

Woman and Her Work

After we women have spent the last decade and several years before it, in ruining our tempers and our hair at the same time, with the insidious and deadly curling tongs it has been left to the inventive genius of a man—a mere man who cannot possibly know what our sufferings have been from that terrible little instrument, to invent a curling iron which shall undo as far as possible the mischief wrought by its predecessor.

Someone has wittily said that curling tongs have started more women on their way to predilection than original sin, and I believe it is true. Most of us have a justifiable hatred of curl papers, which may possess the advantage of being better for the hair, but which seldom make pretty or natural looking curls, and there is really nothing left but the tongs, which are used by nine women out of ten, in spite of all the disadvantages which surround it. We are willing to suffer in order to be beautiful, and so we cheerfully burn our fingers, our scalps and frequently our necks and shoulders, when we drop the hot tongs on the quivering flesh. The new curling iron is to be a joy forever, having a little alcohol lamp attachment which heats the iron and keeps it at the same temperature. It is never hot enough to burn the fingers and yet it curls the hair naturally and beautifully, saves the trouble of re-heating and does away with the smoke and soot which always collect when either a lamp or gas is used.

Strange to say the new curling iron is no more bulky, and no heavier than the old one being made of much better material, and in a very compact form. Altogether it comes as a boon and a blessing to feminine humanity and is something no house, which contains occupants of our sex, should be without. The man who invented it must have either possessed a feeling heart, or been driven to despair by watching his wife burn her fingers and ruin her temper over the curling tongs of the period.

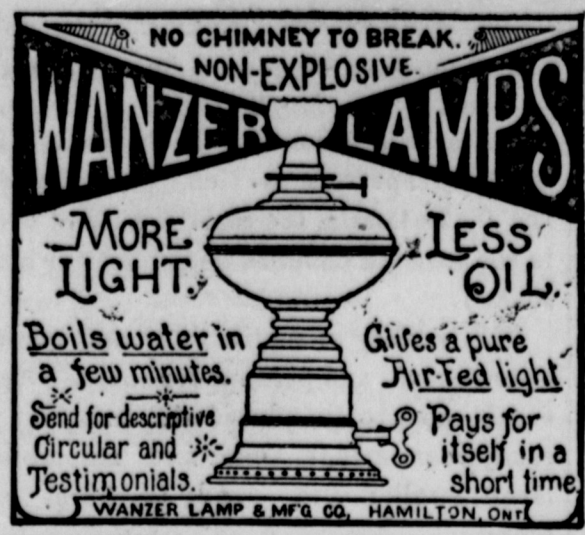
And now they say we eat too much salt! Well truly it will not be long before the only way we can satisfy the demands of the diet cranks who are always discovering that all the ills humanity is heir to, proceed from this or that article of diet, will be to give up eating at all, and so make an end of trouble. It is not long since we heard that the human race was bringing itself to the verge of the grave by not eating enough salt, that both stomach and blood required a generous amount of saline matter to keep the system in perfect health, and that salt was one of the best tonics known. Women, we are told are much more in the habit of going to extremes than men, and therefore we resort every dish that comes to the table utterly regardless, because probably ignorant of, the fact that by so doing we are making our hair fall out, drying up our blood, and setting our nerves on edge. This is indeed a terrible state of things to contemplate, and I daresay that our love of extremes will lead most of us who read this dire prophecy of what is likely to happen to us if we persist in the error of our ways, to abjure salt altogether even to the beloved salted almonds and peanuts which our souls adore.

I wonder when either the New Woman, or the woman who is not especially new, will rise up in revolt against one piece of masculine tyranny which she seems always to have overlooked in making out her list of grievances against the sex which was once dominant, but is now subject? I mean the exasperating habit so many men have, of doling out collection money to their families in church. It might not strike everyone in the same way, but if there is anything which rasps my naturally sweet disposition almost beyond endurance, it is to see paterfamilias begin fumbling nervously in his pockets before the clergyman

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.

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has finished pronouncing the benediction, pass a small coin pompously to the wife of his bosom, and then put a number of smaller coins in circulation amongst his progeny, extract a larger one for himself from a separate pocket and then lean back with folded arms and an expression of conscious rectitude which might call up a sigh of envy from Mr. Chadband himself. Why can't that misguided man go through the ceremony before he leaves home? It would be less trouble I should fancy, and would look so much better. If he is afraid of the children losing their collection money on the way to church, he might see that they tied it up in a corner of their handkerchiefs, and put it securely in their pockets. The wife's contribution might be enclosed in an envelope for safe keeping, and pinned to the bosom of her dress.

It may be merely a prejudice of mine, but somehow the spectacle of a husband and father proclaiming the fact in public that he holds the purse strings, and keeps his family in object dependence upon him, is very unpleasant indeed, and not by any means, calculated to elevate that husband and father in the opinion of the spectators. And yet numbers of men do it every Sunday of their lives.

How shall we dress our necks so as to let ourselves down gradually from the lovely heights of frill, ruff, and ear touching collar, which have beautified us for so long, to the plain and most trying neck which is slowly but surely coming into fashion. The high linen collar with its neat little tie is a sort of happy medium, but then we dare not near it if we value our necks—their beauty, I mean—and the huge bow tied under the chin and reaching its lace trimmed ends down to the waist has become so common that one hesitates to adopt a style so lacking in originality. The pretty tie of soft Roman striped silk, which is first passed around the neck towards the back, crossed, and then brought forward and tied in a four-in-hand knot offers an attractive compromise, but it is very difficult to arrange, and still more difficult to keep in place as the lack of stiffness makes it terribly inclined to double up into wrinkles and creases which are far from becoming, but if the dress collar is very stiff and the tie pinned firmly in place after it is arranged, there is a possibility of making it "stay put" as the children say. Probably the tie of the hour beyond all others is the four-in-hand of bayadere striped silk, and though it had a great run at first in lengthwise stripes the girl with a long thin neck has discovered that they make her look like a giraffe, so she is wearing her ties with the stripes across. These Roman striped ties are comparatively new, and therefore expensive, so if one wishes to economize a bit it is well to buy a yard and a quarter of bayadere silk cut it into widths for ties and then hem and fringe it at home. One would thus obtain at least three wide ties for oneself and friends for little more than the cost of one if it were purchased ready-made.

Of course one does not care to have three ties exactly the same, but most girls have plenty of friends who would be only too willing to enter the syndicate, purchase a yard of silk each, and then exchange so that each should possess three or four ties of different patterns. I believe the bayadere silks are wide, so it is possible to get four ties out of a yard and have them quite a respectable width! They are quite easy to make, only requiring a narrow hem, and the fringing process is equally simple. Embroidery silk in the two or three shades which compose the stripes can easily be purchased, and run through the ends of the tie with a course needle each strand knotted to keep it in place and then cut even at the ends. It can be braided loosely and knotted again if one cares to take the trouble, and thus have the real imported look.

Another variety of the soft fringed tie is made of velvet ribbon, in some delicate shade, such as pale pink, blue, or green and fringes to match is added. This is the very newest thing in ties and is both pretty and becoming.

A return to the ever popular stock collar is promised, and it is to emerge from its retirement but slightly varied, almost the only changes being the different posi-

tion of the bow, which is now placed at the side instead of the back, and the number and fineness of the folds in which it is laid. This stock will be worn with light silk blouses now and with all the summer waists when summer comes, it is a succession of folds so narrow that they are sometimes only a quarter of an inch wide, and they always turn upward. These collars are easily made at home and as half a yard of china silk is ample to make a stock they cost but a trifle. Hemstitching is a favorite decoration for the new stock, the ends of the bow, the flaps which turn over just below the ear on each side and are called "ear-pieces," and the ruff, which sometimes finishes the neck, are all greatly improved by a border of hemstitching.

In spite of the repeated assurances frequently given by high authorities in the fashion world that plain collar bands will certainly be worn this spring, some of the newest of the beautiful cloth gowns which are being made for early spring wear, show a decided novelty in neck trimming. Nearly all of these dresses show the regulation stock collar with the addition of a frill set on at the back, and standing up against the hair; instead of the lace which composed this frill last year, the material now used is ribbon, velvet or silk and cut into the oddest of shapes. For example one frill is shaped from two half circles of velvet, the straight edges being gathered and the rounded ones lace trimmed and standing up. Another neck frill is square, just a plain strip of velvet doubled and plaited into an upstanding frill, while others again are triangular or pointed as the fancy may dictate.

The cuffs of these dresses are also quite novel, being cut separate from the sleeve and either flaring over the hand in the same odd shapes as the neck trimming square, circular or triangular; or else turned back from the wrist, and faced. One pretty imported costume showed collar, cuffs and neck frill in a contrasting color, and the effect was both pretty and striking. In spite of the popularity of braid trimming of every description during the present season, it promises to retain its hold on public favor through the summer, and braided cloth gowns will be worn as much as ever. The narrow soutache braid of silk and mohair is used for the trimmings in narrow parallel lines, and also for the open braided designs which require fine braids in their development; but a thicker quality which gives a raised effect, is the silk and mohair tubular braid which is wider than the soutache, and more showy in effect. A decided novelty in braids is the "drawn," or "pulled" braid which comes with a corded edge, in order to allow of its being drawn up into a diminutive ruff, according to the prevailing fancy for frills of all kinds, and also to get the proper spiral effect, in decorative braiding of large design, such as panels, and front breadths for skirts. In some of these braids the cord runs through the centre forming a double ruff or ruche, when drawn up. ASTRA.

Worried Over a Dollar.

'What's the matter, Brinkerton? You look as if you had something on your mind. 'I have,' he replied. 'I'm worried, badly worried. I found a dollar in my Sunday breeches this morning.' 'Your first man I ever saw that worried over the finding of money he didn't know he had.' 'But wait. You don't understand me. I can't make up my mind whether I forgot the dollar or whether my wife slipped it in there to try me. She has been accusing me for some time past of keeping things from her. Now, if I were to blow this money in without saying anything to her about it, and it should turn out that she had played a trick on me, my finish would be well worth writing up. On the

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SCIENCE AMONG SAVAGES.

They Obtained Fire by Strictly Scientific Principles.

It has been less than 100 years since civilized humanity used many odd devices for the purpose of obtaining fire. In this country, then claiming to be "enlightened," the tinder box, with steel flint, was the apparatus most generally used, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. However, if there was no tinder box in the house, the old flint-lock musket, with a few grains of powder in the pan, together with a few shreds of paper or greased rags, were considered a household necessity. Rubbing sticks together until they were fired by friction was the method used by the savages of that time in nearly all the lands of the globe. There was one single exception, however, to all of the above, as well as any of the more common methods of 'striking light,' and that method was practiced by a rude tribe of semi-savages inhabiting eastern Thibet. Curious as it may seem, these rude savages obtained fire by strictly scientific principles, which involved a wonderful knowledge of compressed air.

The apparatus used consisted of a wooden cylinder two and one-half inches long by three-quarters of an inch in diameter which closed at one end. Into this cylinder (which tapered off at one end until it was not larger than a common lead pencil) was fitted an air-tight piston which had a large flat knob at the top; the other end of the piston was slightly hollowed out the indentation being intended for the

reception of a small piece of tinder or 'punk.' When this apparatus was in use, it was held in one hand, the piston being inserted with the other and pushed about half way down. A very sharp blow was then given with the palm on the piston. At the same instant the fingers were closed around the knob and the piston instantly withdrawn. If everything had worked to perfection, the scientific savage was usually rewarded by finding that the tinder had been lighted and a fire assured. Sir William Gill, an English scientist, who investigated this queer mode of striking a light, says that it requires skill to use the fire-producing apparatus, as well as science to invent it.

Effective Tip.

A hungry guest at a Chicago hotel, who had sat at one of the tables unnoticed for several minutes, called a waiter to him at last and said:

'Young fellow, I saw that man over there hand you a tip of half a dollar just now.'

'Yes, sah.'

'You've got his order, have you?'

'Yes, sah.'

'Well, now, I'll give you a tip also—which is this: Bring me exactly the same order, served in exactly the same style as his, and with the same promptness, or I'll report you. Do you get the idea, young fellow?'

'Yes, sah.'

The two dinners were served at the same time, and were precisely alike.

Not Enough.

They say she is a poem
Quite likely that may be;
I had unto my sorrow
She is averse to me.



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