

# FOR HOME AND WOMEN

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR MAIDS AND MATRONS.

**Matron's Gown—The Straight Front—Lighting the Drawing Room—Married Bridesmaids—A Novelty in Modern Weddings.**

**If Thou Wilt Ease Thine Heart.**  
(Dirge.)  
If thou wilt ease thine heart  
Of love, and all its smart—  
Then sleep, dear, sleep!  
And not a sorrow  
Hang any tear on your eyelashes  
Lie still and deep,  
Sad soul, until the sea-wave washes  
The rim o' the sun to-morrow  
In eastern sky.

But wilt thou cure thine heart  
Of love, and all its smart—  
Then die, dear, die!  
'Tis deeper, sweeter,  
Than on a rose bank to lie dreaming  
With folded eyes;  
And then alone, amid the beaming  
Of love's stars, thou'lt meet her  
In eastern sky.  
—Thomas Lovell Beddoes.

**Married Bridesmaids.**  
Married best men and ushers have for some time been a feature of fashionable weddings; within the last year there have been several instances where the bride's attendants have been married, says the New York Evening Sun. Instead of a maid of honor, there is a matron of honor, and, in one case, the entire set of bridesmaids was replaced by a half-dozen very recent brides. The matron of honor is the more common evidence of the new convention, or whatever it may be called, however, and she bids fair to hold her popularity for some time to come. She undoubtedly had her origin in the sentimental pledge so often made between two girls that whoever married first should have the other for maid of honor, in some one case it having evidently been determined to carry out the vow one degree farther, and to serve each other, whether married or not. History fails to tell us anything about this first original case; all that we know is that the precedent of a matron of honor is now established. There are those to whom this is a cause for regret. The real old-fashioned wedding, such as our grandmothers knew, offered such a fine opportunity for future weddings, the bridesmaids and ushers being invariably young men and young women of a susceptible age and condition and heartily alive to the possibilities of being thrown together in this way. In very suburban instances, the attendants, when the ceremony was over, used to pair off, every Jack with his Jill, and follow after the newly-wedded couple right down the aisle in a way that could but suggest that they follow their example as well. Married ushers and a matron of honor have changed all that. In its secondary capacity of promoting other weddings, the wedding is not what it used to be, say those who know the old way. Not so, say we all of us. The "new" wedding may look less obviously like a matrimonial market, but the chances are, and, in fact, all evidence goes to prove, that young people may be depended upon to be young people under any condition of circumstances.

### Lighting the Drawing Room.

There is no room in the house the lighting of which demands more care and attention than the drawing-room. The novelist delights to write of the "brilliantly-lighted drawing-room;" but this is a mere figure of speech—every woman who studies the comfort of her guests knows that a somewhat subdued light is preferable for an apartment in which very little reading or writing is done and where conversation, music, and perhaps a little mild flirtation, are the principal occupation. Whether gas or oil lamps are better for the purpose is a mooted question. If the former is used, the globes should certainly be tinted or covered with colored shades. The light of oil lamps is not nearly so harmful to walls, ceiling, etc., as that of gas; but where lamps are used, excessive care must be taken in cleaning, filling and trimming; for a smoky lamp does more damage in an hour than half-a-dozen flaring gas jets would do in a week. Now, as to the position of your lights. Do, pray, avoid that institution of suburban dwellings, a center gasolier dependent from the ceiling. Not only does this ruin the ceiling, but it spoils, for the time being the appearance of any woman who stands or passes beneath it. Try the experiment. Stand beneath such a light with a hand mirror and see how prominent are the cheek bones; what haggard lines appear on the face; and how deeply dark are its depressions. If you do this, you will agree that the center gasolier in a drawing room should come from brackets placed against the wall though standing te: people lamps are nearly as good, and possess the additional advantage that they can be raised or lowered at will, for the height at which artificial light is placed is of more importance than many people imagine. Carefully adjusted, it is really an aid to beauty. Brackets should be fixed about five and a half feet from the floor, so that their illumination should be about on a level with the face of an individual of an average height. Of course, all such lights must be shaded, the favorite tones being pink or yellow; but this, of course, depends largely on the hues prevailing in the decoration of the room. Rapid strides have been made of late years in the manufacture of shades of all sorts, and the woman must indeed be hard to please who, at a good fancy stationer's, cannot find something pretty to suit her tastes. Just a word

# MATRON'S GOWN.



Of black satin with lavender panne velvet bands stitched about the edges with black and worked with black French knots. The yoke and sleeves are of black silk Spanish lace over lavender, with a black velvet collar top, heavily stitched. The peculiar

pleating at the sides of the skirt is repeated again at the back. The belt, like every belt this season, is shaped, curving very deeply in front, and when worn with the new straight front corsets, gives a stout figure a modish and graceful figure.

presence in bold relief on the dressing table. To make an inexpensive and pretty hair receiver, take a butcher's cuff—they are about five cents a pair—and put in a bottom of cardboard, neatly covered with silk. Line the cuff with colored silk, gathered with a narrow ruffle around the top. If red silk is used, sew on the outside of the cuff a bunch of poppies or red roses, and suspend the receiver by a red satin ribbon, with a small bow at the top. The flowers may be varied with the color of the lining—daisies with yellow, roses with pink, forget-me-nots with blue. It is always desirable, of course, to have such things harmonize with the prevailing color of the room.

**Scented Hair Now the Thing.**  
Perfumed hair is now the "correct thing." There are different ways of perfuming it, and one of these is to use very highly scented shampoo powder when washing the head. Another is to brush extract of musk or fragrant into the hair daily, says the Baltimore News. An excellent way to scent the hair is to buy a piece of peau d'Espagne, cut this into small pieces and sew them carefully inside the hair frames which are now so generally worn. A little silk cap lined with cotton wool, thickly sprinkled with sachet powder, if worn for an hour occasionally will impart to the locks a delicate, indistinct fragrance that is the very epitome of daintiness.

**The Straight Front.**  
A sketch showing the straight front, sans busk, French corset, and the very necessary hook to keep the skirts down in front, to preserve the long-waisted effect. No one should neglect to have this hook, which is a large one, sold especially for that purpose, and if the person is stout, there should be two also at the back. The long straight



effect in front is absolutely necessary in this season's modes. The skirts should have a fitted yoke at the top. The chemise is orange taffeta, with accordion plaited ruffle, decorated by an Egyptian design in black and white silk braid over the surface and along the edge.

**A Hair Receiver.**  
Is there any article more of a necessity to feminine comfort than some sort of a convenience as a receptacle for hair? Every bedroom occupied by the gentle sex should be supplied with a hair receiver. How many girls have spent a night at a friend's, and, after making the morning toilet, looked in vain for something in which the deposit the objectionable little roll of hair one wishes to put out of sight! Nothing to be found! Not even a scrap basket—another useful article usually considered superfluous in bedrooms—so she is forced to leave the unattractive reminder of her daintiness

as to piano lights. If it is possible, place the instrument so that the light from one of the wall brackets falls on to the music over the left shoulder of the pianist. If this cannot conveniently be done, take care that the candle brackets fixed to the piano itself are a good length, and that the little shades, while shading the eyes of the player from the glare of the candles, reflect the light directly on the music.

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### OUR COOKING SCHOOL.

**Cheese Balls.**  
Mix one half cup grated cheese with one fourth cup sifted bread crumbs (dried and sifted) and whites of two eggs beaten light; season with salt and pepper; form into small balls, roll in sifted crumbs (either bread or cracker will do), and fry in hot fat.

**Split Pea Soup.**  
Soak one pint of dried split peas over night. In the morning place them over the fire in two quarts of cold water, with one pound of beef, and cook slowly for two hours, or until the liquor is reduced one half. Pour into a colander and press the peas through with a spoon. Season with salt, pepper and celery salt, and eat with oyster crackers.

**Apple Fritters.**  
Peel firm, tart apples and cut into thin slices and put them in a bath of claret and sugar or cherry juice and sugar when cherries are in season. Let them remain for three hours. Sprinkle thickly on a clean cooking napkin an ounce of flour and roll the apple slices in it after they have been drained. Fry in hot fat and serve hot with pieces of lemon and spiced sugar.

**Chicken Patties.**  
Mince some cold chicken and a little cooked ham, moisten with gravy and add a few drops of lemon juice; also salt and pepper to taste. Roll out some pastry and stamp it into rounds. Lay half the rounds on greased patty tins, brush round the edges with beaten white of egg and put some of the minced chicken on each round; cover with the remaining circles of pastry; brush over with white of egg, press the edges slightly together and bake in quick oven for about twenty minutes.

**Discriminating.**  
"There are only two types of feminine beauty that I really admire."  
"Indeed!" exclaimed Miss Cayenne.  
"Yes, only two."  
"And which are they?"  
"Blondes and brunettes."—Washington Star.

**Persuaded Them to Move.**  
Hoax—How did you finally get rid of those undesirable neighbors?  
Joax—Well, first, I hung a scarlet fever sign on the door, and when that didn't have any effect I began taking lessons on the trombone.—Philadelphia Record.

**Subtle Flattery.**  
She—Of course, if I go to the theater with you I shall have a chaperon.  
He—Why, I didn't suppose that was necessary.  
"Mamma says it depends upon the man."—Brooklyn Life.

# SCIENTIFIC TOPICS.

## CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

**Can't Tread on His Toes—Hammer Hand Sling for Miners—Searchlights for Firemen—The Growth of the Finger Nail—Recent Inventions.**

**Searchlights for Firemen.**  
The New York fire department is about to add a complete portable electric searchlight plant to its apparatus. The searchlight wagon will go to fires with the engines, etc., and it is believed it will add greatly to the efficiency of the force, both in saving life and property. It resembles a fire engine in general appearance, but instead of a pump it has an engine and dynamo. There are two searchlights, each with an eighteen-inch lens. These will be carried on a platform behind the driver's seat. They can be used either from the platform or removed and carried to any desirable point of vantage, all communication with the generator being kept up by means of flexible cables which are insulated with rubber. The lights are provided with devices for quick regulation, so that too light may be spread out over a wide area, or confined and directed to any particular point. The purpose of the apparatus will be to aid the firemen in laying the hose, setting ladders, etc., also to light up the front of buildings where people may be in danger and to project light into the buildings themselves.

**How Bells Are Toned.**  
When certain bells in a chime produce discord they can be tuned. The tone of a bell may be raised or lowered by cutting off a little metal in the proper places. To lower the tone the bell-tuner puts the bell in his lathe and reams it out from the point where the swell begins nearly down to the rim. As the work proceeds he frequently tests the note with a tuning-fork, and the moment the right tone is reached he stops the reaming. To raise the tone, on the contrary, he shaves off the lower edge of the bell, gradually lessening or flattening the bevel, in order to shorten the bell, for of two bells of equal diameter and thickness the shorter bell will give the higher note. A notable instance of bell-tuning, according to La Nature, recently occurred at Lausanne, where twelve bells, in three neighboring steeples, had only seven separate notes, and produced a most curious discord.

**The Growth of the Fingernail.**  
The rate of fingernail growth is thus touched upon by Edward Blake in his "Study of the Hand." The pace of growth varies very much, not only at different ages, but in different individuals of the same age. Influenced by many external and internal conditions, the pace also varies in the same person, from time to time. Observations as to the growth in men at different ages show that at 21 years the nail was replaced in 126 days, at 31 years in 159 days, at 32 years in 88 days, at 55 years in 110 days, at 67 years in 144 days. It is curious that in this growth the swiftest grower was a tuberculous subject who had a sharp attack of blood spitting during the observation. Sea air is said to quicken the growth of the nails, profound grief has been credited with the power of destroying them.

**Preserving Milk by Pressure.**  
At the West Virginia agricultural experiment station at Morgantown remarkable results have been obtained through the application of high pressures to milk inclosed in cylinders. The effect of the pressure is greatly to increase the length of time during which the milk can be preserved. The general conclusions from the experiments are that pressures from thirty up to 100 tons per square inch will postpone the souring of milk for twenty-four hours. Thirty tons' pressure continued for one hour generally delays the souring just about twenty-four hours. A similar pressure continued for ten or twelve hours preserves the milk for from three to five days. Ninety tons' pressure for one hour postpones souring for four days.

**Hammer Hand Sling for Miners.**  
The hammer hand sling, invented by an inventor of Sandon, British Columbia, will be a great assistance to miners at all times, but practically when engaged in drilling an overhead hole. The large cut shows the hammer hand sling in use, while the smaller one is a perspective view, the hammer being shown in dotted lines in position in the sling. The invention has for its object the transference of the weight of the hammer from the handle grasped



by the hand to the wrist or forearm by a sling connecting the head of the hammer and the wrist of the operator and a clutch connecting the handle of the hammer to the sling, so that the workman can swing the hammer and strike the drill without the laborious effort of grasping the hammer handle constantly. Overhead drilling is particularly hard, because of the severe strain on the muscles of the hand in merely holding the hammer, and this is entirely removed by the use of the sling, the construction of which is fully shown in the cut.

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**Can't Tread on His Toes.**  
Ingenious but feebly indicates the originality of many inventions of that class which are practically useless, the slight convenience or advantage they afford being too insignificant to be considered for an instant in the commercial world. Such an invention is the toe protecting arrangement



shown in the illustration. It is intended for use in street cars, where in these days of concentrated business districts they are usually quite as many persons standing as seated. Naturally in a crowded car a person, once in a lifetime, perhaps, has his toes trodden upon, but it is doubtful if any company would consider equipping their cars with the toe pockets here illustrated. They are formed of a strong raised slanting board, supported at intervals, placed close to the foot of the seat, and underneath which one can place his toes and rest in security without having to shift his feet to allow someone to get in or out of the car.

**Explosive Force of Cordite.**  
The cordite used by the British artillery has a ballistic power, that is, a projectile force, nearly four times as great as the black powder previously employed. In the 3-inch 12-pound field piece, where formerly four pounds of pebble powder was the service charge but one pound of the cordite is now used, and increased safety is secured owing to the fact that the cordite charges are not exploded by being struck with bullets, and the danger from the explosion of the ammunition carriage thus eliminated. If the cordite is fired in a chamber which it completely fills, a pressure of 120 tons to the square inch results, as against 43 tons with the black powder, but in actual practice a vacant space is left in the powder-chamber, so as to keep down the maximum pressure to 16 tons in the bore of the gun.

**Raising Costly Guns.**  
One great disadvantage of smokeless gunpowder, tending to offset its many advantages, is its corroding action on the interior of a gun. Prof. Roberts-Austin recently made a report on the subject, showing that fine weapons are liable thus to be quickly ruined.

**Recent Inventions.**  
For use in picking fruit a new device is formed of a sack, to be secured to the person, with a short, flexible tube connecting a flaring mouth to the bag, and a longer tube suspended on the end of a short pole to reach nearly to the fruit and deliver it to the bag. In a new device for measuring bolts of cloth without unrolling them a flexible strip of steel is graduated for bolts of different widths, the measure being inserted in the bolt midway between the inner and outer folds, to obtain the approximate width of all the folds.

A new attachment for window sash balance is designed to ring an alarm when the window is moved, the shaft on which the pulley is suspended being extended through the window casing and ending to a pair of clappers, which are revolved inside a bell when the window is moved. To raise water from the ocean level by utilizing wave power a new apparatus has a rigid structure set near the shore, with a long trussed lever pivoted to rise and fall when actuated by a float at the outer end, a pump being set at the short end of the lever to raise the water.

An improvement in rocking chairs has been patented by a Massachusetts man, the under frame of the chair supporting a pair of flat springs, which are free to rise and fall under pressure, the rockers resting on the springs and forming a spring seat and rocker combined. Envelopes can be rapidly and neatly opened by a new implement, which has a metallic base to rest on the desk, with a flange on one side, at the bottom of which is a thin blade of steel, which enters the fold of the flap and cuts it off as the envelope is drawn through.

In a narrow circle the mind grows narrow; the more a man expands, the larger his aims.—Schiller.

# OUR BUDGET OF FUN

## SOME GOOD JOKES ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

**A Variety of Quibs, Gibes and Ironies to Cause a Smile—Fiatom and Jotsum from the Tides of Humor—Witty Sayings.**

**Then and Now.**  
I wish I had been grandpa's child,  
That I could have had the joy  
Of fishing in those good old days  
When father was a boy.  
For then the fish grew bigger far  
Than they do nowadays,  
And literally packed the streams—  
At least, so father says.

They never caught a sucker then  
That didn't weigh a ton,  
And pickered were longer than  
A modern Armstrong gun.  
They used to yank out halibut  
In hundreds from our bays,  
And shad ran up the banks to bite—  
At least, so father says.

They never thought of using bait  
To lure the wily trout;  
They reached a bushel basket down  
And simply yanked them out.  
And in about an hour or two  
They'd fill up several drays  
And show them through the neighbor-  
hood—  
At least, so father says.

In short, they caught so many fish  
That fore their sport was through  
The stream where they were fishing would  
Go down a yard or two.  
And not an angler failed to come  
Home loaded in those days—  
A habit father still pursues—  
At least, so mother says.  
—Cornish Telegraph.

**Ate Everything on It.**  
Owen Still—Say, Bill, what trade did you enter work at?  
Bill—Table finisher.

**Too Easy.**  
Mr. Newlywed (explaining poker)—  
Now, if you get a poor hand you want to bluff, and if you get a good hand you want to make a bluff that you're bluffing. Now, there are two ways of bluffing; one is to bluff, the other is not to bluff. If you're a regular bluffer you can often bluff by not bluffing, and—  
Mrs. Newlywed—I see, John; but that game is too easy! Let's play tiddle-de-winks!—Puck.

**To Match.**  
"Lobella," demanded Mr. McSwat, as he stood, hat in hand, waiting for her, "are you going out walking with that bicycling dress on?"  
"This is my rainy-day skirt," replied Mrs. McSwat, "and I certainly am going out walking in it."  
"Then wait a minute," he said, "and I will turn up my trousers."—Chicago Tribune.

**Not Easily Passed.**  
Bramble—The boys had a political rally last night, and it took the procession three hours to pass a given point.  
Thorne—It must have been a long one.  
Bramble—Not very. The given point happened to be a saloon.—New York Journal.

**Satisfied All Around.**  
Governess—I'm very sorry—tell your dear parents—very sorry indeed, that I can't accept their kind invitation.  
Freddy (anxious to ease the lady's mind)—It doesn't matter a bit, y'know. Ma says she only asked you out of compliment!—Ally Sloper.

**Perhaps So.**  
Larry—Be hivins, Dinny! That old hin is atin' athray tacks.  
Dinny—Maybe she is goin' to lay a carpet. Who knows?—Chicago News.

**Reformed.**  
Rejected Suitor—Your daughter, sir, is the only girl I ever loved, and I can never love another.  
Father—I congratulate you on shaking off a troublesome habit so easily.

**How Foolish of Him.**  
"Dear," said Mrs. Youngwife, "those table castors squeak terribly. I wish when you come home tonight you would bring me some oil for them."  
"What kind?"  
"Why, castor oil, of course."—New York Press.

**Two Views of It.**  
"Don't you think a woman ought to marry a man she can look up to?"  
"Yes, I hate to see a man shorter than his wife."—Philadelphia Bulletin.