

JULY 19, 1906

correct temperature for the bottle. It is a large can divided into compartments. Three bottles of baby food or prepared milk are set into the can and boiling water is poured into the first compartment. In two hours the first bottle will have reached the right degree of heat, and remaining bottles will be ready in two and four hours, successively from the first.

The Fit of Clothes

More and more it is becoming absolutely essential in order to be well dressed, says Harper's Bazar, to have every detail of dress attended to, no matter how simple or inexpensive the materials. First of all, the gown must fit well, and here is one reason why the Frenchwoman is better dressed than the American. Every article of her lingerie fits well. Of course lingerie is less expensive in France than in America, but even here it can be made at home at much less cost than if bought at the shops. With a good pattern and the expenditure of some time the best results can be obtained at very small cost. A well cut, properly hanging petticoat is absolutely necessary. Just now taffeta silk of good quality can be bought at reasonable prices, even as low as 50 to 75 cents a yard. At this price a silk petticoat is not an extravagance if it is used carefully. It may be replaced by one with a flounce of waterproof mohair for rainy days, or the rainy day skirt may be heavy enough to be worn without any long petticoat. Many women who are inclined to be stout wear only silk or cotton union suits with no petticoats at all—only the usual droy skirt in the dress. A silk petticoat may be made, coming to the knees, as silk fits smoothly over the hips, and to the hem may be buttoned the lower part, of silk flounces to match the top.

How to Thread a Needle

The struggle of man with a needle's eye has afforded such glorious opportunity for cheap witticisms that the incapacity of many women in that line has been quite overlooked.

Falling eyesight is not the sole reason for the difficulty some persons have in forcing a needle and thread to make connection. In many instances it is because the ability to handle sewing utensils has never really been mastered.

It is surprising how many women who think they can sew have not the slightest idea that there are right and wrong ways to use needles, scissors, thimble and thread. Yet it is just such little things that make the proficient needlewoman—she who can do a given task with the least wear and tear on the nervous system.

How, for instance, do you hold a needle to thread it? Just any old way, so long as the thread gets in?

Well, you should not! A needle to be most quickly and easily threaded should be held firmly between the thumb and finger of the right hand well down toward the end, with the point resting almost on the tip of the second finger. Break off a short thread (a long one is the sure sign of the novice), and catch it between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, holding it taut with the other three fingers. Let barely an eighth of an inch of the thread project.

Now rest the left hand thumb knuckle to knuckle with that of the right hand, the two nails crossing obliquely. This brings the thread and eye in line. Press the needle firmly forward with the fingers of the right hand, at the same time exerting a slight pressure with the left thumb, and it goes the thread—even into a No. 10 needle—without a struggle.

There are certain women, however, who are really hampered as needle threaders by dim vision. For them there are numerous mechanical contrivances in the way of self-threading needles.

Probably the best known are the patent pieces of steel with a groove at top, in which the thread is caught,

the steel threader then being pushed through the needle's eye.

This season brings a novelty in a needle threader attached to a small pin cushion. The needle to be threaded is held firmly down in the glass holder, its eye being directly in front of the large one of the glass, through which the thread is easily pushed.

On the whole, though, if a woman will but learn to handle her implements in the way above mentioned there will be little use of needle-threading appliances even for those advanced in years.

Cement Walks

A good walk may be built by making an excavation six to eight inches deep and three inches wider on each side than the width of the walk. Where necessary drain. First put in the foundation, built up of coarse cobble stones on the bottom, the coarse gravel, sand or cinders. Level these and pack firmly. Make the foundation so that one inch of cement will be required to finish on top. To lay cement make a form or frame of 2x4 inch stuff the exact height and width of walk, firmly stacked to prevent spreading. First put a layer of concrete of one part cement, three parts sharp sand, and three to four parts coarse stone, cinders, gravel, etc. Make this three to four inches thick and cover with a one-inch layer of cement mortar. Make the mortar of one part cement and one to two and a half parts sand. Lay off in blocks and smooth surface with wooden or cork float, giving the surface a little roughness to avoid a glossy or slick finish. After laying the foundation the concrete and surface should be laid in blocks four to eight feet long to prevent cracking. A strip of tin or sheet iron should be slipped in at the division line where blocks join. Remove before cement hardens and you will have a walk laid in blocks so that if cracks occur but one block is affected at a time.

Household Hints

It is a mistake to lavish money on drawing rooms and sacrifice the kitchen.

Kitchen utensils are of the greatest importance. The cook cannot do her work well without proper tools.

Wooden clothes pins will last longer if placed in boiling water for a few minutes, then dried slowly.

If a plate becomes scorched from being left in the oven too long, the marks may all be removed by rubbing with salt and a damp rag.

Put a lump of soda in the sink every day and run hot water on it to clean the drain pipe.

Do not put cut glass in very hot water. Use a warm suds having a little ammonia in it. Clean with a soft brush and rinse in warm water.

Do not attempt to blacken the kitchen stove every day, it may be kept in good condition if rubbed thoroughly with a crumpled newspaper after each meal.

Before putting new oilcloth on the table or pantry-shelves lay a layer of brown paper on them first, the oilcloth will last much longer.

Put the dish cloths in cold water having a pinch of soda in it. Set on the stove and let come to a boil, then hang in the sunshine to dry. Do this often for there is nothing so disgusting about the kitchen as a lot of soiled dish cloths hanging about.

One of the best ways of cleaning Brussels carpet is to take a pail of water and add one-fourth pint of ammonia; then wring a string mop from this as dry as possible and mop the carpet. The change is wonderful.

Stains on mahogany may be removed by rubbing with a cork dipped into a little oxalic acid and water. When they have disappeared wash the wood thoroughly with pure water, then dry and polish as usual.

When ironing if the iron seems rough and sticks to the clothes, sprinkle a little salt on a paper and rub the iron up and down upon it. It

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will speedily make the iron smooth and prevent it sticking.

Never sweep dust from upstairs to the lower part of the house or from one room to another. Take it up into a dust pan, where you have previously placed some tea leaves. This prevents the dust from scattering.

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest room in the world under one roof and unbroken by pillars is in St. Petersburg. It is 620 feet long and 150 feet in breadth. By daylight it is used for military displays, and a whole battalion can completely maneuver in it. By night 20,000 wax tapers give it a beautiful appearance. The roof is a single arch of iron.

Clergymen have strict orders never to preach longer than fifteen minutes before the German emperor.

For a finger nail to reach its full length, an average of seven-twelfths of an inch, from 121 to 138 days of growth are necessary.

In a street organ, owned by an old man who dropped down dead in the Rue du Chateau des Rentiers in Paris recently, the sum of \$66 in gold was found, besides \$1,000 in notes and a bond for \$1,600.

The nut trees of the world could, it is estimated, provide food all the year round for the population of the globe. Brazil nuts grow in such profusion that thousands of tons of them are wasted every year.

New Zealand, with a population of between 800,000 and 900,000, spends \$1,000,000 a year on old-age pensions. In Denmark the annual cost is about \$1,080,000 per annum, spread over a population of about \$2,500,000.

At the Milan exhibition the king of Italy will offer prizes amounting to \$8,000 for automatic safety couplings for railways, for the distribution of

healthy and pure milk in centers of population, for the best type of popular dwelling adapted to the climate of northern Italy, for motor boats, and for the best and most original exhibit of machinery or manufacturing process.

At the recent meeting of the German colonial congress in Berlin, Dr. Marensky, formerly a missionary in South Africa, said, in speaking of the negro propaganda of "Africa for the Africans," there was no doubt, whatever, that a great Ethiopian uprising would take place sooner or later in South Africa, menacing alike British, German and Portuguese authority.

Recipe for bath bags: Four pounds of fine oatmeal, two quarts of clean bran, one and a half pounds of powdered orris root, and one and one-half pounds of powdered castile soap. Put the powder in little muslin bags and use as a sponge.

When the eyes have been irritated by excessive use a compress of fine linen wet with very cold water will generally bring relief. A simple and effective eye wash is made by combining one teaspoonful of boric acid, fifteen drops of spirits of camphor and two-thirds of a cup of boiling water. Do not use your eyes when they are tired.

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