

# WOMAN AT HOME

## A GIRL'S CITY EXPERIENCE.

BEING a farmer's daughter, the eldest of a large family, and my father in rather close circumstances, I concluded to go to the city and engage in something, with the hope of bettering my finances, writes a young woman in the Practical Farmer. I procured a situation with a private family and went to work. But the contrast between my life there and at home was so great that I remained but three weeks. At home I was a leader among my friends and associates; there I was not deemed worthy to associate with the family whose roof sheltered me. At home I gathered with father and mother, sisters and brothers, around the family altar morning and evening; there I was denied this precious privilege except on Sunday mornings when I did not attend church. At home I sat with the family at the breakfast table and discussed with them the topics of the day; there I took my meals in the kitchen in loneliness and silence, and they almost choked me. I often glanced at the family gathered around the tea-table or library lamp of an evening, and it always filled me with a longing desire for home. My work was light and the people were kind to me, but I could not endure that loneliness and lack of companionship. How I did wish they would invite me into the library with them just one evening any way. That room, with its well-filled bookcases, beautiful statuary and rare paintings had an almost irresistible charm for me; but it was too sacred for my country-bred feet to tread except with a broom and dust-cloth in my hand, and I wondered why it was so. I do not know whether my experience would be called a failure, a success, or a mistake, but I believe it was all three. I made a failure as a servant girl, but I gained knowledge concerning the "hired-girl problem" that I could have gained in no other way. My object in writing this article is to convince other girls that home is the best place.

**Another Letter to Wed a Peer.**  
It is reported that Miss Daisy Leiter, sister of Lady Curzon, is engaged to the Earl of Suffolk. Miss Leiter is several years younger than her sister, Lady Curzon, and has been voted no less beautiful by Washington society. When Lord Curzon went out to Bombay as Viceroy of India, Lady Curzon took her sister with her. The younger woman has been as popular as her sister, and has been admired. Among those who have paid Miss Leiter devoted court, according to the gossip from Bombay, and later from Simla, the summer capital of the Indian empire, has been the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire. He is an aid-de-camp on the Viceroy's staff. He is 22 years old, and succeeded to the title only last year. His full name is Henry Mollineux Paget Howard.



**Cent to School Too Early.**  
There is a class of children who suffer from overworked brains who have no right to suffer. We refer to children under 7 years of age, whose parents understand nothing of the laws of physiology, but feel that no time should be lost in getting the child to school. The brighter the child the harder he is pushed. During the first seven years of life the brain develops very fast. All that is done to crowd it during this time is done to the child's disadvantage. During this period attention should be given to developing a good constitution, remembering that the brain will go forward fast enough after that age.

Parents make a mistake if they send their children to school before they are 7 years of age (unless, perhaps, to the kindergarten). There is no doubt about this. All physiologists agree on this point, and there is no sound argument against it.—New York Telegram.

**To Keep the Hands Soft.**  
One of the best preparations for keeping the hands soft and white is a mixture of glycerine and vinegar, to which a little perfume may be added if desired. After the hands are washed, dry lightly, and while still damp rub on a little of the mixture. This may be used with excellent results by people who can not use the glycerine alone, the vinegar neutralizing the unpleasant effects of the glycerine.

**Purses "Out of Sight."**  
The strictly tailor-made girl has discarded the purse. Nothing of the sort is seen in her hand or suspended from a neck chain. For large purchases she uses the credit or C. O. D. system, and her small change is carried in one of the many pockets with which her tailor's gown is always well supplied.

**Cultivate Napping.**  
The cultivation of the "forty winks" habit is the cultivation of longevity and of general well-being throughout life. There is no antidote against American nervousness half so potent as the quick renewing, in the midst of duties, afforded by a short nap. It would seem that a single dip into oblivion is that magic, fairy touch which preserves youth and vigor, however

taxing may be the routine of our lives. To this many will say: "But I cannot sleep in the daytime." That, however, is only incidental, for any one can cultivate the habit by trying persistently. It may take a week, two weeks, or even a month, before the first "dropping off" occurs; but it is sure to come; a second will quickly follow, and the habit ultimately becomes established, says the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Every one accustomed to napping must have remarked how much more refreshing is a nap of five, ten or twenty minutes than a long daytime sleep of two or three hours. This is because in a short nap the brain and senses are rested without relaxing the muscular and nervous systems. Indeed, there is no better way of gaining time on a busy day than to cut out fifteen to twenty minutes for renewing the energies. After a morning's effort body and mind both grow tired; the work flags; "things go wrong." Now is the time for the magic dip, from which you return to your post fresh and in good spirits, ready to carry on things with a vim.

**Bracket for Curling Irons.**  
One of the latest and most valuable introductions as an accessory to the toilet is the "keep clean" curling-iron bracket. This clever little arrangement will appeal to the woman who



uses a curling-iron, on sight. It consists of two parts—a nickel-plated steel tube, to hold the iron, and an arm provided with a socket which will fit over any gas burner. It may be allowed to remain on the gas bracket, in no way interfering with the light. The tube



prevents the accumulation of soot on the iron, and also precludes overheating, two matters of great importance in the preservation of the hair. An additional advantage is that it is not necessary to hold the iron over the flame, the construction of the article, as shown in the cut, being sufficient for the purpose.

**What a Woman Can Do.**  
A woman has had charge of the street cleaning in the First Ward of Chicago for eighteen months, and the business men of the district have sent her an address of congratulation on her zeal and efficiency. They say the streets were never before kept in such excellent condition.

**The Care of the Nails.**  
It is not possible to be too particular in the care of the finger nails. Cleanliness is a mark of refinement, and, too, lack of cleanliness is unsafe, as disease germs are often carried under the nails when foreign matter is allowed to collect there.

**Economical.**  
The long lace ties that are so popular are very neat and airy for summer. The careless, graceful bow-knots at the ends are easily put on, and making the ties one's self considerably reduces the expense.



All over the land our women are trying to make their dresses at home, and in general they succeed wonderfully well. The correct paper patterns which we can buy so cheaply are a great help, but in one point they often bother the home dressmaker—they allow for such very large seams, which are a waste of material and a puzzle as to the line on which to stitch.

The utmost care should be used in cutting the lining and outside, so that the thread of the goods runs the same way in each; but the lining must be cut and fitted before the outside, which not only secures a better fit, but enables one to cut the more expensive goods with economy. Some persons think it best to fit one side of the waist, then rip apart and cut the other side exactly like it; but others, remembering that no figure is perfect, find it better to fit the waist all around to the form.

To secure a stylish-fitting tight sleeve requires careful basting and fitting. Try on the lining separately, and when the dress goods is basted on be sure and hold it loosely at the bend of the elbow, which will give shapeliness and comfort to the tightest sleeve.

## GOWNS AND GOWNING

### WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

Brief Glances at Fancies Feminine, Frivolous, Mayhap, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Proves Restful to Wearied Womankind

New York correspondence.



UNE has brought into view the dainty summer dresses that have been so carefully planned in the past few weeks, and a remarkably varied showing is made. It does not seem as if there ever was a time when a woman could so surely and so easily have her dresses planned in such way that they will be characteristic of herself in good degree. It can't be done without considerable outlay, of course, for fashions that are made conventional by general and miscellaneous duplication are, as usual, the cheap ones. Yet a woman to whom wardrobe doesn't spell a dozen trunks full of fine dresses can manage at least one costume that she can be reasonably sure will not appear like an imitation of her neighbor's. That she can do this is explained in some measure by the variety of materials that are available. This is not a summer when two or three sorts of dress stuffs are being run to death, and the list of fashionable fabrics is very large. But the feature that is more potent than the range of fabrics is the existing variety in cut and finish. Here, again, there is no one style that everybody is rushing into. True, the sheath fit of skirt is well nigh imperative, but in other respects the range



PLAINLY MARKED AS THIS SUMMER'S OUTPUT.

of styles permitted in skirts is suggested by these pictures, wherein is no one much like another; and as for bodices, the field of permissible arrangements is quite as extended.

As to the upper half of you, the wisest course in selection is to be guided by the needs of the figure. This can be taken with almost entire literalness, once the fashions have been carefully examined and kept in mind. One who prefers the blouse to its would-be successor the straight-front bodice, can stick to it and feel perfectly safe. It is considered as pretty as ever. It suits the slender figure, adapts itself to the requirements of summer materials as well as to heavier goods, and is always comfortable. Though it has been a favorite for three seasons, there are new forms of it that are all right. The initial shows one. It was cut low at the neck and open to the waist to show a contrasting yoke and in an extension to the belt. It was as simple and becoming as could be. This season the yoke is of open work lace and the collar will usually be a perfectly simple folded affair of lawn without ear-tabs or back-trill. Very often there is a suggestion of waistcoat, the edges of which seem to show in little lines of contrasting material down the front of the outer bodice or in a pair of turn-back revers. Sometimes a pair of such revers are fastened under the collar without any further pretense at waistcoat and are valuable only as relief of colors. Orange velvet was used in this way for this model, with cream lace, the goods being putty colored cloth. White or even better colored lace could be used on goods of this color, and any light colored stuff could be employed after this manner.

A great many summer dresses are not more elaborate than was this simple blouse design. Indeed, the number of dresses that include new fancies yet that are in the simple gown classification is usually large for this time of year. Lawn dresses may be made in as severe outlines as though they were of heavy cloth if only there is apparent in their trimming some late wrinkle in the way of trimming. Shirred ribbon is about the most serviceable of these notions, and for use on lawn dresses there is a new lawn ribbon. Sheer lawn is made into narrow strips, finished with a selvedge and has a draw cord or thread either in the center or a little below one edge. Fluffy and dainty as gauze is, it is not as suitable as the lawn ribbon, which comes not only in white but in delicate shades. As a rule it is run in several rows on a band of white. As employed on a dress of blue and white lawn it appears in the first gown of the next illustration. Yoke and collar were tucked white mull. Will such a dress wash? Indeed not! The wash dress of 1899 is not for the tub, but after being worn two or three times is sent to the cleanser's. While there its owner wears another of her wash dresses.

Another decorative use of lawn has made good headway. Designs and scrolls are cut from white lawn whose edges are finished with shirred baby ribbon, and are applied on smooth cloth or silk. The next of these models had this treatment and was what is now styled a tailor taffeta. Its color was gray-blue, and its bodice was trimmed with applications of the sheerest sprigged white lawn cut in scrolls, laid

flat and edged with drawn white satin baby ribbon. The lawn was so sheer that the color of the silk showed through. Embroidered white satin simulated a waistcoat edge above the double shield front of this bodice, and its long yoke was of the muslin. The black of the picture stands for black velvet and was an up-to-date application. Get a little black velvet on somehow seems to be the rule, and this treatment was better than roses or bows of narrow ribbon which already threaten to be overdone. Another significant feature of this gown was that with its bodice characterized by advanced fashions went a plain skirt.

Wash or India silk is as pretty this year made up with a slightly bloused round bodice opening over a lawn yoke as it was last season. Blue and white designs prevail again, and green, yellow, red and violet, each with white, all appear. There is a decided fancy for finishing the top of the silk bodice with revers of needlework and lace and having corresponding treatment at the cuffs, no matter of what material or style the yoke may be. The wash silk dress the artist put here was blue and white, with yoke and collar of white tucked lawn, the tucks running horizontally except just in front. Such yokes are very stylish and pretty. From looking at this dress one would almost think that her last year's silk would do for this season. The trouble is that its skirt was made with insertion to effect an overdress, and the gown below the insertion flared according to the fashion of this, and not of last, summer. To be sure, one can make last year's skirt the overdress to a skirt that shall match the yoke. That will be pretty, but her best friend will surely know it for a make-over, because probably she has one herself of the same kind. Copyright, 1899.

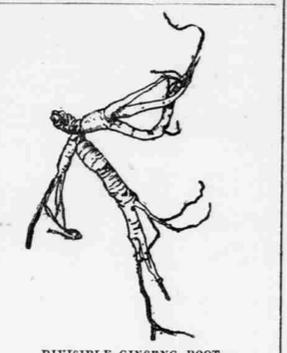
**A Large Family.**  
In the Harleian manuscript, Nos. 78 and 980, in the library of the British Museum, mention is made of the most extraordinary family that has ever been known in the world's history. The parties were a Scotch weaver and his wife (not wives), who were the



## FARMERS' CORNER

### American Ginseng.

For growing ginseng from seed, prepare beds from three to four feet wide and any length desired, raised a few inches above the surface. A good way to form the outline of the bed is to set up boards six inches wide, held in place by stakes. Fill with rich soil, and mix all the humus (decayed vegetable matter) you can get with it. Well-rotted horse manure may be used to good advantage in the preparation of the bed. Plant the seed in drills, six inches apart and four inches apart in the drills, covering one inch deep. After the seed is planted cover the bed with a two or three inch coat of leaves, straw or anything that will keep the ground moist. When the plants begin to come up in the spring the bed should be shaded from the direct rays of the sun by means of a frame placed over



DIVISIBLE GINSENG ROOT.

it, on which straw or brush may be thrown. The seed should always be kept moist, as they will not germinate after they once become thoroughly dry.

### Buying a Horse.

If you want to buy a horse, take no man's word for it. Your eye is your market. Don't buy a horse in harness. Unhitch him and take everything off but the halter and lead him around. If he has any falling you can see it. Let him go away by himself, and if he walks right into anything you know he is blind. No matter how clear and bright his eyes are, he can't see any more than a bat. Back him, too. Some horses show their weakness or tricks in that way when they don't in any other. But be as smart as you can, you'll get stuck sometimes. Even the experts get stuck. A horse may look ever so nice and go a great pace and yet have fits. There isn't a man who could tell it until something happens. Or, he may have a weak back. Give him the whip and off he goes for a mile or two, then all of a sudden he stops in the road. After a rest he starts again, but soon stops for good, and nothing but a derrick can start him.—Southern Stock Farmer.

### Fog Chicken House.

I enclose the plan of chicken coop I built of logs. In building the roof that way I saved lumber and shingles. I cut all logs exactly the required length. The average size was about 7 inches in diameter. I did all the work alone. First lay the sill logs and toenail on the corner, making the logs 2 by 4 by 8



SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY HOUSE.

feet and 2 by 6 by 8 feet. Spike these two together and brace from the inside, so they will be perfectly plumb. Now start putting up the logs, one side at a time, or build all sides evenly as you go. Drive a spike into your 2 by 4 by 6 inch sills and into your logs as fast as you go, so as to hold them in place. You can put a round log in the corner 6 inches in diameter and 8 feet long. After the house has been built, spike the 2 by 4 on to this and also the plate logs. Peel the logs.—A. L. Ford, in Orange Judd Farmer.

### Food Value of Potatoes.

It is claimed by some that potatoes are not wholesome food. Such does not seem to agree with experiments conducted with a special view of determining the food value of the potato. The fact that the potato is a diet in nearly every household would of itself seem to be sufficient proof that it is a nutritious food. The potato, on account of being composed principally of starchy matter, would, if eaten by itself, be a one-sided and badly balanced ration. The constituents necessary for a balanced diet are protein, fat and carbohydrates. Potatoes are composed of the latter, and meat, eggs and fish are composed of the former. Since potatoes are usually served together with meat, eggs or fish, it forms a diet which is most conducive to health and vigor.

### Profit in Goats.

More goats are raised for their hair in California than elsewhere in the country, and the experimenters in this line of industry are meeting with a fair degree of success. The Angora

goat yields on an average four pounds of mohair at a shearing, the product selling for from 32c to 37c a pound. C. P. Bailey of San Jose, sold last year a trifle more than \$8,000 worth of mohair from his flock.

### Foys on the Farm.

Lots of boys are driven from the farm by the treatment they receive there. You can not work a boy from ten to fourteen hours a day, begrudging him a day off and depriving him of an opportunity to make a little money, and have a little fun on his own account, and then expect that he is going to stay on the farm. Boys are not built that way. But if you treat them right, encourage their originality and foster their development and the doing of things for themselves, the average boy is level-headed enough to realize the advantages offered by rural life. Some fathers make the mistake of trying to drive boys instead of working with them, or fail to recognize the rapidity with which a bright boy gains knowledge and experience between 12 and 20, and how quickly he may know more or have better judgment in some matters than his father. The parents are quite as often at fault as the boys in those cases where the complaint comes that the boys won't stay on the farm.—Journal of Agriculture.

### For Ivy Poisoning.

A very common source of poison in some localities is Rhus toxicodendron, locally known as "mercury" or "poison ivy." It is a trifoliate, glossy-leaved vine, much given to climbing over old trees and rail fences, to which it clings tightly. Some persons are so susceptible to its noxious qualities as to be poisoned by the slightest touch, or even by passing very near the vines when wet with dew. The parts affected are very red, sometimes swollen badly, and accompanied by most intense itching and burning, especially when exercising or near artificial heat. A certain remedy is made by dissolving a handful of quick lime in a pint of cold water. Bathe the parts often, and after a very few applications they will be quite well.

### Watering Plants.

Where it is necessary to water large numbers of plants, or put liquid manure upon them, the contrivance shown in the cut, which is reproduced from the American Agriculturist, can well be used. A barrel of the water, or liquid, is placed in a cart and driven alongside the rows. A man walks alongside and directs the stream from the rubber tube upon each plant in succession. The liquid flows of itself from the barrel, because the tube acts as a



WATERING PLANTS.

siphon, the nozzle of the tube being kept below the level of the water in the barrel.

### Uses for Borax.

Some of the most common articles are the most useful ones. One of the most common is borax, and the uses to which it may be put are many and various. Its cheapness brings it within reach of us all, and its practical utility makes it a very desirable article to have in the home. As a destroyer of insects it is especially useful. In the South ants are very annoying. Borax scattered around the entrance to your pantry or sideboard, so that the ants cannot come into the room without crossing it, will keep them out. Being absolutely safe, it may be scattered over pantry shelves and around the edges of carpets. It is an excellent disinfectant, and will save many doctor's bills, if freely used about the house, water pipes and sinks.—Epitomist.

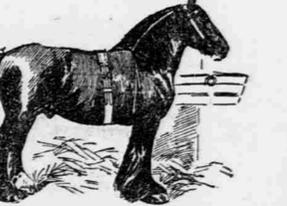
### Bloated Animals.

To cure, or rather to give immediate relief to an animal in a case of bloat, take a piece of garden hose about four or six feet long and put end in the animal's mouth and run it down its throat until the gas that has caused the trouble begins to escape through the hose. When it has all escaped remove the hose and your animal is all right. This is a sure remedy for bloat, and will frequently save a good cow from dying, and at least save her a great deal of suffering, and the owner a great deal of anxiety.

### Power of a Growing Plant.

The lifting power of a growing plant is one of the most astonishing things in nature. Beans and acorns often lift heavy masses of earth in their struggles to reach the light. Mushrooms have displaced flag-stones in a number of instances.

### Took the Champion Prize.



The Shire stallion Buscof Herold is the property of Alexander Henderson, M. P., Farington, Berkshire, England. Winner of champion prize for stallions at the London Shire Horse Show.

### Can Live Without Water.

Many animals in desert regions never have any water except the dew on vegetation. A parrot in the London Zoo is known to have lived fifty-two years without drinking a drop of water.—New York Post.