, or, indeed, any dish, read the recipe over carefully and find out what heat you will require for cooking it, and then make up your fire accordingly. It is impossible to cook in a "muddle"; so clear the kitchen first, and only have just the things you require on the table. Wash all basins, spoons, egg-whisk and other things that you have used, as soon as you have finished.

Fish, rissoles, etc., that are to be fried should be done over with egg and stale bread crumbs twice if you want them to look nice.

Horse-radish should only be scraped just before it is required to be placed on the table as the oil of horse radish very quickly evaporates, and leaves the vegetable substance dry and insipid.

To boil vegetables that they may look delicately clean, put the pot on with plenty of water in it, add a little salt, and let it boil. Skin it perfectly clean before you put the vegetables in, which should not be before the water boils briskly; the quicker they boil the better they will look.

If when dishing up a boiled pudding you dip it into a basin of cold water directly it is taken out of the pot, the cloth will not stick to the pudding.

When cooking you drop some grease upon the hearth, cover the spot instantly with burning coals or hot ashes. These are almost certain to remove it.

Salt that has been dried before the fire should not be placed in the salt cellars until it is quite cold, or it will harden into a solid lump as it cools.

Knives and forks and all silver and glass that are used at meals should be washed as soon after the meal as possible; by so doing they will look bright and fresh for a much longer time. They should never be put away uncleaned or left dirty over night.

When airing feather beds do not put them in the sun, as the sun is very apt to act upon the oil in the feathers and make them smell sour. They should be aired on a windy day in a shady place.

Never leave silver or steel knives with vinegar on them. Knives that have been used to cut pickles, etc., should be washed directly after use.

When cooking vegetables care should be taken that only just the right quantity of salt is used. To every quart of water one dessertspoon of salt is required. If the water is very hard the lime in it may discolor the green vegetables; a very little soda added to the water will prevent this, but soda should not be used unless necessary, as it is likely to spoil the flavor of the vegetables.

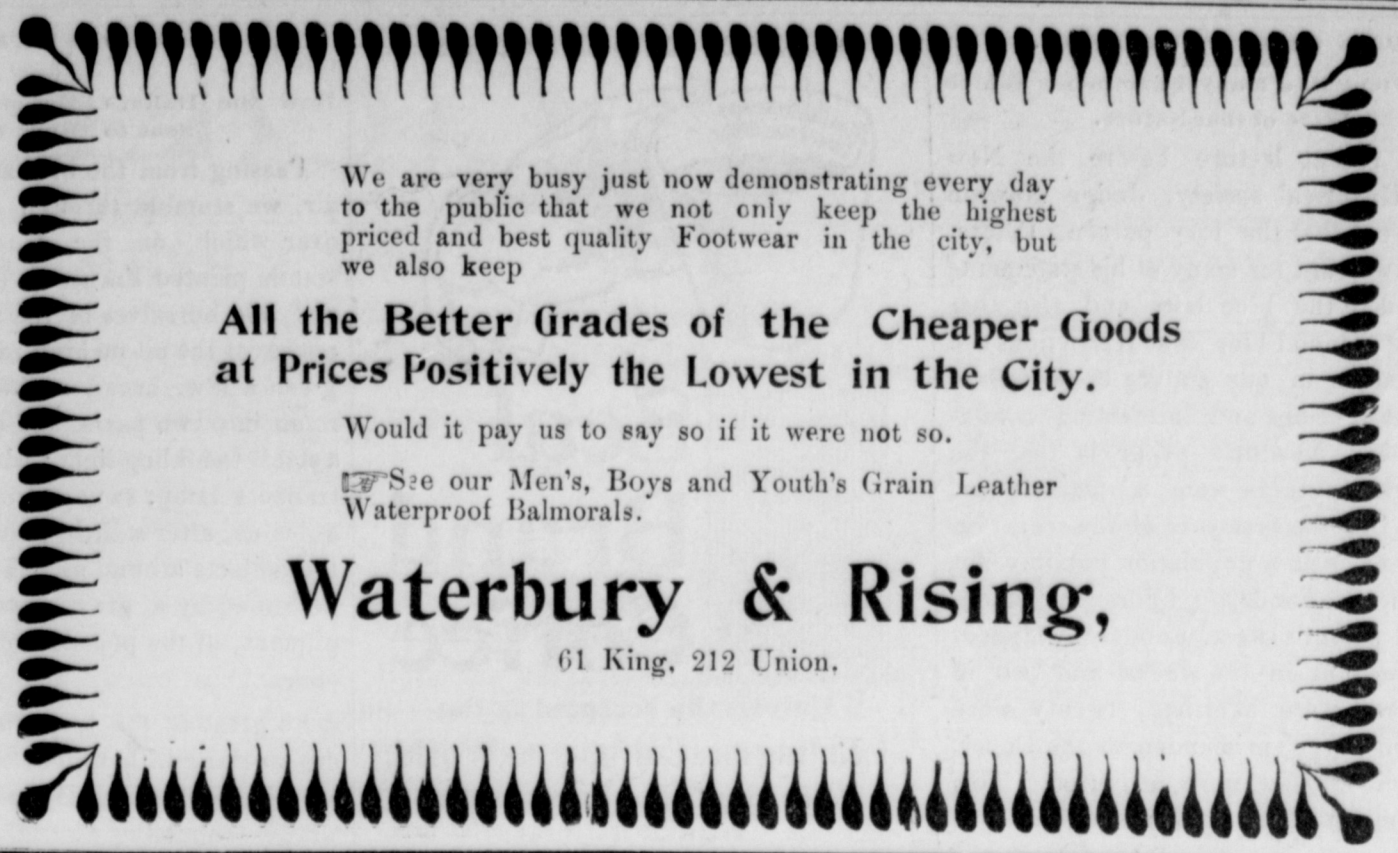
When the oven is rather too hot, and the outside of a cake, pudding, or pastry gets brown before it is done through, cover it with a piece of white paper, that it may finish baking without getting burned outside.

All kitchen utensils must be kept perfectly clean; this applies especially to the articles used for pastry making. To insure this, it is well, if possible, to keep the articles required for pastry making exclusively for that purpose.

Poorly ventilated kitchens make poor cooks, by destroying the sense of taste and smell.

Glass vessels may be purified from bad smells with charcoal. Scour off the grossest impurities with sand, and then rinse out with the charcoal.

Never pour boiling water on japanned teatrays to clean them, as it will make the



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ONE GIVES RELIEF.

varnish crack and peel off; have a sponge wet with warm water, and a little soap if the tray is very dirty, then rub it with a dry cloth.

Cover your kitchen floor with oilcloth; it is by far the cleanest thing to have. When buying oilcloth get that which has been manufactured some years, as the longer it has been made previous to use the better it will wear, owing to the paint becoming hard and durable. It should never be scrubbed with a brush, but should be cleaned by washing with a large soft cloth and lukewarm or cold water. When it has dried, sponge it over with milk, which will brighten and preserve the colors; afterwards wipe it with a soft, dry cloth.

ONE KIND OF PHILOSOPHY.

A New York Man Who Has Carried a Proverb to the Furthest Extreme.

There are exceptions to all proverbs, as well as to the rules, and there are even exceptions to the excellent and wholesome admonition, "Waste not, want not." In a small news and book store on Third avenue there might have been seen the other day a man who is a living and dreary example of the awful folly of living too closely to this principle. That man took for his motto years ago the proverb quoted above, and after having had wide experience in this and other countries in literary work, he returned to New York and settled down to a philosophical existence, based on the principle that if he wasted nothing and wanted little he would be able to live with very little work. There are some folks who would apply the term laziness to his system, but he calls it philosophy, and the result is, that after twenty years of this philosophical life, which has brought him neither enjoyment nor money nor friends, he finds himself compelled to work harder for a single dollar than most members of his calling do for ten.

The philosopher contends that a two-dollar room on the Bowery is good enough for anybody, and that the omelet cooked in the lid of a blacking box is as good as the one that costs 40 cents in a first-class restaurant. He argues also that the pair of trousers which he makes himself are good enough to put on when he goes down to Park row to dispose of his manuscript. The fact that managers are in the habit of charging money for admittance to their theatres has kept him from seeing any of the plays or actors that have excited public interest during the last score of years, while the extremely small sum asked for subscription to the Mercantile Library has deprived him of almost all fresh reading matter during the same period. Occasionally he glances through a book as it lies on the counter of the store which he habitually visits, and once in a while he writes a book review which is based entirely on his study of those parts of the volume that can be seen without cutting the leaves.

For twenty years he has lived on this economical principle, and now that \$5 a week means afluence to him he has to do as much work to obtain it as an ordinary man would to earn \$10. The reason for this is that his way of living, without friends or books or any of the advantages of metropolitan life, has so narrowed him that he has nothing to write about, and when he does succeed in turning out a dozen paragraphs or articles he cannot

sell more than two of them. Of course his habit of wearing trousers of his own make has not served to increase his social prestige to any marked degree, nor do his "waste not, want not" proclivities tend to render him a light-hearted, jovial companion of the sort that we are all looking for. He had a great many friends a score of years ago, but he has scarcely any now, and he lives in the midst of a great city, literally deaf to what its inhabitants are saying to one another, and blind to the new things in art and architecture noticed and enjoyed by everybody else.—N. Y. Sun.

Minute Wonders of Nature.

The fibre of the coarsest wool is about the five hundredth part of an inch in diameter.

It is said that there is silk enough in a single cocoon to extend a distance of 535 miles.

Human hair varies in thickness from the two hundred and fiftieth to the six hundredth part of an inch.

The thread of silk spun by the common silk-worm is only the fifteen hundredth part of an inch in thickness.

Some of the common garden spiders spin webs so fine that 30,000 of them laid side by side would not cover the space of an inch.

The very finest of sheep's wool is one third the diameter of the coarsest mentioned above, or only one fifteen hundredth part of an inch thick.

The diatoms, single celled plants of the seaweed family, are so small, that 3000 of them laid end to end scarcely suffice to cover an inch of space on the rule.

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