

Chat of the Boudoir.

A pretty little penwiper is made by taking two squares of black or purple cloth, pinking them out, or cutting it in points, and using them as a foundation. Take a small china doll and dress it in black and white crepe paper, like a chorister, and attach it to the cloth squares. Under the skirt a stiff foundation of paper muslin should be put to keep out the robe. It is intended to represent a feminine member of the vested choir add a cap of paper, such as choristers wear. Make a small booklet, or else cut out a bit of paper representing a sheet of music, and place it in the hands of the chorister.

The sash will play no unimportant part in the season's gowns. It will be made of chiffon and worn in one of many ways all thoroughly approved. Miss Hayes, whose engagement to Payne Whitney has been recently announced, wears a black crepe de chine gown with a sash of black silk bordered with a very narrow double box plaiting of chiffon. This is set entirely around the edge of the sash.

A mink hood that is fetching as well as costly was made winter for a young woman to wear when skating and sleigh riding in the country. The trim is fluted, and in one of the flutings a cluster of pink roses has been coquettishly arranged. A deep ruffle falls over the neck and a brown satin bow adorns the back. The hood is lined with pink satin.

The cutting of a décolleté bodice is a simple thing but the amateur is apt to do her work not wisely but too thoroughly. The neck should be rounded and cut delicately, not nearly as low as one desires the waist to be, but at least two inches higher. When completed the neck will sag and the seams will give so that the desired lowness is obtained.

Care must be exercised in the choice scissors that children are allowed to handle. Kindergarten depots stock scissors especially rounded for the use of the little ones. They are rounded at the ends and are tolerably sharp. Expensive scissors may be bought, but cheaper ones answer very well if the joint is oiled.

To hold scissors properly for paper cutting the thumb and middle finger should pass through the loops, and the forefinger should be held under the lower blade to guide it. The right hand should be kept still, and the paper moved as required by the left hand. The scissors should never be closed until the cutting out is finished.

Dirge-dangles are those narrow ribbons of black silk, tipped at the end with brass points, which have been hanging lately from the waists of many young women. They resemble shoe laces and the story of their origin as feminine ornaments is interesting.

'They were invented,' a man milliner says, 'in Paris. A milliner sat racking his brain one afternoon for some new idea to spring upon the women, and while this racking process went on his eyes rested on an old point of a girl in a bodice that laced down the front as a corset laces. The broad silk string in the bodice attracted him. It was of silk ribbon, and it was pointed at the end with metal. It resembled a shoestring.

'An idiotic idea came to the man milliner, and he bought some dozen of these wide shoe laces that are worn in Oxford ties. He tipped them with gilt wire and hung them in a bunch from the waist of an afternoon gown. They had an instantaneous success. It wasn't long before they had travelled to England and America.'

The sash pin is one of the new features in this year's jewelry. It is in the form of a long clasp looking something like a buckle, but having a fastening at one side, something like a boa pin, but on a much more limited scale.

The sash is really a charming feature of dress and one that will grow more popular. The new sash ribbons are the ones that are velvet dotted. Others are striped with transparent stripes, while others have beautiful roses that will admit of a bit of hand embroidery upon the ends, which can be finished with fringe.

A dainty and inexpensive hairpin holder is made of a skein of simple zephyr worsted costing 10 cents, a small 'cat basket,' which may be bought for a trifle, and enough satin ribbon about an inch wide to suspend the holder and make a pretty bow where it is fastened.

The basket is one of those small circular ar ones having a circular opening. Gild or silver this basket. Make a chain of the worsted, using up all of it, till you have several yards. Then lay a length of this down, about a quarter of a yard, and fold-

ing the back again, doing this till the chain is all used up. Tie this in the middle. This is to look the hairpins in. Put it's worsted into the circular opening and through a hole, punched in the opposite side, as if threading a needle.

Suspend the basket by the ribbon and tie a bow on the front of it. In pale green the effect is specially pretty, as the worsted has the appearance of light green moss.

There are always rooms in one's house having corners which for utilitarian or artistic purposes require screening. People of moderate means may by the exercise of a little ingenuity evolve something original in any way of a screen at very small cost. Frames may be had at any furniture shop and the covering done at home. Colored canvas or burlap makes a good covering.

For the nursery or playroom the screen may be decorated with colored prints of flowers, birds, quaint Kate Greenaway children, or any of the subjects which attract the little folk. Screens for other rooms may have favorite prints, such as copies of famous masterpieces, framed in the panels.

A screen covered with light green canvas entirely hiding the wooden frame was decorated with the English hunting scenes now so popular. They were mounted on mats of Chinese grass cloth, the green making an effective background for the red coated gentry in the pictures.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

To preserve cut flowers, besides giving them fresh water each day, cut off the ends of the stems daily, at right angles to the stem.

Violets covered with paraffine paper each night and set in a cool place will keep much longer.

Be sure to mend all delicate fabrics, such as laces, before, instead of after, washing.

Cracks in a cooling stove can be satisfactorily filled by a paste made of six parts common wood ashes to one part table salt, mixed with cold water. Properly mixed it will prove lasting and will not blacken.

A physician gives the following hints, regarding proper sleeping-rooms for the children. The sunniest and best room in the house is not too good for the child. The apartment should be ventilated during the night as well as the day. A sick child should never occupy an inside room. Fresh air is a prime necessity. Gas stoves consume the air required by the child and are not advisable in a sleeping-room. No sweeping should be done while the children are in the room. If, however, because of sickness, this is necessary, dust the furniture and floor with a moist cloth and use a carpet sweeper instead of a broom.

The simple matter of boiling a fish properly seems to be beyond the intelligence or the practice at least of the average cook, yet the difference between any way and the right way amounts to the difference between a palatable, appetizing dish and one which is flavorless, if not positively repugnant. To every two quarts of water allow a teaspoonful of salt and a tablespoonful of vinegar. Let the water be thoroughly warm, but not boiling, when the fish is put in, unless a fish soup is contemplated, when it should be cold to extract the flavor. The water should be brought quickly to the boiling point, after receiving the fish, and almost immediately drawn to the side of the range to simmer until done, an allowance of ten minutes to each pound being sufficient time after the simmering has begun. If the French 'court bouillon,' or flavoring water is considered formidable, as seems to be the case with most cooks, at least a bunch of soup vegetables, a bay leaf with perhaps two or three peppercorns and a couple of whole cloves are easy additions, and to many of the tasteless fresh-water fish will be a great improvement.

Snaps are made by rubbing half a pound of butter into two pounds of flour. Then add half a pound of sugar, a level tablespoonful of ground ginger. Pour in, mixing all the while, one pint of New Orleans molasses. The dough must be moist, not wet. Take it out on the board, knead it until it becomes elastic, roll very thin, cut with a small round cutter, and bake in a moderate oven until a light brown. The dough may be cut into small fancy shapes, in which form they please children very much.

Absolute cleanliness and tidiness are necessary in the sick room; the furniture should be simple and capable of being easily cleansed. Avoid all kinds of woolen draperies, and let the curtains be of white washable material. If possible, all medicines and the attendant paraphernalia should be kept out of sight of the patient in an adjoining room. Glasses, spoons, etc., should be washed as soon as used, and placed ready for the time when they will again be needed.

Playing For His Life.
There have been many tales in which the charming of snakes by music is the leading incident, and every one who has visited a circus snake-charmer at work. But the snake has been deprived of its fangs. 'Gabe' Crandal, a fiddler of Deep Hollow, Pennsylvania, was recently obliged to try his sat upon two rattlers in the natural, and according to a Pennsylvania, he performed his part so well that he escaped without injury although not entirely by the power of music.

He was walking along a narrow road on the mountainside, on his way to a neighboring town where he was engaged to furnish music for a dance. When he reached a point in the road where it would round a sharp spur, he heard the warning noise of a rattlesnake, and looking up saw a big one directly in his path.

He started to run, but had only gone a few steps when another rattler rose up from the woods on the side of the highway. There was not room to pass the snake safely and the terrified fiddler backed up against the ledge to think. It occurred to him that he had read somewhere of persons charming snakes with music. Drawing his violin from its box, he began to play.

At a few notes of the violin the big snakes gradually uncoiled, as if they were soothed by the music, and stretching themselves out and glided towards the fiddle.

This was more than he had counted on but he sawed away more violently than before. Closer came the snakes and faster went the bow. When within two feet of the musician the snakes halted, and coiling themselves up, raised their heads close together.

Then the musician's nerve gave way. Seizing his fiddle by the neck, he brought it down with all his force on the heads of the snakes. The blow stunned them, and the musician soon despatched them with stones.

Voltaire And The Quaker.

It is estimated that during the years that Voltaire lived at Ferney, near Geneva he wrote fourteen thousand letters, many of which the author of 'Lake Geneva and Its Literary Landmarks' thinks were dinner invitations. As 'Innkeeper to Europe,' he entertained everybody—princes, paupers and philosophers, authors and travellers.

Most of his guests approached him with admiration; Claude Gay, a Philadelphia Quaker, was one exception. He felt 'little eagerness to meet the 'innkeeper,' and only consented to dine at Ferney on Voltaire's agreeing to say nothing irreverent.

Voltaire's kept the compact up to a certain point when he loosened the bridle on his tongue at finding that his best appar-

ants were thrown away upon the imperturbable Quaker, and lost his temper completely. Gay was not in the least abashed. Rising from the dinner table he said, blandly:

'Friend Voltaire, perhaps thou mayest come to understand these matters rightly in the meantime finding I can do thee no good, I leave, and so fare thee well.'

Voltaire retired in high dudgeon to his room. The horrified guests were struck dumb, with the exception of Gay, who walked out of the room and strolled placidly back to Geneva, upheld by his sense of theological right.

The Man who hit the Prince.

When Prince George was in Canada in 1833 he visited Niagara and attended the fall fair held in the court house, says the Welland Telegraph. He admired some plums greatly, and reached over to handle the fruit, when a sharp rap over the knuckles from the constable present caused him to drop them. The constable was Bob Reid. In chatting with Mayor Best on his last visit the Duke recalled the incident, and asked if Bob was still in town. On being told that he was, His Highness asked that Mr. Best hunt him up, which he did, and Mr. Reid was duly presented, and the Duke had a pleasant chat with him over old times.

Try It On.

Take the word gentlemen, it is generally written in that way, and it has a very indifferent meaning. Now, write it this way—Gentle Man—and think it over. Then act the Gentle Man, and see how the thing works.—Smith, in Bobcaygeon Independent.

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