

have never learned it themselves. In time, we shall have among the trades schools departments especially for the instruction of the home laundress who is ambitious to do her work well and preserve the appearance of her pretty costumes.

**A White Lace Waist**

Answering M. B.—In cleaning a white lace waist, put the waist on a clean sheet and rub it with magnesia, just as you would with a bar of soap, being careful not to rub hard, covering it with the powder; then carefully fold the sheet in many thicknesses around the waist and pound it on one side, turn, and pound it on the other, and this will drive the magnesia through the lace without wasting it. Leave the waist in this powder for several hours, or over night, repeat the process and shake the waist free from the powder, when it should be thoroughly clean. Voile

skirts, fine lawns and delicate silks, and other fabrics that will not bear wetting, can be successfully cleaned in this way without danger of spoiling or shrinking. Magnesia is not expensive, and will often do such work better than gasoline and is much safer.

**Query Box**

(If answers to queries do not appear within two or three weeks from the time the queries are sent, please send them in again. Sometimes they the unavoidably crowded out and overlooked.)

Geraldine—The sage tea should be made in small quantities, and not allowed to sour.

T. M.—To remove the shine from the black goods, rub with a piece of flannel dipped in benzine or turpentine, and when clean, hang in the open air to remove the odor. If the

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## Paris Fashions for Readers of The Commoner



No. 2066—Child's One-piece Yoke Dress, with High or Dutch Neck, and Long or Short Sleeves. This pattern is an entirely new design and is developed in dull red cotton crepe with the shaped yoke in cream-colored Battenberg lace. Four sizes—3 to 9 years.

No. 2057—Ladies' Waist, with High or Low Neck, Elbow Sleeves and Body Lining. This exquisite model is developed in light blue taffeta silk, and the pointed band-yoke and cuffs are of chiffon tucking in the same shade. The yoke facing and collar are of Irish lace. Six sizes—32 to 42 inches, bust measure.

No. 2058—Misses' Nine-Gored Box-Plaited Skirt. The model illustrated is a particularly charming one, and is a relief from the conventional style of box-plaited skirt. Three sizes—13 to 17 years.

No. 2075—Ladies' Chemise or Combination Corset Cover and Short Petticoat, Slipped on over the Head and With or Without Flounce. This dainty model is admirable for wearing under a Princess gown and is very easy to make. Three sizes—small, medium and large.

No. 2054—Girls' Dress, with Russian Closing and Body Lining. For general utility purposes this little frock in dark brown serge is one of the best models of late Autumn. The Russian closing is made of brown and green plaid cloth. Four sizes—6 to 12 years.

No. 2071—Ladies' Tucked Shirt Waist with Long or Elbow Sleeves. For the women who do not fancy the plain tailor-made shirt waist this simple model in polka-dotted challis is an admirable substitute. Six sizes—32 to 42 inches, bust measure.

No. 1740—Ladies' Seven Gored Skirt with an Under Box-Plait at Centre-Back Seam and Fan-Plaits at Lower Part of other Seams. This close fitting skirt over the hips, has fan-shaped plaits introduced at the seams to give the required fullness around the feet. Seven sizes—22 to 34 inches, waist measure.

No. 2061—Ladies' Circular Short Petticoat, with or without Yoke and Flounce. This model may be developed in flannel, cambric, long cloth or any preferred material, and is fitted to the figure by means of darts. Seven sizes—22 to 34 inches, waist measure.

**THE COMMONER** will supply its readers with perfect fitting, seam allowing patterns from the latest Paris and New York styles. The designs are practical and adapted to the home dressmaker. Full directions how to cut and how to make the garments with each pattern. The price of these patterns 10 cents each, postage prepaid. Our large catalogue containing the illustrations and descriptions of 1,000 seasonable styles for ladies, misses and children, as well as lessons in home dress-making full of helpful and practical suggestions in the making of your wardrobe mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

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"nap" is worn off, leaving it thread-bare, this will not restore it.

Emma S.—To clean the black satin, boil three pounds of Irish potatoes in a quart of water until thoroughly soft; strain the water off through a coarse cloth. Lay the satin flat on a board and sponge with the strained water. When clean, fold (do not roll) down carefully, and leave for three hours; then iron on the wrong side.

E. M.—Fill all nail holes, crevices, cracks and rough places about the bedstead with well-beaten putty, not forgetting the holes where the screw-heads are sunken. This will force the vermin to keep on the outside, and you can easily exterminate them. Constant watchfulness is your best remedy.

C. R.—This recipe is said to "wither warts while you wait:" Sulphur sub., 5 drams; concentrated acetic acid, fluid measure, 2 1/2 dr.; glycerine, fluid measure, 2 ounces. Mix and apply to the wart on small pieces of cloth or spread with a brush at night, leaving on until morning, then washing off. Repeat until the wart drops off.

"Housemaid"—Plain white lawn, at seven to ten cents a yard, makes pretty, inexpensive bedroom curtains that will launder. Two are required at each window, and need be only sill-length. Finish the inner sides and the bottom with a straight ruffle of the same, finished either with a plain hem, or with hem and hem-stitching by the machine.

M.—Poke-weed, known also as Skoke, Garget, Pigeonberry, is a rank growing weed found in the borders of fields and roadsides and about stables in all parts of Missouri. The botanical name is *Phytolacca*, I think. The plant has large reddish-purple berries in a tapering cluster on the end of the branches. The dried roots can be had of the druggist. The root is perennial, but the top growth dies down in the fall. The root is used by physicians, but is poisonous, and should not be taken internally unless by a physician's orders. (2) The sage tea is prepared by the recipe, in an iron pot, is in the nature of a stain, and while the hair is wet, it will stain a cloth; but it should be made in small quantities, not allowed to stand very long, using it fresh. Try making but a little at a time, using it while fresh. (3) Am glad to be of service.

**Floral Notes**

Do not neglect sending for your supply of hardy bulbs, and plants for winter blooming, this month. If a bed is well prepared, tulips will

not need to be moved for three years. The bed should be in a place that is fully exposed to the sun, and the soil should be of a sandy, porous character, enriched with a dressing of rotted cow manure every fall. If the soil is of clay and the bed shaded, they should be lifted and reset every season.

Crocuses should be planted about over the lawn, and in grassy places, just lifting the soil and inserting the bulb. They will bloom beautifully in the early spring. Do not plant too deep.

Park's Floral Magazine tells us that the beauty of the fern ball appears more luxuriantly on paper than in reality, as the artist shows the ball as it should be, while we find it impossible to bring it up to his standard. A cool, moist, shady place and liberal watering is the treatment indicated, but, as a rule, however, the foliage is but sparingly produced, and there is no known remedy for it.

The Boston Fern should have a loose, porous soil, such as sandy woods-earth, and good drainage, partial shade and plenty of water when growing, but little when dormant. As the roots begin to crowd, shift to larger pots. It does well in the living room.

Many plants make but little apparent growth after transplanting for some months. This is due to the fact that root growth is made before the branches and leaves are started. If shrubs and plants are transplanted this fall, they will do a great deal of under-surface growing during the winter, and be ready for stem-development early in the spring.

If pansies are sown in September, they will get well started before cold weather, and with protection, will be ready for work early in the spring. The soil from an old hog-pen can be used to advantage on a pansy-bed. Pansies do well in a cold frame.

**Renovating Velvets**

Brushing velvet with a cloth dipped in benzine is one method of cleaning it, but brushing corn meal through it is equally as good. Cover light velvet with powdered magnesia, let lie a day, then lightly brush it out. Stiffen velvets by applying a weak solution of gum arabic water to the back, ironing on the wrong side by setting a warm flat-iron upside down on the table and passing the back of the velvet over the smooth face of it. Steaming will assist a little in the work. Renovated velvet pieces may be used to trim fall hats, jackets and dresses