

Interesting Stories for and About Women

THERE is some significance in the fact that the peculations of a woman amounting to less than \$200, are given as much space in the newspapers as the defalcations of a man amounting to \$30,000. Does this mean that misappropriation of money by women in places of trust is so unusual as to be remarkable?

"The incident and its evident new value," comments the Chicago Inter Ocean, "raises the old question: Are women more honest than men or more trustworthy where money is handled? Reports as to the employment of women in the Treasury department at Washington and as to the records of young women cashiers in business houses in Chicago answer this question affirmatively."

"It is contended, however, that the places held by women offer less temptation to embezzlement than the places involving larger and more complicated transactions held by men. It is contended also that natural gallantry leads business men to take more pride in the record of a girl ordinarily honest than in the record of a boy of the same probity and to regard the slight departures of a girl from business methods more leniently than the shortcomings of a boy."

"With all due allowance for these elements, it remains true that women in the last ten years have won a reputation for honesty in places of trust. Whether this is due to the more exclusive home training of girls, with its higher ideals of honesty, or to a scrupulous regard for correct business principles born of the newness of women's association with practical business affairs, the fact remains that women have won a reputation for honesty which has carried them far in the business world. They deserve the reputation so well that a departure from their established standard excites general astonishment."

Belle Proves Her Bravery.
Miss Mary Doherty of Margaretta street, Pittsburg, after killing with a revolver two large catamounts which had attacked her, was found unconscious some days ago on a lonely road near Clay Run, twelve miles east of Connelville, Pa. Philip Cox, a young farmer, nearly drove over the prostrate body of the young woman, which lay in the middle of the road. Close by were the carcasses of the fierce beasts she had slain.

When she regained consciousness Miss Doherty described the terrifying experience which had befallen her on her return from a visit to a friend who lived a short distance from Clay Run.

As the neighborhood had been troubled considerably by catamounts, the young woman, who is an expert shot, carried a pistol as she ventured forth unattended. When within a half mile of Clay Run she was startled by the appearance of two formidable beasts, which sprang from behind a rock in the hillsides. Before the young woman could recover from her first fright the catamounts were upon her, clutching at her throat. Drawing the pistol, Miss Doherty fired, killing one animal and wounding the other.

The young woman fell to the ground, bleeding from numerous cuts on the neck, face and body, whereupon the wounded catamount renewed its attack. Miss Doherty fired again; her aim was true, and the wounded beast fell dead by her side. Then Miss Doherty faintly remembered that Miss Doherty is a prepossessing brunette, and before her removal to Pittsburg was considered the belle of the village near which she had her encounter.

Winter Window Garden.
There is nothing prettier or cheerier than a windowful of thrifty, growing plants. To have an attractive plant window follows these four simple rules:

1. Choose plants adapted to room culture and to the amount of sunshine they will receive.
 2. Feed them well.
 3. Keep them clean.
 4. Keep all insects from them.
- An ideal window garden contains both foliage and flowering plants, writes Lora S. La Mance in the Housekeeper. There should be the most of the latter. In fact, there need not be above one or two foliage plants, if they are large and handsome ones, in a small collection. They should always be what are known as specimen plants, i. e., handsome enough and luxuriant enough to stand in a garden or on a terrace by themselves. If one wishes to have them thus, these finely developed, bold-outlined specimens give breadth and tone to any collection. If one can afford a fine palm or rubber plant, these are excellent. But a really good Boston fern or a luxuriant asparagus fern, or even a mossy fern, makes a good substitute, or even a bushy rose geranium or thyrifly canna may be used with far less drain on the pocket-book. Give foliage plants room pots, rich soil and generous treatment. In particular keep the dust off from their leaves by frequent washings. Never crowd this class of plants. They need plenty of space to show off well. A bracket or stand is a good place for them for this reason.

The majority of window plants should be flowering ones. See that they really are flowering ones. A flowerless flower window is common enough, but it is a fraud. There is no need of such a condition. For instance, abutilon and the begonia are always in bloom; oranges and lemons are perpetually in fruit or flower. Many other kinds of begonias, oxalis, double petunias, primulas, nicotiana, carnations and geraniums, if they are of flowering size and have not been allowed to exhaust them-

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Dr. T. Felix Gottlaud, 100 West 11th St., New York City, N. Y.



selves by summer blooming, will flower steadily all winter and spring.

Women Bootblacks.
A few years ago when a woman wanted her shoes polished she rubbed them over with a liquid polish out of a square bottle. The little sponge attached to the cork of the bottle was too small and the liquid usually caused the leather to crack, but no one objected seriously. Finally it occurred to someone that women's shoes, being composed of the same material as men's, might be polished after the same manner. Perhaps that happened about the time when good calf shoes superseded thin French kids for street wear. As general as the custom has become, there are surprisingly few places where women may have their shoes attended to. The larger shoe stores and some department stores have bootblacks, who are kept very busy. In the women's waiting rooms of city stations there are stands, and if a woman does not object to the publicity of the thing she may be shined at many of the men's stands or on the ferryboats. Singularly enough, there is only one place in New York exclusively for women. This is in the lobby of the Marsha Washington hotel. The establishment is not only devoted to women, but it is the business venture of a woman, who is making a very comfortable living out of her enterprise.

"The idea was original with me," said the woman. "That is, I had never heard of such a thing when I resolved to make the venture for myself. Since then I have heard of a similar establishment in Chicago, and it is quite possible that they exist elsewhere. The possibilities in such a business occurred to me as they have watched the long line of women waiting in a shoe store to have their shoes freshened. I had grown very tired of working on a salary, so I resolved to investigate the shoe polishing business. The more I looked into it the better it seemed to promise, and I began to look for a location. I wanted a place in the shopping district, but was unable to find one, so I chose a hotel as the next best place. I rented this space sixteen feet long by twelve feet wide, but I wanted the furnishing to be just right. I am sure I sat in 100 chairs before I bought those four, and I looked in a dozen places before I found that tiny wardrobe and the swinging cheval glass."

The oak chairs are certainly models of comfort. When a woman sits down in one and puts her foot on the shoe rest, her spine does not have to take on an unnatural curve and no obtrusive knob or bunch pokes her between the shoulders. The seat is neither too high in the air for a small woman nor too near the ground for a tall one. That there is a great deal in such details no one need doubt. Two or three good rugs on the floor and a few blooming flower pots scattered around the room help to make the place attractive.

Bachelor Maids as Roomers.
The bachelor girl has gained for herself a new distinction, commonly supposed to belong exclusively to her bachelor brother. She is in demand as a roomer. She not only equals the man roomer in her reputation for being desirable among landlords, but she goes him one better. If she is a true bachelor maid in the sense that she leads a business life, she has all his advantages as to her absence during the day. If she is a chertches in her secret heart a desire to wash out handkerchiefs or borrow a flatiron she has the reputation of either not having time for it or carefully suppressing it.

Neither the doors nor the hearts of landlords have opened readily to her call, however. Owing to the increasing demand of this class of women for a place to lodge an agency in Chicago applies itself to its needs exclusively.

"It is difficult at first," said the woman in charge to a Chicago Tribune reporter, "to get some people to even consider taking a woman. But the market is not overfull of men roomers and the woman who is a plus to add a little to her house money decides after some hesitation to try it. Pretty soon she is back. 'Give me another of those business women,' she says. 'She leaves no ashes nor cuspidors to be cleaned, she gathers up her own laundry and hangs up her own clothes, and she is neater generally than the men I've had.'"

The bachelor maid also has the habit of casually mentioning to her landlady the hour at which she expects to be in at night, which many times is much appreciated. She is almost sure, too, to be good pay. In fact, what are called social references rather than business references are what we are asked to furnish with woman renters. The average woman who takes a girl into her home wants to know that her acquaintance is such as to give her some idea of the conventionalities, which is fair, as a large part of her social life in the evening is carried on in the house. As a class, however, the business woman is observant of these things, and the one thing which sometimes deters a woman from renting her rooms to a bachelor maid is the fact that she is apt to ask the privilege of receiving her callers in the parlor. Many women renting to business women arrange their rooms with couches and screens and furniture which is generally suggestive of a sitting room in this respect. Little evening gatherings and at homes are one of the things which the working woman usually will have as soon as she has any quarters at all, be they large or small. But they are not apt to be noisy ones or objectionable in any way, and the fact that she is fond of them makes a girl put more money into her room than a man will, and the girl who gets a fair salary is generally ready and willing to pay a good price for a suite, where a man with the same income would be satisfied with a hall bed room."

Should Food Be Salted?
This is no new question, but apparently it is not settled yet. In an exhaustive discussion of it, M. Rene Lauder concludes that while salt is absolutely necessary to the animal organism, enough of it for our needs is contained naturally in our ordinary articles of food, so that the addition of it as a condiment is superfluous. Tales of disease caused by lack of salt he dismisses as untrustworthy. Says M. Lauder: "The desire for salt is certainly universal. It seems to have been found everywhere at all times and in all civilizations. The same salt seasons today the miserable portion of the Soudanese negro and the choice dishes of European tables. * * * The need of salt is not limited to man; many animals seek it with avidity. * * * So general a predilection, so imperious a desire should not be regarded as a simple incident, that is certain; but do they correspond to an unavoidable necessity?"

Is it not curious that the chloride of sodium should be the only salt that we take from nature to add to those contained in our food itself? Other mineral substances play a much more important part in the constitution of the tissues, the salts of lime and the phosphate of soda, for instance. * * * When we use these by themselves it is as medicine. "The taste for salt is not innate or instinctive; it is acquired. The mother's milk contains very little salt. Cow's milk has at least four times as much, but this amount the adult who should live on milk alone—say, three quarts a day—would take more chloride than he needs. "Man in a state of nature does not eat his food. Primitive peoples who lead a pastoral and nomadic life do not add salt to what they eat. * * * The same is true

of animals. Dogs and cats do not like salt. Even the domestic herbivores get along very well if salt is not added to their food."

M. Lauder discredits all tales of illness from the discontinuance of salt. The French soldiers who were said to have suffered from lack of salt in the siege of Metz did so, he says, simply because they required it to hide the taste of the spoiled meat they were forced to eat. The story of the Russian serfs who are reported to have fallen ill when deprived of salt by their lords bears on its face, M. Lauder thinks, marks of its falsity.

Among the chief morbid symptoms said to follow the lack of salt is edema, or swelling, but the writer shows that nowadays a diet without salt is prescribed for this trouble and has been effective in curing it. In the same way he disposes to his satisfaction of all the different ailments said to arise when one is deprived of salt. Finally, he calculates the amount of salt necessary to carry on the processes of organic animal life and the amount lost by excretion and comes to the following conclusion:

Our food, provided it constitutes a proper regimen in the physiologic sense of the word, contains in itself and with no necessity of adding to it from outside, sufficient salt for our needs.—Paris Review Scientific.

From Fashion's Notebook.
Skirts, except for walking costumes, must be full about the bottom. The Burgundy, plum and blue mauves are also being made up for fashionable women. Orange gloves are shown to match the suit of the woman who goes in for one of the new orange-colored things made into millinery. In broadcloths exquisite leather and copper tones are leading the onionskin hose, but yet all are of the lighter tones of brown and all, therefore, merely variations of the same color. A white fur felt hat is trimmed with deep, full folds of pompadour silk, in which heliotrope predominates, but combined with other colors, including pink and green. At one side of the hat are feathers, short standing plumes, one pale green and another heliotrope. Milliners, like modistes, rise above natural colors, and one may find all sorts of things, feathers, fruits, flowers and furs, in queer colors. One hat, a turban, is entirely black, with a wide band of purple, the sides formed by a band of ermine, and at the left is a white pompadour held in place by a big jet button. Those big eight-inch long automobile safety veil pins are not to be worn with the veils when they are not actually used for the purpose for which they were first built. There is a French milliner who wears in mildly's on a windy day if she is walking or anywhere but in the automobile, and, of course, it is not carried in the hat.

There are innumerable jeweled pins in the shape of horses of all sorts, in stickpins for men, and the same things made into brooches for women. In the saddle horse the saddles are as a rule in enamel, while the entire body of the horse is in green. At one side of the hat are feathers, short standing plumes, one pale green and another heliotrope. Milliners, like modistes, rise above natural colors, and one may find all sorts of things, feathers, fruits, flowers and furs, in queer colors. One hat, a turban, is entirely black, with a wide band of purple, the sides formed by a band of ermine, and at the left is a white pompadour held in place by a big jet button. Those big eight-inch long automobile safety veil pins are not to be worn with the veils when they are not actually used for the purpose for which they were first built. There is a French milliner who wears in mildly's on a windy day if she is walking or anywhere but in the automobile, and, of course, it is not carried in the hat.

Chat About Women.
Miss May Handy, who married James Brown Potter, has been the ideal southern beauty for twenty years. Hers is a tall, willowy figure, and her hair is later down. She has been like burnished copper. Her hair has been the color of the sun, and she has lived alone with her two servants on Franklin street, Richmond—disdaining a chaperon because she stood on a plane so high that she needed none. Mrs. Humphrey Ward is having the present enjoyment of seeing the fruits of her labors in establishing a branch for special instruction of crippled children in the vacation school of the Passmore Edwards settlement in London, founded by her influence. It is five years since the branch was opened and already some of the children are in a way to earn their living. Madame Neidhoff, wife of the Russian ambassador to France, is at Toulon, supervising the equipment of the hospital ship Greif, which is being sent to the French subscribers, is to be fitted out most sumptuously. It sailed September 3 for an unknown destination. There is a difficulty to guess why secrecy should be observed concerning a hospital ship. Miss Harriet L. Matthews, just elected librarian of Lynn's (Mass.) public library, was opposed with the usual dislike to give a woman a man's place so her library, which had been assistant there for over thirty years, and had been the really important factor in the usefulness of the library for many of those years, having originated every important reference in what was the fifth library of importance in Massachusetts. The wife of Camille Flammarion, the astronomer, never allows anyone to cut her husband's hair but herself, and she uses the short locks for pillows. Her library in Paris is full of pillows stuffed with such clippings. Telescopes, heliometers, sextants, astrolabes and other astronomical instruments are scattered all about among them. The Flammarions were married thirty years ago, taking their bride in a balloon. In all the time since then the wife has been a veritable helpmate to her husband. She not only makes observations and calculations, but measures the distances of stars for him. At the observatory of Juvisy, which she helped him establish, she made studies of the planet Mars.

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