

Woman and Her Work

"The patient husband waited until his wife had told him all about it, and then sat down and wrote these impressions:

"A most delightful, unique, and inexpensive divan can be readily made by following the directions and pattern given in almost any household magazine. First get your pattern, and then ask your grocer to hand over an empty barrel. For this there should be no charge; but that depends somewhat upon your financial standing with him. Next engage a carpenter who never had a rational idea and desires to make a few dollars. He is to saw and otherwise maltreat that barrel in just the manner shown by the nice dotted lines on your pattern. It is immaterial what his thoughts are upon the subject.

"When the barrel corresponds in shape with the pattern the next thing is to hide it from the cruel gaze of the world until it is decorated. Now buy twenty-five cents' worth of excelsior, to be used as a filling. Every chair that pretends to be comfortable must have some sort of filling or it is a barefaced swindle. Now tuck your excelsior in anywhere between the covering and the barrel, or what is left of it. Never mind about placing it in smoothly; it will always be lumpy anyway, no matter how you fix it. Besides, you need never sit on it yourself. It is considered good form in the very best circles to resign the seat of honor to your guests, no matter who they are. For the covering obtain a few yards of cretonne at 15 cents a yard and some neat binding stuff to match.

"Now is the time to jam the excelsior in wherever it will go and tack your binding neatly all round with any tacks you may have in the house. Do not buy the tacks. Some people err just at this juncture. If you propose to buy everything, you might as well drop the whole thing where it is, because you are losing sight of the fact that the object is to keep down the cost as much as possible. Every economical household has a fine collection of pointless and otherwise crippled tacks. They will be found in an old half-cracked saucer carefully laid away on a top shelf somewhere, and they will do every bit as well as new ones. Should you be fastidious, however, and wish to lend some tone or character to your handiwork, you may indulge in the extravagance of a few cents' worth of brass-headed tacks; but I again warn you about increasing the expense, and that you cannot then carry out your original intention of driving the tacks home with a flat iron.

"An ordinary tack will stand any abuse, but the brass resents any unnecessary aggressiveness. In order to allow a brass-headed tack to retain its pristine beauty and decorative effects it must be driven with a hammer only and some judgement. Cynics may observe that this means a man, but that is silly divergence from the present subject and leads to trouble. As we said, if you attempt to force it in with a flat-iron you can only hit the head once in a while, and the rest of the hour will be spent in making entirely unnecessary dents in the head. These really serve no good purpose, but merely give the head somewhat of an irregular repose effect, which while very desirable on a brass coat hoi, does not appeal to our artistic eye when executed on such a limited area. When all through, you have a nice, cosy and inexpensive seat that has well repaid you and the carpenter. Bearing in mind that the barrel was given you, the beautiful divan will have cost you only a mere trifle more than you could buy a comfortable one for; but you must not forget that you had the pleasure of making it all yourself, and nothing will remain of that well-spent day but pleasant reminiscences as soon as your new thumb nails grow. When showing the seat to admiring friends, please remember that details are boring and forget the carpenter."

I do not quote the above because it strikes me as being especially witty, I have

THE LIQUOR HABIT—ALCOHOLISM.

I guarantee to every victim of the liquor habit, no matter how bad the case, that when my new vegetable medicine is taken as directed, all desire for liquor is removed within three days, and a permanent cure effected in three weeks, failing which I will make no charge. The medicine is taken privately, and without interfering with business duties. Immediate results—normal appetite, sleep and clear brain, and health improved in every way. Indisputable testimony sent sealed: I invite strict investigation.

A. Hutton Dixon,
No. 40 Park Avenue, Montreal, Que

read many articles that I thought funnier, but few which were more true to nature. The extraordinary manner in which a woman who is sensible on all other points will waste time and money in the manufacture of some perfectly useless article, has always been a mystery to me. It is all very well for the man who cannot afford to buy an easy chair but is clever with the hammer and saw, to manufacture one for his wife out of a barrel, and if she is clever enough to make a cushion for it, and then drape the whole with cheap cretonne and transform it into a respectable and almost comfortable piece of furniture, she is entitled to the utmost credit and the efforts of the worthy couple to beautify their home, are not only praiseworthy, but really touching.

But when the woman whose circumstances are sufficiently easy to enable her to spend a few dollars on a fancy of her own once in a while, elects to squander money on some hideous, and utterly useless make shift which will always be an eyesore to everyone but herself, instead of expending a less amount on a decent piece of furniture, then I think it is time she was held up to public ridicule, and laughed out of such nonsense, if she cannot be reasoned out of it. I once knew a woman to take an old fashioned double washstand of common stained wood out of the lumber room, get a carpenter to saw the requisite number of inches off the legs, and cover up the holes for the basins, with a new top, and then lay out enough money in scarlet cloth to cover it, and silks to work a drapery for it, to have purchased a new and handsome drawing room table. Worse than that she spent the leisure hours of nearly a whole winter in working that blessed drapery, or lambrequin, as she called it, and when it was finished it was nothing but a monstrosity, too long for its width, and almost impossible to place to advantage in any room. But its owner had made it out of nothing—or considered that she had which was just the same—and it was amongst her dearest possessions, far more highly prized than any of her handsome furniture, and she never wearied of displaying it proudly to her friends.

Some women have a positive mania for collecting all the unsightly old bottles and jugs they can find, or beg from their friends, and spending enough money in gold paint, or enough valuable time and good oil colors in covering them up, to buy something really useful. It makes me fairly ill, to think of the really excellent designs in flowers, and landscape that I have seen wasted on an old vinegar jug, or gin bottle, not to mention the quarts of good gold paint which have been applied to the same purpose, and when all was done, the very gin bottle itself seemed ashamed of its appearance, and looked as if it were trying to hide behind the huge bow of ribbon which adorned its neck. I really think the women's columns of some of the weekly papers are largely responsible for this particular form of tastefulness and extravagance; they publish glowing but utterly impracticable accounts of the way in which a beautiful cabinet, or luxurious divan out of an old tea chest a little shellac, and a few yards of art sateen, with enough gold headed tacks to hold them together. The corner cabinet which is really a commodious ward-robe, the comfortable three cornered lounging chair which is made of an old packing case in which a shelf has been inserted to form the seat, and the couch which is really composed of a long deep box in which the skirts of dresses can be conveniently stored, and which any carpenter will make for a trifle, if you are not an adept at home carpentering yourself." All have their places in these "Woman's Corner's" and they all look so seductive in the cuts which accompany the directions for making them, and are in reality so perfectly impossible to carry out successfully without extensive help from that carpenter who is touched upon so lightly, in the "directions for making" but who is such an essential—and expensive element in the scheme. Not long ago I made a few inquiries into the practical working out of these alluring little schemes for furnishing a house, or fitting up a drawing room on nothing, and the result was far from encouraging.

I interviewed a carpenter as to the probable cost of a corner cabinet with all the requisite conveniences in the shape of hooks and shelves, and found if he made it of decent wood at all, and put the requisite amount of work upon it he could not undertake his part of the job under six dollars without losing on it. As for the expensive couch and wardrobe combined, I found that the box alone, provided with the necessary springs and castors, and ready for the amateur upholsterer to begin her deadly work upon cost three dollars and a half, and very little it was too, for the amount of work. After that the mattress had to be purchased and the material for covering. I asked the upholsterer how much would be required for an



Every Woman

should have among her assortment of footwear a pair of good heavy solid laced boots for fall and winter wear. We have a number of these lines now in stock at \$1.75, and \$2.00 per pair.—They are warm and comfortable for this time of year.—Worth while trying a pair.

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ordinary sized couch, and he said that for a reasonably full frill all around a good sized bolster and a buttoned seat, he would not like to undertake it himself under six yards of fifty inch goods, the single width materials such as sateen and creton did not cut to advantage there was so much waste, and besides that they faded and soiled and did not wear well enough to make the buttoning which added so much to the appearance, worth while. Six yards of tapestry at at least a dollar a yard brought the inexpensive couch up to just nine fifty, and the chances were that an inexperienced worker would ruin the whole thing, so I asked the upholsterer what he would undertake to do the whole thing for, if I provided the covering. Six dollars would be a fair price he said, and as I had once had quite a handsome sofa filled with springs and covered with plush, made to order or eleven dollars, I concluded there was a good deal to be said against the practice of building furniture at home out of nothing, and a good deal more to be said in favor of buying it from the regular dealers.

Not one woman in a hundred has any more idea of carpentering than a man has of hem-stitching, and if some of the writers in women's columns would bear this well known fact in mind when they are giving directions for the manufacture of furniture, and also remember the price a good carpenter charges for his time, they would avoid misleading their readers, and making themselves ridiculous at the same time.

No woman who really studies the becoming in dress will ever allow her bodice to be "pouched" all around, as the effect is sure to be disastrous to her figure, and besides that it is not really fashionable. The very smartest basques have the goods laid in perfectly plain in the back, and gathers are no longer seen at the waist line, the front being allowed to fall full but without an exaggerated droop.

The golf cape formerly the most sober of garments has blossomed out into unexpectedly gay designs, and is now the smartest garment to be seen in show windows with its fringes and plaid trimmings. The very most swell of these show dazzling combinations of colors both inside and out, their fronts having long straight revers turning back over the chest, and held in place by rows of big pearl buttons the revers being heavily fringed. Over the shoulders of all these new capes falls a long pointed hood of bright fringed plaid, and the softly rolling collar is finished with fringe. These are the real Scotch capes made from Highlanders' gaudy fringed plaids. So great is the mania for these cross barred colors, and woolen fringe that even the rough weather coats are decorated with them, and the fashion affords excellent opportunities for the re-modelling of good winter coats left over from a season or two back and rather out of style now. Such coats may be transformed into the very height of the fashion, by the judicious addition of plaid in a harmonizing color. For example a coat of heavy dark blue Vienna cloth with the sleeves of three years ago and the length so unfashionable last winter needs little alteration to make it resemble the latest models for '97. And when a fringed hood of red, green, and yellow plaid hangs from the shoulders, and pocket flaps, cuffs and collar are faced with the same plaid, it possesses a style and distinction it never had before, even when it was new.

Many thrifty and ingenious dames who cannot afford new golf capes point with pride to the transformation brought by merely turning their last year's capes inside out, thus displaying their bright linings, and then buying enough of the new fringed plaid cloth to make new hoods, gaining all the effect of the newest wraps at a very trifling outlay. Verily necessity is the mother of invention, and a very clever mother at that!

The guimpe bodice seems to be gaining



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If you wish to try one write us the exact size of your bed (inside measure), and the name of your furniture dealer; and the mattress will be delivered at your door free of transportation charge and if not satisfactory in every respect at the end of thirty days free trial, we shall refund your money.

References: The Merchants' Bank of Halifax or any wholesale Dry Goods House in Canada.

THE ALASKA FEATHER & DOWN COMPANY, Limited, 290 Guy St., Montreal, Que.

in favor steadily, numbers of the new costumes showing this style, which affords an excellent opportunity of making a plain costume dressy, and a handsome one very elegant indeed. In the new black cloths which are so glossy and fine, and at the same time so light in weight that they are deservedly popular, this bodice is a great favorite. It is exceedingly swell when the skirt is decorated with innumerable bands of satin, and the blouse bodice cut low over a guimpe and sleeves of jewelled cream lace. A pretty way of finishing these bodices around the low neck is a cord covered with gathered velvet, turquoise being a favorite color; a little frill of the same velvet stands up from the collar band at the back. Cerise, yellow, and green velvet are all effectually used with the black. When the plainer coat and skirt costume is desired, the trimming is either braid, or fur, or a la blouse of bright colored silk, or a vest of velvet with white satin revers, brightens it up.

Yoke and vest effects in embroidery on satin silk and chiffon, tucked velvet, silk, and various kinds of lace, are quite as popular as they were last season, and these with the high flaring collars cut in squares or points with a soft frill of chiffon edged with lace falling between, and over the edges of the squares, are distinctive features of the new gowns. These gowns are generally very light in effect, as well as weight, the close sleeves and clinging skirts giving the fashionable woman of the hour, a very diminished appearance. One of the prettiest and most effective of the newest trimmings is plain gold braid in different widths, which is seen on many of the

Had to Stop and Rest Because of Heart Trouble.

Mrs. Eliza Cook, 169 Palmerston Ave., Toronto, says: "Seven years ago I had the grip, followed by inflammation of the lungs. I have been afflicted ever since with heart trouble. To walk anyway



fast would make me gasp for breath, and many a time I have had to stop on the street to rest and regain my breath.

I had had smothering spells at night, and my nerves were much unstrung. Anything annoying or worrying me produced extreme weakness, and would set my heart beating so fast that I thought I was dying. Sometimes I would become so nervous as to tremble like a leaf.

I began taking Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills early last February, and have been getting better ever since. My nerves are much stronger. I can walk without difficulty, and the palpitation, fluttering of the heart, shortness of breath and nervousness trouble me no more.

I gladly recommend these pills as the best medicine I know of for heart and nerve troubles on account of the great good they have done in my case." 221

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cloth bodices. The half inch width is used for the collar, three rows being sufficient. A wider one forms the belt, and is finished with two loops at one side.

The elaborate wide spreading revers which we used to think so lovely, are the exception rather than the rule this season, the revers of the hour being much smaller and less stiffly interlined. It is made of two materials often, the one overlapping the other, and is really more effective than the larger one, besides keeping its shape much better, as it is out of the way of the shoulder, and does not get crushed. A black cloth gown with a vest of white lace has small triple revers the innermost one of turquoise blue velvet, and the others of white moire silk edged respectively with silver braid and chinchilla fur.

The violet is back again in favor, if it can ever be said to have gone out of it and the regulation corsage bouquet is once more a bunch of exquisite, and expensive violets.

The choice of white for the wedding dress is really a modern fashion. The bridal color differs in many countries today, and has differed in various centuries. In many Eastern countries the brides are dressed in pink, and the Greeks and Romans wore yellow or saffron, probably derived from Hymen's flaming torch. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance the bride wore crimson, and most of the queens of France, England, Germany and Italy wore this color, a custom which still survives in Brittany, where the brides are gay in crimson brocade. No less a person than Mary Queen of Scots, changed the color of the bridal dress. When she was married to Francis II, of France, in 1553, she appeared before the doors of Notre Dame in a white brocade with a train of light blue Persian velvet, six yards long. This was regarded as a most singular innovation. It was not till the end of the 17th century that pure white became the popular and correct bridal attire.

ASTRA.