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FOR WOMEN AND HOME

FEMININE MUSICAL FAD.

SINCE, by some whim of fancy, a number of fashionable young women undertook, about a year ago, to restore amateur interest in the harp a steady advance has been marked in the revival of all manner of stringed instruments.

Lady Gladys de Gray, the most powerful titled patroness of music in London, was the first person to demonstrate how picturesque and interesting a pretty woman could look when playing on the tall, stately instrument, and scores of clever girls who went over from the States to strum the banjo for British nobility completed the work of temporarily shelving the piano.

Every damsel with the least harmony in her soul is busily perfecting her taste and fingers on a few tall strings and a sounding board. They don't all play the harp by any means, at least the big modern affair that weighs nearly a ton and costs as much as a piano. Small, light and very artistic instruments are the thing. To satisfy the demands, makers have imported patterns of very old style minstrel harps from Ireland, and are copying and modernizing them for American drawing rooms. Portuguese guitarra is another instrument that can scarcely be called new, but is at least a novelty and is sharing the popularity of the ordinary guitar. Neither the harp nor guitarra has in any way injured the popularity of the banjo, mandolin, or guitar. A few years ago a great many society women, notably among them the lady who is now Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, studied the violin vigorously, but that simple, yet delicate, instrument has been totally abandoned to the patient professional, and now a valiant effort is being made to revive no less ancient and honorable an instrument than the lyre. The Parisian women started its vogue under the leadership of the Countess de Montebello, wife of the ambassador to Russia, who spent \$40,000 of his own money on splendid entertainments at the coronation of the Czar. But whether lyre or harp, banjo, banjaurine or guitar one plays on, it is almost a point of honor of one's chosen instrument to outclass all others in the splendors of its ornamentation.

Materials for Evening Dresses.
Transparent materials are preferred for evening dresses, which makes the lining an important item. If glass taffeta, twenty inches wide, is selected it costs 75 cents; silky-looking cotton linings, at 35 cents, are forty inches wide, resemble finely ribbed silk. The outside material may be a chiffon at 60 cents, mouseline de soie a little heavier for a dollar, or a net at the latter price; these are forty inches wide. Then tulle, two yards wide, may be found at a dollar; gauzefied Japanese crepe or silk even as low as 40 cents, being twenty-four inches wide, and lovely cotton crepes for 15 cents. Small figured, self-colored silks for evening wear are from 75 cents, but are not as much liked as the transparent materials. A silk skirt, even of the useful habutai silk, twenty-four inches wide and 50 cents a yard, is light and girlish when worn with a chiffon waist over the same or silky cotton lining.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Fad in Musical Instruments.
Before they are married she will carefully turn down his coat collar when it gets awry, but afterward she'll jerk it down into position as if she were throwing a door mat out of the window.—Tid Bits.
"What do you wish, madam?" said the election officer to Mrs. Tenpot. "You have already voted once to-day. You voted before noon, you know." "Oh, yes, I know that," replied the votress, "but I want to change my ballot."—Harper's Bazar.
Mrs. Wardman—Your husband's canvass for the nomination was unsuccessful, I believe, dear? Mrs. Heeler—Not at all. Of course, John was defeated, but my picture appeared in the papers, and, altogether, three columns were printed about my gowns.—Philadelphia North American.

Manicuring Done at Home.
It is a great mistake to suppose that the women who are obliged to do work that injures the delicate appearance of the hands are thus doomed to lose one of the most distinctive marks of refinement. It is beginning to be generally known that women are quite capable of doing their own manicuring and

that the practice pays. Amateurs are usually astonished to find that manicuring is so simple and that the following directions suffice: Pour some warm water into a bowl; unfold a small towel and lay it on one knee; take the right hand and proceed to cut the nails in a semicircle; then file the edges, and steep the right hand in the water; then take the left hand and steep in its turn. Having carefully dried the hands push down the skin round the base of the nails with an ivory instrument; brush the nails over with some red pomade, wipe it off, and then polish with a plain chamomile-covered pad, rather small in size, using particularly fine polishing powder, till they shine. Then, to crown all, sprinkle on the hands and wrists and rub in some deliciously scented sue de camelia, which will at once make the skin look white, smooth and soft.

Novelties in China Ware.
The newest pate cups, which are much crinkled in shape, are reproductions of old Minton in lovely shades of primrose yellow.
Vases, fern dishes and table center-pieces of ruby glass, with gilt ornamentation, are attractive features in Bohemian glassware.
For the center of the table the round or oval mirror is now supported by a raised stand of old silver, which rests on delicately wrought claws, holding a crystal ball.
The newest dinner sets are marvels of beauty, both in decoration and shape. Green-brilliant grass green—with a heavy relief of gold, seems to be the favorite color, while the shapes are decidedly low and irregular in outline.
There is a revival of the beautiful Minton ware, and bouillon cups, game sets and pate cups are reproduced in all the exquisite shades and designs. Mounted in gold, and decorated with medallions, they greatly resemble the famous Sevres ware.
A novelty in cut glass is a mammoth cigar jar, in shape resembling a pickle jar, but with the distinguished feature of a large hollow space in the cut stopper, in which a moist sponge is placed to keep the fragrant Havanas in just the proper condition.
A novel ornament for the drawing-room is a hanging flower jardiniere. Suspended from a wrought iron bracket are half a dozen vases of Italian faience, in odd flower-like shapes, resembling tulips, orchids, etc., and these when filled with delicate trailing vines look as if part of the luxuriant growth.
Crystal, with delicately traced patterns in raised gold, have for the moment supplanted the heavy cut glass. Connoisseurs proclaim that wine from a thin glass tastes better than from a heavy one, be it ever so superbly cut; consequently the craze of the hour is for the exquisite Venetian and Bohemian ware.

Flings at the Fair Sex.
Wife—What would you do if I stayed out every night until midnight? Hubby—Jove, I'd stay at home!—Truth.
She—I think a girl looks awful cheap when she first becomes engaged. He—She may look cheap, but you can bet she is not.—Yonkers Statesman.
No matter how much you have always told a girl you are never going to get married, she will always try to make you think she thought you weren't in earnest.—New York Press.
Before they are married she will carefully turn down his coat collar when it gets awry, but afterward she'll jerk it down into position as if she were throwing a door mat out of the window.—Tid Bits.
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Among the colors seen in new faced cloths are mixtures of green, garnet, blue, brown, cadet gray and heliotrope.
Black soutache, faintly bordered with gold, is applied to the seams of a rich brown traveling toilet.

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Lesson in Up-to-Date Farming—Corn Shredders and Huskers—Second Growth Clover—Quality of Vegetables—Grain Cheaper than Hay.

How a Live Farmer Farms.

I have fifty-eight acres of land, keep three cows, three yearlings, two work horses, fifteen sheep, forty hens and two hen turkeys, writes a farmer in Colman's Rural World. Have five acres of woods; balance of land is in cultivation and pasture. I will give below my methods of raising crops. For oats, I plow in the fall so that freezing will mellow up the soil. Should advise plowing eight inches for stubble and six inches for sward. In the spring set the pulverizer as deep as the field was plowed the preceding fall. In drilling grain, put in one-half bushel grass seed per acre. If phosphate is used, get the best, and mix half plaster with it; use about 400 pounds per acre.

If oats are sown broadcast, sow three bushels per acre, and sow before pulverizing, so as to put the soil on top of the grain. Go over the soil twice, then sow grass seed. If phosphate is used broadcast, apply before sowing grass seed. Then, with the old-fashioned drag, go over it once and then roll, which will leave it in good condition. During 1894 I made 6 per cent. interest on my farm, and last year 9 per cent. Had a big potato crop. Paris green was applied with plaster. To sell hay and straw, cut early and when through the sweat, press it and put it on the market, send it to a good firm and avoid all the commissions possible.

Cut oats when one-half or two-thirds turned, and the straw will be much better. In regard to selling produce, I have found it pays to sell stuff when it is ready to be sold. Last year I had three cows and one farrow. I sold veal calves for \$30.50; from seventeen ewes and a ram, wool brought \$15.12, lambs brought \$20.70; miscellaneous receipts brought the total for the year up to \$238. I fed my family well, and carried stock through to grass. In marketing potatoes, three or more farmers should sell to one merchant. Order a car and ship by carload direct. This will save bother, extra commissions, freight and work.

The Corn Shredder.

Last season's experience with corn shredders and huskers has developed several objectionable features, the most serious being that they are too expensive, and that the fodder too frequently molds when baled or stored in mows. The first will gradually disappear, predicts the "Orange Judd Farmer." As the machines become more generally introduced and used, the first cost will be less, and competition among owners will necessitate a reduction of charges for work by the acre. The matter of knowing how to keep the fodder properly is more serious, and experience alone can determine the best method of storing. That it can be kept hardly admits of doubt. The problem is certainly not more difficult than that of determining just how dry hay must be before it can be put into the stack or barn. A little patience and a few trials will clear up the lack of knowledge on this point. It certainly will be unwise to discourage the use of the shredder because a few farmers have not been entirely successful with it. While some have failed, many have been pleased with results, and find the shredded fodder excellent feed for horses, cattle and sheep.

Second-Growth Clover.

The late growth of clover is not usually large in bulk or heavy in weight, but it makes up in quality for what it lacks in quantity. Old farmers have long known it as an especially good feed for young lambs and young calves in spring. But there is a still better use for it, and that is as feed for hens in winter so as to dilute their grain feed. Clover grown after midsummer is much richer in nitrogen than are most of the grasses and vegetables that fowls pick on their ranges during the summer. Clover is also a lime plant, and it thus furnishes material for both egg and shell production. It is not concentrated enough to be a perfect ration unmixed with grain, but is just what is needed when wheat or corn are fed to fowls in winter. If only the grain is fed the fowls get too fat to produce eggs and then cease laying. A certain amount of cut clover with their grain will cause the fowls to keep in laying condition.

Quality of Vegetables.

There is great difference in quality of vegetables aside from their freshness. It is due to their method of growing. All roots need to be grown quickly, which require that the soil be rich and moist. If the soil is poor or dry, the roots will be stringy and unfit either for human use or feeding. At the same time, it is not best that roots of any kind should be grown in contact with manure, which breeds worms, and makes the roots unsalable in another way. If turnips are grown very

rapidly they will dry out as quickly and become dry and pithy, not good even for stock feeding. Rutabagas, which are planted early, have more substance in them, and will keep till spring, long after the quickly grown fall turnips have become worthless for feeding.

Grain Cheaper than Hay.

In all the Western cities the coarse grains, both corn and oats, are now very cheap. They are relatively cheaper than hay, and weight for weight, are little higher than the cost of hay when both are brought to Eastern markets. This will doubtless lead to a larger use of both corn and oats as feed, supplementing the deficiency of hay which has now existed on most Eastern farms two or more years. It is really better for all stock to have a part grain ration as it is better digested than the same nutrition in the larger bulk which would be needed to give it the form of hay. When grain in moderate quantities is fed to breeding animals it means improvement in their progeny, thus increasing the gain from improved breeding.—American Cultivator.

Young Trees Best for Planting.

It is very natural for purchasers in choosing trees for planting to select the largest, thinking that these are nearest the bearing age and will soonest become fruitful. In almost every case the smaller, if quickly grown, will have the most roots in proportion to its top and will make the best growth. The size at planting time makes but little difference. The growth and vigor of the tree after planting is what tells most. We once saw an old grape vine carefully removed when the family was removing to another place. It had considerable top, and though this was cut back very severely, there were at least forty shoots growing the next spring. The result was that it took fully two years to get that vine established in its new home. If left where it grew it was more valuable than a new vine would have been, but if transplanted it was no better, though much more cumbersome and troublesome than a well-rooted yearling vine with but a single bud left to grow. Some like two-year-old grape vines, but a yearling that has made a vigorous root will be quite as good after three or five years growth.

Drainage Pasture Lands.

Many fields are used for pasture only because they are full of cold springs of water which make them too wet and cold for profitable cultivation. Such land will not produce a good quality of grass. It will be coarse and lacking in nutrition. In such cases there is no way to get the land in good grass except to underdrain it. The quality of its grass shows that the soil is full of humic acid from decaying vegetation in contact with cold water. This humic acid is rank poison to the roots of all but the poorest and meanest kind of vegetation. Drain it, admitting warm surface air, and hastening the decomposition of vegetable matter, and such soil is often found very valuable, producing any kind of crop luxuriantly, though usually somewhat deficient in mineral plant food, as its vegetable matter has always been lacking in this respect.

Sheep Notes.

What breed of sheep have you found best for the general farmer?

It is important that each lot of lambs have plenty of pure, fresh water, accessible at will.

Of the 565,137 sheep reported in Iowa on Jan. 1, 1896, a little over 100,000 are classed as Shropshires.

Sheep should habitually rest on soil, or on soil covered with straw; the soil coming directly in contact with the wool, absorbs the oil and leaves the ends of the fiber dry and harsh; also, the earth works into the wool, giving it a frowsy appearance.

On any good farm, and under good management, a flock of sheep will pay their winter feeding in the manure they make. Give them lots of straw, and they will convert it into the richest kind of food for crops.

No farmer is so poor that he cannot afford to keep sheep, and none so rich that he can afford to ignore them. They fertilize the fields, furnish food and clothing, and help subdue the fields so as to fit them to raise crops. The sheep is the farmer's best friend, under any and all circumstances.

The Dairy.

A quart of good cream should make a pound and a half of butter.

Liberal feeding of the dairy cow means that she must have as much wholesome, nutritious food as she can eat, digest and assimilate, and the more fully this is done the better will be the results.

If the dairyman is to raise his own cows he ought to be reasonably certain that they are good ones. One of the best plans for doing this is to use only a thoroughbred bull from a good dairy breed, and to save the best of the heifer calves.

Some people boast that they keep the cow's udder clean, and perhaps they do; but all the rest of the animal is left in a filthy condition. This dirt dries in the hair, and the act of milking shakes it into the pail. Such milk is unfit for human food.

TEMPERANCE TALKS.

THE RUM TRAFFIC SHOULD BE SUPPRESSED.

Dangers that Always Lurk in the Flowing Bowl—How Bright and Influential Men Have Been Dragged Down by the Demon Drink.

A Wrecked Life.

Some time ago a man about 50 years of age left his brother's house alone and apparently empty-handed, and did not come back. From a letter received soon after, and from his well-known discouraged state of mind, his going was sadly interpreted by friends, and they feared the worst. It was one of those "mysterious disappearances," the readiest explanation of which is despair and suicide.

The man was a skilled artisan, and an inventor whose patented devices had again and again brought profit to his employers; but his mental working-power was gone, and his hand had lost its cunning. Strong drink, that years ago made him its slave, had left him useless when hardly past his prime. With a lady, one of his neighbors, he conversed freely a little while before his disappearance, and this is the substance of what he said:

"I wish the young could realize how many useful things the world is waiting for, and could be taught to look for them. In an age of progress like this the most successful workers are those who find new and better ways. Tell a boy that any talent to think and do will bless the world, if it does not make his fortune. A lucky thought is a prize everywhere. It is a God-given gift. So is the brain that originates it. Tell him that.

"And tell him to leave stimulants and narcotics alone, and save his brain. I blame nobody but myself that I did not mind this caution when I was young; though it seems strange that not a soul ever warned me.

"At 19 I was on the highroad to success, and my skill was in quick demand; but I fell into fast company, and drank—drank till it became a habit to drink. I never shook off the curse till it ruined my faculties. Look at the wreck it has made of me. It is too late now. I cannot think to a point, and my hand cannot make a perfect draft.

The unfortunate man had never expressed himself so freely before. He may never be heard from again. Life—as it seemed to his desperate mood—had ceased to be worth living. He was a frequent and eager reader of the Companion, and felt an interest in the welfare of the youthful world it fills.

His last words of warning seem fitly placed in these pages; and every such example repeats once more to the youth of the land, "Your faculties are God-given gifts. Conquer temptation, and keep them whole."—Youth's Companion.

What He Will Do.

Suppose a man, in making application for a license to sell alcoholic liquors, should present a written statement of what he proposed to do, and in that statement he should say, "So many of the inhabitants of that town or city, he will, for the sake of getting their money, make paupers and send them to the almshouse, and thus oblige the whole community to support them and their families; that so many others he will excite to the commission of crimes, and thus increase the expenses and endanger the peace and welfare of the community; that so many he will send to the jail, and so many more to the State prison, and so many to the gallows; that so many he will visit with sore and distressing diseases; and, in so many cases, disease which would have been comparatively harmless, he will by his poison render fatal; that in so many cases he will deprive persons of reason, and in so many cases will cause sudden death; that so many wives he will make widows, and so many children he will make orphans, and that in so many cases he will cause the children to grow up in ignorance, vice, and crime, and after being nuisances on earth he will bring them to a premature grave; that in so many cases he will prevent the efficacy of the gospel, grieve away the Holy Ghost, and ruin for eternity the souls of men.

And suppose he should put at the bottom of the petition this question, viz: "What, you may ask, can be my object in acting so much like a devil incarnate, and bringing such accumulated wretchedness upon a comparatively happy people?" And under it should put the true answer, Money; and go on to say, I have a family to support, I want money, and must have it.

What would the license commissioners think of him? What would all the world think of him if his statement was published? What ought they to think of him? What ought legislators to think when called upon to pass a law that legalized that man to pursue such a murderous traffic? What ought voters to think when called upon to elect legislators who had to legislate concerning such a business?

No rum-seller has yet been found honest enough to tell thus frankly beforehand what he will do if the people buy and use his poison. But that such are the fruits of the traffic, who doubts?

CHEAP VACATIONS AT SEA.

Sailing Vessels Glad to Get Passengers at a Dollar a Day.

If a man is not in health and wants to spend his vacation in a manner which will do him the most good at the least expense he cannot do better than to take a trip as passenger on a sailing vessel. A trip in a schooner plying between New York and some port on the coast of Maine, or if he has time, to points of the maritime provinces of Canada, will soothe his nerves and build up his weary frame and send him back to work again filled with new life.

To take a long trip on a sailing vessel is an expensive operation in money and time, but a short trip on a coasting vessel is economical. It costs \$300 to go around Cape Horn as passenger in one of those splendid, great Yankee clippers, but for a trip on an ordinary coasting schooner the expense is only \$1 a day as a rule.

If one is fortunate in selecting his vessel he can generally occupy the captain's stateroom and is sure to be comfortable. As to food, he will get the ordinary fare of the cabin—lots of savory stews, sea pie, etc. It is a coarse food, perhaps, for the fastidious, but he will get an appetite from ozone and the iodine of the sea breezes which will make pork and potatoes taste like a dish from the table of Lucullus. The passenger is always a person in whom the officers and crew take a lively interest. He comes to them as a rule like a creature from another world. With all that pertains to the daily life of sailors he is usually profoundly ignorant or possesses just enough of knowledge to make his ignorance palpable.

He is interested in the vessel and the sailors, and the sailors are interested in him, while the ship says never a word, but bears him day by day further away from his old life and every wave crest that slips by him drowns some care or vexation until he is ready to swear that "the earth is a desolate place; a garden of rest is the sea."

The money received for a passenger is a requisite of the captain, so most captains are perfectly willing to put up with the inconvenience of having a landsman bothering about and asking "foolish questions." If a man is married and wants to take his wife on one of these trips there is trouble in getting permission. Scarcely any skipper takes his wife on trips, only at rare intervals, being thoroughly imbued with the idea that a woman has no place on board a ship. Still, a captain of a coasting vessel is a thrifty person, and money can accomplish a great deal.

On the big California clippers things are different, but even on these a woman passenger is hardly persona grata. The captain of one of these big ships frequently has his wife and family along, but he is not eager to have anybody else's wife add family aboard. These vessels have staterooms and cabins fitted up in a way that would do credit to a trans-Atlantic liner and the captain's table is a good one.

Scarcely a California clipper leaves his port that has not on board at least one, perhaps several, passengers—men who want to escape for a while from the temptations and cares of the world.

One going on a trip in a sailing vessel should remember one thing if he wants to have a calm and unruffled trip, and that is that the captain is an absolute autocrat on board his own ship. Do not dispute him or treat anything he may say with levity. He is used to being respected and obeyed, and always try to remember, when on his own quarter deck or in his own cabin, that he is "monarch of all he surveys."—New York Press.

A Pneumatic Tired Farm.

Mrs. Mary Johnson has a pneumatic farm near Lennox, S. D., through the surface of which a gang of expert drillers have been trying for weeks to sink a drive well. To a depth of between 120 and 130 feet the tubing enters the soil without difficulty, but as soon as the air cushion is reached the wind rushes out with a screech like a locomotive. Sixteen-pound sledges are tossed into the air as lightly as feathers and operations have to be suspended.

When this occurrence took place the first time the workmen figured that they had merely struck a wind pocket. After waiting several days in the hope it would exhaust itself they pulled out the tubing and made a fresh start in a new location. At about the same depth as before the old program was repeated. A half dozen attempts have now been made with no greater degree of success. From the last hole the wind smelled so strongly of gas that the drillers were unable to work over it.

He Was Tender-Hearted.

The wife of a certain vicar died, to the vicar's great grief, and amid the deep sympathies of the congregation. The curate, who was a tender-hearted man, was to preach on the following Sunday morning in the vicar's presence. This was his text: "Lo! I will send you another comforter." The ladies of the congregation could hardly control their emotion.

An old man never knows how brightly he can be until his hat blows off his head, and skips off in the direction of a mud puddle.