

## Woman and Her Work

For many years it has been supposed by the great majority of people, that arsenic had but one use—that of a peculiarly subtle and deadly poison! The man who wished to get his enemy quietly out of the way, and the woman who wished to rid her house of rats employed the same remedy arsenic. It was not so sudden in its effects as strychnine and therefore it seemed less premeditated and not quite so wicked. It would never have done, in the fifties and sixties for a physician to let a patient know that there was arsenic in the tonic mixture which was doing the invalid so much good, because the patient would almost have felt justified in having his medical attendant arrested on suspicion of having tried to poison him. In later years, however, the virtues of arsenic have become more gradually known, and its extraordinary tonic properties appreciated. As a blood purifier it is simply unequalled, and so beneficial are its effects upon the system when properly administered that it might almost be described as an elixir of life; it builds up the general system, purifies the blood, renews wasted tissues, and invigorates feeble constitutions. The physician of today tells his patient fearlessly—"I am ordering you an arsenic mixture, which should set you on your feet at once" and the patient who is abreast of the times merely answers—"Are you? Then I shall expect to look and feel ten years younger by the time I have finished the first bottle." It has long been known to scientists that arsenic had such a direct effect upon the skin and complexion, as to be the most valuable of known cosmetics, but a prejudice has always existed against its use because of the almost fatal effects which were supposed to result from any attempt to discontinue it. I remember once when a very small child, hearing a group of ladies discussing an absent friend, who was a great belle, and especially distinguished for her exquisite complexion which was a blending of milk and roses. "Do you know why she has such an unnatural complexion?" asked one. "Paints I suppose!" answered another; "I have always heard that she did, but could never bring myself to believe it", "Worse than that" said the first speaker darkly—"she eats arsenic!" There was a chorus of horror, and then the lady who had imparted this awful piece of information proceeded to enlarge upon the effects of the drug, and assured her audience that the beautiful Mrs. B. would never dare to leave off the agent to which she owed her good looks; if she did she would certainly whither and fade suddenly turning into a yellow, wrinkled old woman almost in the twinkling of an eye. Worse than that, the arsenic would soon lose its effect, necessitating a constantly increasing dose, and finally cease to benefit her altogether leaving her a faded old woman before her time.

Whether this terrible fate ever befel Mrs. B. or not I am unable to tell, but this I do know, that some very wonderful discoveries have been made of late years concerning the beneficent uses of the once dreaded drug, and none of them have attracted more attention in the world of science than that of Dr. James A. Campbell who has devoted the last fifteen years to exhaustive experiments regarding the beat and safest means of administering arsenic internally. The result has only been given to the world a little more than a year, but already its success has been phenomenal, and under the name of Dr. Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers the remedy has been tried, and endorsed by thousands.

The great advantage of these wafers is their absolute safety, as well as the fact that they are not in any sense a cosmetic as the term is usually understood, but a tonic and blood purifier, removing all impurities of the skin through the agency of the blood, changing dull and muddy complexions to clear and fresh ones, when used with Fould's arsenic soap curing blackheads pimples wrinkles etc., by the same means.

This remedy is now the sole property of H. B. Fould of Toronto, whose advertisement appears in another column, and who is the inventor of Fould's medicated arsenic complexion soap.

"Kit" of the Toronto Mail who is a very conservative person indeed and not given to over praise, published an interview with Mr. Fould, nine months ago, in which she asked him especially whether the wafers could be taken constantly, and then left off without any bad result, and Mr. Fould was greatly amused at the revival of the old superstition, assuring "Kit" that properly prepared arsenic could be discontinued at a moment's notice without the slightest ill effect being felt, and also that after the

desired result was once attained and the complexion cleared, an occasional wafer—say once or twice a week—was quite sufficient to keep the complexion in perfect order, and the skin pure and soft. My friend "Kit" assures me that she receives numbers of letters from women who have tried the wafers, speaking in the highest terms of the wonderful results they have brought about and she says the sale of the soap and wafers in Toronto is simply enormous, everyone who tries them being eager to testify to their excellent effect. I can speak from experience of the soap, which is in itself a wonderful cosmetic, leaving the skin soft and smooth as an infant's, and keeping the hands—even hands that do some hard work—soft and white. I fully intend making a trial of the wafers at an early date and then I hope to be able to speak of their merits myself as one having authority, but even now I have no hesitation in recommending them heartily to all who are in search of a perfect complexion, bright eyes, and velvet skin.

As long as there are children there will probably be children's parties, and of late years the dresses worn by even the tiniest maidens at such functions have been so elaborate that no child's wardrobe is any longer complete without at least one party dress of silk or cashmere, prettily trimmed, and quite as smartly made as her mamma's evening dresses, though after a somewhat different fashion. Of course cream, and pure white, are the favorite colors for very little children, but pale pink, Nile green and pale blue are also very popular. The soft eastern silks are in great demand or the full loose dresses hanging from a yoke, which are so much worn by very young girls, and many of them are accented plaited to give the additional fullness required for the skirt. Lace over silk is often used for these elaborate little dresses, but of course if the child's mother is sensible the silk is of the serviceable washing variety, and the lace is pretty, without being expensive. Gowns of this kind have yokes of lace or sometimes tucked chiffon, and are simply trimmed with bows of satin ribbon, either in white or some pretty contrasting color. Where the little maid is so small that the amount of material required for a gown, scarcely counts, there seems to be some excuse for making the tiny frock of rich material, but after all the more simply a little child is dressed the better taste her mother shows, provided the little garments are prettily made, and in dainty colors. White dotted mouseline de soie, makes an ideal frock for a very small girl, and it may be made up over either white, or some pale pretty color, and trimmed with a lace yoke and frill over the shoulders, and bows of satin ribbon. A very pretty accordion plaited dress for a girl between seven and eight, is of pale pink washing silk, with a large pointed collar of white satin covered with white lace, and finished with white satin bows. Many of these little gowns, when worn by girls over seven, are made with a short full waist cut low to display a guimpe of fine tucked lawn, and finished at the edge with frills of lace. Three little puffs at the top, is the latest design in sleeves, and a frill of lace falling from the shoulder makes a very pretty finish.

One very pretty dress of flounced taffeta has a double knife plaited frill of plain taffeta silk around the shoulders, beginning a little at each side of the front where a rosette of ribbon is the finish. These frills match the ground of the silk in color are cut into points at the edge, and the fine hem is feather stitched with silk. Sometimes silk frills are edged with three rows of satin baby ribbon in a contrasting color sewn around the edge.

Dresses for older girls over ten often have odd little bolero jackets just like those worn by older people, and these are sometimes made of satin, and sometimes of velvet in some color that contrasts prettily with the rest of the gown. They are finished with tiny frills of lace, with black and white gimp as a heading. Pointed Swiss belts are much worn by very young girls, with the soft full bodice above. White silk crepon is a material very much favored by fashionable mothers for party dresses for little girls.

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In spite of all these elaborate gowns, the dress of fine white lawn, trimmed with lace or embroidery and worn with pink or blue sash and ribbons, will always hold its own as the sweetest and prettiest party dress a little girl can wear.

To come down to simple frocks which are within reach of people of moderate means, there are some very pretty models which can be easily made at home. Nearly everyone has an old evening dress of some light colored silk lying by, which can easily be either washed, or cleansed and which will serve for a foundation for a little frock of swiss mull, or fine dotted muslin, trimmed with yellow Valenciennes insertion on the yoke and either a deep hem, or a band of the same insertion finishing the skirt. The outside is made quite separate from the lining, so that it can be readily laundered, but both skirts are cut exactly alike, and the little bodice is made high necked, and lined with book muslin. A short puff of the silk forms the undersleeve which is covered with frills of lace edged muslin. Such a dress is not only pretty enough for a little princess, but it possesses the advantage of being easily washed, and coming back from the laundry each time "just as good as new."

For healthy little maids who do not catch cold easily the pretty fashion of low neck and short sleeves is desirable, but it is rather a risk for most children, as they are so careless about exposing themselves to draughts, and catching cold; so after all the high neck and sensible long sleeve is the safest, even if it does not look quite so festive. Thin wool materials such as barege, cashmere, delaine, and nuns veiling are all suitable for children's pretty dresses, and when delicate pale colors are selected, and trimmed with narrow satin ribbon, black velvet, or lace, they make inexpensive and really charming little frocks.

I believe challoes are coming in again, and they always make lovely little dresses for children, when small floral designs are chosen, and the ground is cream or white.

ASTRA.

### A ROYAL CORNER.

Comical Breach of Etiquette by an American in London.

An American attending a wedding reception in a great house in London, congratulated bride and bridegroom, and passed the usual compliments with the host and hostess.

There was a great throng of guests, and he could not linger at the entrance of the drawing room, where there were many behind him anxious to offer their greetings.

Perceiving a quiet corner to the right of the bride, where a gentleman and a lady were standing apart from the other guests, he went directly to it, unwittingly coming to a stop between two royal personages.

The American was not aware of the fact that he was face to face with one of the queen's daughters, and had turned his back upon another member of the royal family. He stood quietly looking about, hoping to see some acquaintance in the company with whom he might have a chat; and soon became uncomfortably conscious that he was attracting attention, and that the hostess and bride were casting uneasy glances in the direction of the corner where he had taken shelter. While the drawing room was crowded, the company of guests with one consent avoided the secluded corner where he and his two royal companions were stationed.

An acquaintance in the background perceived his mistake, and coming within bailing distance motioned to him. He left his two companions in exclusive occupation of the corner, turning his back upon both as he edged his way through the throng while everybody stared at him. When he reached the spot where his acquaintance was waiting for him, the stage whisper was breathed into his ear:

"You have been poaching on royal preserves. You are a privileged character because you are an American, but no Englishman ventures to turn his back upon a prince or a princess. People were staring you out of countenance because they took

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it for granted that you must be a royal personage, yet they were unable to identify you."

The answer might have been made that every American is a sovereign by the divine right of equality of free citizenship; but this would have been a meaningless pleasantry in an English drawing room, where social etiquette has a sanctity superior to loyalty to democratic principle.

The American thanked his friend for rescuing him from an embarrassing position, and then stood by and watched the corner where royalty was isolated from too close contact with the world of wealth and fashion.

No guest approached the royal pair. Their presence was an act of condescension to the host and hostess, and they remained on exhibition as the patrons of this social function without having their corner invaded. Everybody was careful to approach them too closely, and there was a general sense of relief when they departed, and the necessity for backing away from them on side tracks was removed.—Youth's Companion.

### RUSSIA'S PENAL SYSTEM.

One of Its Principles is Productive of the Greatest Good.

While the administration of the Russian penal system is very generally to be condemned, says Dr. Benjamin Howard, an English surgeon, who has made a study of the subject and who is an authority on penology, there is, one of its principles that deserves to be copied, and that is the principle of productive labor. In so far as the administration of affairs rests with individuals, abuses very often creep in, and thus it is impossible that one person may be under humane principles while another may be an institution of horrors.

But the principle of productive labor bears good results. After a convict's term of two years' imprisonment is over there is nothing to prevent him, within three to five years, becoming—within certain geographical limits—a free man. A political exile or a murderer in Saghalien lives with his family in a well-built and often pretty, four-roomed cottage, with its court yard, vestibule and garden.

The island is populated mostly by murderers or by persons guilty of similarly serious crimes. They work peacefully and quietly on their farms and walk about the street to all appearance free men. Russian convicts, instead of being a heavy charge on the resources of the country, are a source of revenue. Convict labor had added

to the Russian empire an island the length of England, not an acre of which was previously under cultivation, and it is only the population of Siberia by these people that has made possible the line of the Trans-Siberian Railway—the envy of the whole world.

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## BLANC-MANGE

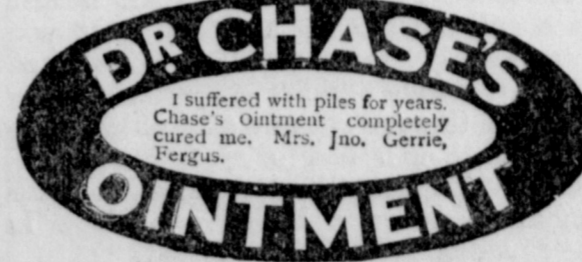
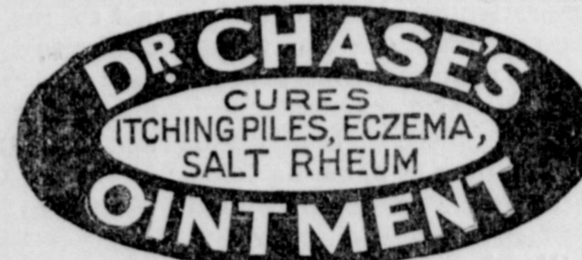
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Is an exquisite dish for the table and invaluable for invalids.

### RECIPE.

BLANC-MANGE. Four or five tablespoonsful of Prepared Corn to one quart of milk; dissolve the Prepared Corn in some of the milk; heat the remainder of the milk, and when boiling add the dissolved Prepared Corn; boil fifteen minutes, flavor to taste, and allow it to cool in a mould. Serve with milk and jelly or milk and sugar.

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