

Empty Bottles Have Made Her Fortune

"The money with which I built those two houses was made by selling empty bottles," remarked an old woman well known on the east side of New York City. "It was a long time ago when I first came to this country. I'll tell you about it if you don't print my name."

"Not that I object to having my name in the papers, but it's my children I have to think of these days. One is the president of a big bank out west, another owns a barrel factory in Jersey, while my three daughters are all married and live in fine houses up town. So you see I don't want

old they brought my husband home dead. A scaffolding had given way.

"Those were dark times for me, but I had my children to look after. All little fellows just big enough to hold on to my skirts. They might have taken the sprit out of some women, but they gave me heart to work, and I made up my mind to buy and sell all the empty bottles in this town. And I'll tell you, my dear, I very nearly did it. I bought a horse and wagon and with my eldest son I visited every restaurant in the city and took away their bottles and corks. Some of them charged us, but the ma-

save and sell empty bottles that the street cleaners of New York would have twice as much work to do.

"It wasn't harder work than any other business. When the bottles were brought in they had to be cleaned and turned to drain, then sorted as to size, color and shape. Later they were packed and delivered. Having been freshly emptied the cleaning was not difficult, seldom needing anything beyond hot soap and water. My children soon learned to help and after a few years I turned the management of the horses and drivers over to my oldest son. That is the way he got his business training.

"When I gave up the business I'd about educated all my children and was paying taxes on \$35,000 worth of real estate. Since then New York property has gone up pretty high and now people tell me my two tenement houses are worth near about \$200,000. They give me a pretty fair living and a nice sum to lay by for my grandchildren. I'm real sorry the brewers have broke up the trade, for the collection of empty bottles was a good business for a woman who had a family of smart children to help her."



CORN-COLORED LACE STRAW.

to make them ashamed of their old mother's bragging.

"As I said, it was a long time ago, for I'm getting on to 80 years of age.

"To begin at the beginning, my husband and I sailed from Ireland the day after we were married. We'd heard fine tales of America and we came over to make our fortunes. We had but a few pennies when we landed and besides our bundle of clothes and the few cooking things we'd used on the voyage I'd picked up two empty bottles that some of the other passengers had thrown away. We didn't have bottles to throw away in the old country, so it came kind of natural to me not to want to see them wasted.

Empty Bottle Idea.

"My husband got a job as a mason and I got a place as second cook in a restaurant. It made me open my eyes the way they threw things away in that kitchen. Empty bottles were hauled away in cartloads along with the rest of the refuse, until by and by I got to picking them out and taking them home nights. I was only at that place six months, but during that time I saved up something like 500 beautiful bottles.

"Then as my husband's work was steady and the pay good I came home to keep house for him and had time to think of my bottles. It seemed such a shame to throw them away, yet I didn't see what was to be done in a country where everybody got rid of them as soon as they were empty. After a while I decided to try to sell them to the places from which they were originally bought. Many were wine bottles, so I went to a wine merchant and told him of my lot. He looked at me for a while then he examined my bottle and said if they were all as clean as that he would buy the lot, but he'd rather I brought him corks to sell as corks were harder to get than bottles.

"I delivered to him all the wine bottles I had saved, then went around to the restaurant to see my old friend, the cook. He agreed to save as many corks and bottles as possible, provided I would take them off every day. So I used to go every morning and bring away baskets full. I washed the bottles and boiled the corks and once a week delivered them to the wine merchant. Then I made my trip to the savings bank where I stored away my earnings.

Enlarging the Business.

"As time passed I became more ambitious and went about to other restaurants and to other merchants, in that way increasing my business. I hired a boy to fetch and carry for me and between times when attending to my children or busy about the house I cleaned the bottles and corks. This went on until I had saved up several hundred dollars. The day that my youngest girl was 3 weeks

old they were only too glad to have them taken off.

"Then I not only sold to wine merchants, but to every dealer where bottles were used. Druggists were good customers when we could suit them in sizes and many were willing to send for the bottles instead of having me cart them.

A Growing Fortune.

"Did I only have one horse! Bless you, no! I had six when, alas! the beer and other bottling companies, realizing the value of empty bottles, put an end to my business by offering to buy their own bottles back again. But it was I who taught them to do it. I've always said if I hadn't begun to

Living Fashion Models

The Bee's living fashion models this week are confined to only two subjects, but both appropriate to the rapidly approaching spring season, when lighter garments must replace those required for winter wear.

The simple tea gown for warm weather is composed of lavender crepe de chine and trimmed with rich, full ruffles of tea-tinted lace. A broad ivory satin ribbon belts its loose folds and falls in long ends in front.

Corn-colored lace straw gives the foundation of the charming Easter hat. It is dressed with frills of violet chiffon and three shades of mauve taffeta and has one mammoth cluster of violets and foliage on the left side.

The Latest Buttons

For New Frocks

Before completing arrangements for spring and summer gowns it is well to pay some heed to the new and exquisite buttons being shown by fashionable dress-makers and at the shops. They are very decorative and have quite regained their stronghold of favor. One of Worth's latest achievements is the placing of six small buttons on the gown of a New York woman, the value of which was estimated at \$50. These buttons were very small, hardly more than half an inch in diameter, and were miniatures representing certain queens and favorite beauties of France. They were set about with very small and brilliant rhinestones. At present good imitations of these little gems can be found at the shops. The heads are printed on porcelain instead of being painted on ivory and are usually placed on lapels where they are thrown into prominence, or three of them border each side of a vest, running in a straight line downward from the neckband.

Tiny satin buttons covered with a network suggestive of a spider's web are used in great quantities on gowns and are bought by the dozens, ranging in price from 8 to 12 cents. The best effect produced by them is when they are worn to decorate the popular black satin zouave jackets, and in connection with many rows of white satin cord. Often as many as four or five to twenty dozen are thus employed to form large bunches of grapes.

The beautiful medallions which appeared in gold and silver as bits of jewelry in the early winter are now reproduced in buttons. Some of the heads thus seen are exquisite.

They are melted in gilt or gun metal, the latter being appropriate for traveling and morning wear. A dainty little touch is given to these medallions by the introduction of rhinestones. Sometimes four of them will be set in about the forehead, representing a band, or one will appear as a star, toward which the head directs its gaze. Usually the outline of these buttons is unsymmetrical. They cost from 90 cents to \$1.25 apiece.

Again very large gilt buttons having a dull finish are seen, being partly openwork, the other portions covered with a robin's egg blue enamel. They are very handsome and will figure upon the white albatross gowns that are being included in the summer wardrobe of fashionable women. A touch of color in satin or panne velvet is

also added somewhere as a supplement to the button.

Big buttons of smoked pearl, elaborately carved, are to be on many of the soft gray afternoon gowns. Rarely more than two of them are used. One pair recently noticed on an imported frock had carved upon their surface a tiny nest hanging from the bough of a tree. The mother bird was flying toward it, two little ones were in the nest, while the male bird, with wide-stretched throat, sat jauntily upon a twig. The cost of these two buttons was said to have been about \$5. In favor of using expensive buttons, however, it should be remembered that they are seldom perishable and can be used time and time again. The shops now display many buttons of military and naval devices to be used upon white flannel and linen outing gowns.



LAVENDER CREPE DE CHINE TEA GOWN.



DEDICATION OF MONUMENT TO HEROES OF CIVIL WAR AT COLUMBUS, NEB. —Photo by Saley.

Teaching Persistence

"Few little children, of course, voluntarily set themselves to overcome difficulties, yet more would do so if parents and nurses were not in the habit of catering to that flightiness characteristic of all young things which leads them to follow up whatever momentarily attracts their attention," is the position taken by Florence Hull Winterburn, writing of "Child-Life in the Home" in Woman's Home Companion. "The capacity to dwell for a long time upon one thought involves both intensity of desire and innate ambition to reach right results. I have seen this struggle for perfection in an incipient form show itself in a little child but 18 months old. And how sincerely I respected that little one. He was sitting in his mother's lap beside the library table one evening, when in an idle mood she took up a penny and set it on the head of a small gilt image three or four inches high and with a head scarcely larger than the coin. Seeing that the baby watched her, she said playfully, 'Baby can't do that!' The little one's brown eyes sparkled with a look that seemed to say, 'Oh, can't I?' and taking the penny in his fingers he essayed to balance it as she had done. It fell. 'Oh!' said baby, quietly, and, picking it up, tried again, with the same result. Without the least sign of discouragement or impatience the little thing tried over and over again for a score of times, until at last he succeeded in balancing the coin on the head of the image. The brave baby! We gave him a round of applause and he looked from one to the other of us with a curious little glance of satisfaction. The next day he could not be prevailed upon to undertake the same feat again. Once having demonstrated that he could do it the act lost its interest. Here was a tiny hero in want of difficulties to conquer; an infant Newton, excelling in the ability to concentrate his whole mind upon a single object so long as it was necessary for that object to engross his attention."