### MARCH 8, 1907

terly regard for her happiness when they are together. (2) When a young lady has a lady friend as guest, she should certainly see that the guest is included in invitations to places of amusements, etc., which are extended to herself, or she should decline them.

#### For the Seamstress

In making the plaited skirts that are so fashionable at present, lay the material on the cutting board lengthwise. An ironing board is excellent for this purpose. Fold the plaits according to directions from top to bottom, fastening them down with small tacks pushed into the board at intervals as they are laid. These will hold the plaits in position, firm and even. and they can then be basted with ease, and the tacks pulled out before pressing them.

In making up skirts, when thin fabrics are used over linings of contrasting colors, the seams will often show very prominently. To prevent this, narrow bias strips of the lining material are cut and basted along on both sides of the seam in such a manper that the stitching catches the strip in sewing. Then the seam is pressed open and the lining strips between the skirt and seam prevent the seam from showing. The outer edge of the lining strips may be turned out over the edge of the seam and lightly hemmed down for a finish.-Delineator.

The finish of the waist-line of the skirt depends on the proportions of the figure, and also the styles of waist to be worn with them. For a slender or medium figure, the regulation straight waist-band is usually employed; but for stout figures, a skirt that is worn under a bodice-waist having a girdle permanently attached, a very flat finish is desirable, and this is obtained by discarding the waistband. A narrow facing or binding may be used in its place. To adjust this facing, the upper part of the skirt is fitted in the regulation manner. If an inverted box-plait is used, this, as well as any other plaits on the skirt should be securely pinned in the correct positions and basted there. Then the facing (for which a bias strip of lining material can be employed) is stitched to the waist-line of the skirt and the seam cut away very closely. Now, rolling the facing over toward the inside, the seam edge is firmly basted, then stitched, while the other edge of the facing is turned in and hemmed down, stretching the bias facing at this edge to fit the rounded shape of the skirt.-Delineator for March.

### carry on their feet and bodies the germs and infection so often present therein. Individual flies lay, on an average, about one hundred and twenty eggs which in a few hours hatch into larvae, or maggots, and, ten days from the time the egg was laid the full grown adult fly appears. It is stated by authorities that, contrary to the popular belief, flies do not grow in size after transformation from the maggot stage. The house-fly finds in the stables and exposed vaults and out-houses of the country the conditions most favorable to its development. Chloride of lime should be well sprinkled through the manures, in liberal quantities, and all out-houses used by the family should be thoroughly screened. Earth closets are coming into general use where sewerage cannot be had, but are not yet regarded as of such importance as they should be. Of course, the house should have all openings screened with either wire or cotton netting. Metal, or wire netting is the most economical. as, with care it can be made to do service for several seasons, but cotton mosquito netting can be purchased cheaply, and will serve for one season, at least, or can be renewed when damaged. Bought by the piece of sixteen square yards, the netting should not cost more than two or three (at most, five) cents a square yard.

There are several things which should not be allowed to inhabit the house with the family; among these are rats, mice, roaches, bed-bugs, fleas and flies, and there is no valid reason why any of them should. The fast named is by no means the least objectionable.

#### Plant Lore

If you have a bright, thrifty window garden next winter, you must bear if in mind these spring days, and begin your preparations in time. If you wait until next summer, or fall, to begin getting your plants ready, you may have nice plants, but not satisfactory bloom. Floral magazines are so cheap, and bring you so many practical instructions, month after month, that it would pay to subscribe for one-and read it.

You can learn many things from the catalogues that may be had for the asking; but the floral magazine is best for cultural directions. Many things may be "slipped," cuttings made of hard-wood plants, seedlings started, and old plants divided and the new plants kept growing thriftily. "Something for nothing" is generally worth just about what it costs; you must pay some price for everything worth having. But the price can be reduced to a minimum by careful attention and wise planning, and, in floriculture, by timely and judicious planting and good cultivation. "Annie B."—Our "flower man" tells me that an old plant of the Primula obconica can be separated in the spring, and each little crown will give a strong, new plant in due time. It should have plenty of water with good drainage; and that means a great deal more water than you give to your geranium. It blooms from November to May, and is a general favorite. F. M.-For the green fly (aphis) make an infusion of sulpho-tobacco soap, and apply with a sprayer. If the foliage is thick, part it carefully, and drench every hiding place with the suds. L. M.-Make cuttings of the sprouts you will find around the old stalks of your chrysanthemum plant, and root them in good soil, in thumb-pots sunk in the ground, or in sand, or by simply setting them in the border. If your old plant is of a choice variety, there is no reason why you should not have a fine showing next fall. Give the plants good care. Seedlings do not always "come true." Many are worthless.

moters of health-the daily or weekly bath-through lack of facilities for availing themselves of it. The majority of homes have no regular bathroom or running water; many have not even a bath tub, and if they had, they have no place in which they might use it. For these, the kitchen range would be called upon to supply the warm water, and in nearly all of such homes, the water must be brought in from outside by hand, and carried out by the same means. In many cases, the water, for all purposes of the home must be carried from a more or less distant well or spring, and this is al ways burdensome, even for household purposes. In many homes, even where fuel costs only the work of felling trees and preparing for firewood, the only rooms comfortably warmed are the kitchen and sitting room, or both in one, and in these, even a towel bath cannot be taken until the room is vacated for the night, when, ten chances to one, the would-be bather is then too tired or sleepy to care whether or not the bath is taken.

It would be a good investment, in such cases, to arrange for some method, and if nothing better can be had, any one who can handle tools at all skillfully can make a set of frames, put together with hinges and covered with denims, heavy muslin, or table oilcloth, which can be thrown across a corner of the room, and a tub, or other vessel be used in the privacy of the screened corner. A set of pockets, like the old fashioned hanging "shoebag," could be made of oil-cloth and hung on the wall, in which soap, sponge, wash-cloth, and other necessities of the bath could be kept. This screen, when not in use, could be folded, like a "clothes-horse," and set out of the way. Water for such purposes might be hauled in a barrel, and the wash-boiler would be a good substitute for the hot-water tank or reservoir. Once accustomed to even a weekly bath, one feels lost without it, and it should be a "family institution" as much as the hand-pan and towel.

#### For a Fine Complexion

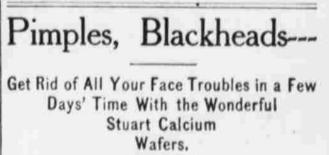
Every one who values a fine complexion should grow spinach and other salad vegetables, though the majority do not. Especially should our girls and women who love fine complexions cultivate these beauty-makers. Spiaach should have been planted last fall. to have it early in the season, but it should be sown now for use as soon as grown, keeping up the sowings at intervals until September. For a good complexion, one can do more through proper diet, fresh air exercise, cleanliness of person, and proper ventilation of sleeping and living rooms than can ever be accomplished through the use of oils, butters, solutions, creams, washes, or powders. The beauty that comes from within, from a' good, healthy body and cheerful spirits, is the kind that will "wash." A good old fashioned sunbonnet, stout gloves. and a little exercise every day in the garden is fine. But if one would really enjoy the work of weeding, hoeing and digging, the flower garden is the ideal place to do it. I confess freely that I do not like to "hoe" or weed vegetables; that is generally one of the "man's" undisputed rights, at our place; but I scarcely note the flight of time, or know that I have a back when I work among the flowers. And every woman or girl should have a flower garden. The girl who spends a tew hours every day in the garden is seldom troubled with "black heads." Nothing washes the pores out so beautifully as a good, healthy perspiration, followed by a cleansing bath, if nothing more than a scrubbing with a towel. No matter what else the woman has in the shape of a garden, she should have flowering plants, and time to attend to them, and the gude mon should arrange to keep the pigs, poul-A very large number of people are try and calves outside of them. Many deprived of one of the greatest pro- women starve for the beautiful things Marshall, Mich.

so easy to have, yet so often denied her. Food for the soul and spirit is as essential as food for the body.

#### **Care of the Shoes**

Shoes may be kept up to the mark by rubbing the tops with a piece of black cloth dipped in a mixture of cream and black ink, and when dry polishing vigorously with a piece of old flannel. An old pair of shoes if treated in this way, and all missing buttons replaced, will make a good appearance, particularly if, before this is done, they have been taken to the cobbler's and the heels straightened and soles mended. Shoes should be aired frequently in order to prevent the inside from becoming sodden with perspiration from the feet.

"Village Belle."-You will find your cuestions answered in the toilet article. Am always glad to have your oueries.



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# The Commoner.

### The House Fly

It will soon be time to seriously consider the most successful methods by which to exclude from our homes the filthy house fly. Not only because of the annoyance they create by crawling over one and specking, but because they are a serious menace to the health of the family. They have their breeding places in the filthiest matter, and

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