

WOMAN AND HOME.

A FEW VALUABLE HINTS ABOUT THE CARE OF BEDDING.

Wouldn't Give Up Corsets.—The Right Sort of Wife—Woman and Success—American Women Growing—Married Women's "Duties"—"This Woman Business."

The young housewife who when buying her first house furnishings can afford a little additional outlay for slip covers for pillows, bedsteads and mattresses will save herself much tiresome labor and eventual, by considerable expense. These slips for mattresses are the most satisfactory when made of a cheap grade of blue and white ticking—that which retails for about 10 cents. Being light and thin, it washes easily and is still heavy enough to serve the purpose of keeping the mattress clean.

When making pillows and bedsteads, it is better to use muslin to contain the feathers, or down, having a good quality of feather ticking outside, which can easily be removed and laundered when soiled without the necessity of emptying the feathers as our mothers and grandmothers used to do.

I remember once calling on a young housekeeper, whom I found on a side porch gingerly dipping feathers with her hands out of a pillow tick into a barrel. Her gray flannel dress and pretty bangs were fluffily with dust, and although she seemed that if she had prepared for the occasion she could hardly have made matters worse.

We were old friends, so I took the liberty of offering assistance. Picking up the remaining unopened pillow, I asked for the case that had been on it and a needle and thread. After shaking the feathers into the end of the tick opposite the end to be opened I ran a basting thread all along about two inches from the latter, ripped the seam and basted the ripped edges all around the open end of the pillowcase.

Then I drew out the first basting thread, shook the feathers out of the tick into the pillowcase, basted the latter across the end and cut the stitches which united the two, when the tick was ready for the laundry with scarcely any waste or muzzing. Where slip covers are not used, this is the easiest method of preparing pillow ticks for the wash.

When finishing bed comfortable, they should always have a half yard strip of cheesecloth—the back breadths of worn gingham dresses of a pretty light shade kept them neat and fresh as long as possible. It is a question whether comfortable are really a cheaper bed covering than blankets, though I believe that delusion still exists with most housekeepers.

The latter make the ideal covering for cool weather, because of lightness and loose texture, which allow a free passage of the exhalations of the body and location of the case and thoroughness with which they can be frequently cleaned. Of late years there has been a white, heavily fleeced cotton flannel blanket put upon the market which makes a desirable substitute for quilts in summer weather. These retail at from 90 cents to \$1.50 a pair. They are also to be had in soft shades of gray, just the thing for schoolboys and farm help.

One of the most prominent merchants became convinced that the young women in one of the departments of his establishment were injuring themselves by their constant wearing of tightly laced corsets and issued a notification that in future no corsets should be worn during working hours.

Instantly there was indignation, and the 50 young women appointed a committee of three to wait upon their employer for a redress of grievances. The employer received the committee very affably and assured the young women that his order had been issued in their interest. He pointed out that their wearing of corsets did not improve their appearance in the eyes of any one but themselves, as they worked in a basement where no visitors were admitted. He further read them a little lecture on the evil of wearing corsets, and being by nature a well disposed soul he gave a dinner to all the young women in that department one evening, at which he told how injurious a thing a corset is.

The girls ate the dinner and listened respectfully, but the next day the committee called again upon that employer and assured him that they must ask to be allowed to wear corsets.

"But you will admit," said the merchant, "that the wearing of the corsets at your work is injurious to you?"

The committee admitted the fact, but declared that the experiment of going without them all had made them look horrid in their own eyes.

OWN way when in reality it is hers. She is bright and witty, but not to the extent of putting him in the shade. She is an capable housewife and an ornament to his home. He never tires of her, because he never really knows her. That is the ideal wife. But how few men meet their ideals!—Pittsburgh Times.

Woman and Success. If you are a young woman starting out in the world, don't you believe any one who tells you you can't do anything you feel a strong impulse to try.

There is no profession which you can choose where you won't be told it's overworked and there is nothing in it worth working for. There is something in every profession worth working for, or all those people wouldn't be in it. One reason that they warn you back to their four of disapproval. But you go right ahead with that ideal of yours and keep it just as high as you can. Don't be afraid to place it beyond your limit. Your limit will expand every time you lift your eyes to the ideal, just as the limit of the sunshine on the floor moves and moves imperceptibly as the old earth follows its god, the sun, around the circle. There is always a limit to what one can do, but that limit moves, and tomorrow the climate of your strength will be higher than it is today. I know a girl—I know her yet, in fact—who spent two valuable years of her life fretting and fuming over the fact that she was doing nothing and trying to get people to believe that she could do great things if she had the opportunity. One day a woman said to her, "Why don't you wade right in and do something and not keep saying you can't?" That was a new thought to her, but she tried it, and it worked splendidly. The world is always ready to take good work. It makes no difference in what line you start; if you do your work well, you'll succeed. Only keep the ideal high and see that your limit of ability moves forward.—Chicago Times.

A Mollified Daughter. The present Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, as is already known, was a widow. Her little daughter of 9 or 10 years was the one person above all others to whom she dreaded to break the news of the engagement with Mr. Page. It at length became necessary to do this, however, and at last about her task with all possible diplomacy.

As she had feared, the little girl was to be married again, but profusely. Finally the mother said: "But you haven't yet heard who it is that I'm going to marry. It's Mr. Page."

The sob of the little girl suddenly ceased. "You ought to have told me that at first," she said in a mollified tone. "Why, I've been in love with him myself for over a year!"—New York Recorder.

Royalty must be exceedingly "difficult" to get on with at times. One of the English queen's little vagaries is a dislike for the smell of furs. She never wears them herself, which is all very well. But neither will she permit any one else to wear them when driving with her. As an invitation to go to ride with her is equivalent to a command, and as another little queenly vagary is a fondness for an open carriage in all seasons, the unhappy recipients of her invitations feel like making their wills before starting on a pleasure drive with her sovereign.—London Correspondent.

Babies' Bibs. A set of bibs is a very acceptable present to make a little baby, who is as much in the way of receiving gifts now as a bride.

They may be ornamented with the richest of embroidery and trimmed to the most ornate of taste. But the first consideration is that they should be thick, with no appearance of clumsiness, and simple enough at least that they may be often washed. After this all beauty of design is to be approved, but a bib must be useful first.

Ribbon Bookmarks. A bookmark that will keep more than one place at a time is often called into play. Such a one is easily concocted of three pieces of ribbon of pleasing or contrasting colors, all half a yard in length and about half an inch in width. These are sewed together at one end over a tiny out-turned ring. At the free end they are each of them turned over to make a triangle, and to the apex is sewed a small tassel.

Mrs. Blakely's Views. Mrs. Lillie Devenux Blakely, president of New York Woman Suffrage League, says: "Woman suffrage would first reform woman. The reformation would be in converting woman from a condition of apathy and indifference to her absurd position to a state of lively interest, in which she would claim recognition in all departments of life, for responsibility, education, and care broadens her lives."

Mary Hallock Foote. Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote, whose artistic work with both pen and pencil is so well known to all magazine readers, lives in Boise City. In her home life, as in larger undertakings, she has been most fortunate. She is the mother of three charming children—two girls and a boy—all of whom are said to inherit something of their mother's genius.

Victoria's Presents. All the servants who were in Queen Victoria's household during the lifetime of the prince consort receive each Christmas piece of solid silver in any shape they prefer up to a certain value. They are sent with a large black bordered card inscribed, "With great wishes from her majesty and the prince consort."—Chicago Herald.

She Has No Wrinkles. One of the prettiest women in London society is said to plunge a towel in very hot water, wring it out and leave it on her face for half an hour every night before going to bed instead of washing, and this lady has no wrinkles.—London Fashion Journal.

A sentence from a review of a novel printed in The Queen, an English publication, is suggestive. It ran, "The tale is a nicely told one, and no girl who has the responsibility of making out a reading list for her mother's reading need feel any hesitation about including it among the novels."

The association of women for raising the moral tone of society in the Northern lands has over 4,000 members in the 17 places where it is represented. Refuges for young women are maintained very generally.

Swedish women are said to excel in wood carving, lithography, modeling, decorative painting and art metalwork. For many years a woman has been engraver of medals in the royal mint at Stockholm.

Lay a thick piece of cotton flannel under your tablecloth. Even coarse napery will look a much better quality with a subterranean if spread directly over the bare table top.

Elizabeth F. Peabody's Romance. A most interesting story is told of Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. It is that she was engaged to marry Nathaniel Hawthorne

MILITANT PLANTS.

THEY LOOK LIKE FIGHTERS, AND THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE.

The Fabulous Reflexa Has a Row of Spines Which Pierce Like Needles—Some Fighters in the Palm Family—The Dream Corbett of the Conservatory.

All organic beings, without exception, tend to increase at so high a ratio that no district, no station, nor even the whole surface of the land or the whole ocean, could hold the progeny of a single pair after a certain number of generations. The inevitable result is an ever recurrent struggle for existence. It has truly been said that all nature is at war, the strongest ultimately prevail, the weakest fail. Something like this statement by the most celebrated of the naturalists will occur to the observant person without any skill in natural history who visits the Phycosensory and tries to make out the meanings of the curious features which so many of the plants present.

For instance, the big Pandanus reflexa, which no visitor will pass unnoticed, has a militant look from the root up, its leaves or whatever they are to be called reminding one of the ancient two handed sword—that is, they do at first glance, but one must not trust that, or he will be deceived. The leaf is not like a sword blade, only half of it is. The whole leaf is of the shape of a half opened book. On each edge and along the center is a row of spines, which pierce like needles. It is endogenous—that is, increases by internal growth and elongation at the top and has no bark to strengthen and protect it. Judging from appearance, one of those long leaves would be easily broken by the push of an animal, and to keep animals at their distance it has sent out these spines, which guard it from them against them. One would remember them the next time, just as calves and colts soon learn not to play close to a barbed wire fence. The pandanus, which is one of 50 species of a genus which inhabits tropical climes from Africa to Polynesia, as it sticks out its keen spines and threatens to puncture the hide of anything which comes near it, seems to say, like the Scotch thistle: "No body can monkey with me with impunity. I am a fighter." That is one reason why it is so big. It has made room for itself. In nature might is right—the weaker goes to the wall.

Some other fighters will be found in the palm family. One is easily found by its leaf, Lantana barbotia, and it is particularly interesting in that it is an example of a plant protecting its young, if that is the way to say it. Three outer stalks, strong and well developed, each with its row of sharp spines, inclose and defend the tender central stalk. The leaf of a central stalk, one may see, is not allowed to pass the older stalks, lest it suffer damage. They keep it behind them as a mother might push her child behind her in time of danger. This young leaf is kept in leading strings until the stalk has grown so that it can reach out over the others and take care of itself. Meantime it will produce a set of spines and join the other stalks in the great fight which is to determine what plant is fitted to survive. The instinct of animals is wonderful, but the instinct of the plant is equally so. That may be seen in the large Lantana, which states on its label that these palms were discovered in south China in 1818. It has developed a body, and in that at the base of the branches the fruit grows. Care must be taken of that, for if the seed is not ripened they will not reproduce, and the species will suffer to that extent. See the spines on those branches around where the fruit lies. Let an animal try to get into it, and he would come out with a sore hide. The plant would scratch him like a cat. The pandanus is great, and so its spines stick straight out. It wants to prevent animals from reaching it. The palm wants to protect its fruit, and so its spines point downward, as much as to say to a thief below, "You come up here, and I'll jab your eyes out." In still another palm, the great one just inside the main entrance to the conservatory, the spines are 8 inches long, look like stilettos and form a perfect check-le-de-frise. Man, with all his thinking how to make that obstruction to an enemy most complete, has not surpassed the genius of nature in so directing the points of these stilettos as to cover every possible approach. As a fighter this big Phœnix spines is the Jim Corbett of the palmhouse, and it is great on style.

That is what some of the other fighters are not, as the cactus. They take all sorts of shapes, in stature rising from creeping stems—though there is none so large in the conservatory—to trunks 30 feet high, but are neither beautiful when small nor majestic when great. They are so abominably stupid to put on style. But what should one expect of a plant which wild grows in hot, stony places and when cultivated is entirely happy in a sandy loam mixed with brick dust? One might as well expect style in those little black Italians of the pipe line, who have been reared on mush and cucumbers. And the pity of it is these cactuses are American from way back. Pretty nearly their only resemblance feature is that they can fight. Big or little, they are ready to do battle, unless it be those granddaddies with the long white hair, which like many men, are aged looking without being venerable and make one think they had best betake themselves to another world for all the good they are doing in this. Whoever it was that put the cactuses and the sleepy and leather brained young alligators in the same house in the conservatory had an inspiration, for they surely go together. But that is not to say that these plants are uninteresting. Far from it. They offer many suggestions as to the humors of nature, and in their sphere they are useful. If they would only wake up and look alive! They seem doubly stupid to one who goes to them from the spirited plants in the other parts of the conservatory.—Pittsburgh Times.

He Meant Overseas. "Hearing a gentleman speak of his overseas as his gums," said a physician, "brought to my mind a story told of a prominent Philadelphian, who, with his wife, went to make a call on a friend in New York. On entering the drawing room the hostess inquired of Mr. — where his wife was."

"Oh," said Mr. —, "she's in the vestibule cleaning her gums."—Philadelphia Cal.

Flies of Newspapers. Writing in the New York News, a contributor observes that the collection and preservation of files of newspapers and periodicals for public use in New York is a comparatively modern idea. The New York Society's library, the first of the public institutions to start what is now looked upon as a needed requisite of a library in a newspaper office.

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Central Iowa and the great west slope district of that state, demands and will provide a similar service, and beginning October 10th, a Phillips-Rock Island Excursion Car will leave Albert Lee every Tuesday morning, and via Livermore, Ft. Dodge and Angus, will arrive at Des Moines that evening, and Wednesday a. m. go west on the "Big Five," via Omaha, Lincoln and Bellevue, at which point it will join the regular Tuesday train from Chicago.

Full particulars as to cheap rate tickets for this trip, and also as to cost of berth in the tourist car, cheerfully given on application to any Great Rock Island Route Ticket Agent, or agent at coupon stations of connecting lines. JNO. SEBASTIAN, G. P. A., Chicago.

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Man wanted to consign goods to dealers. Must be sober. Pay, \$40 the first month, and expenses. Wages raised with increase of business. To get a reply, enclose stamp. Postals not noticed. Address, H. E. Hubbell, 709 Broadway, Hannibal, Mo. If

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