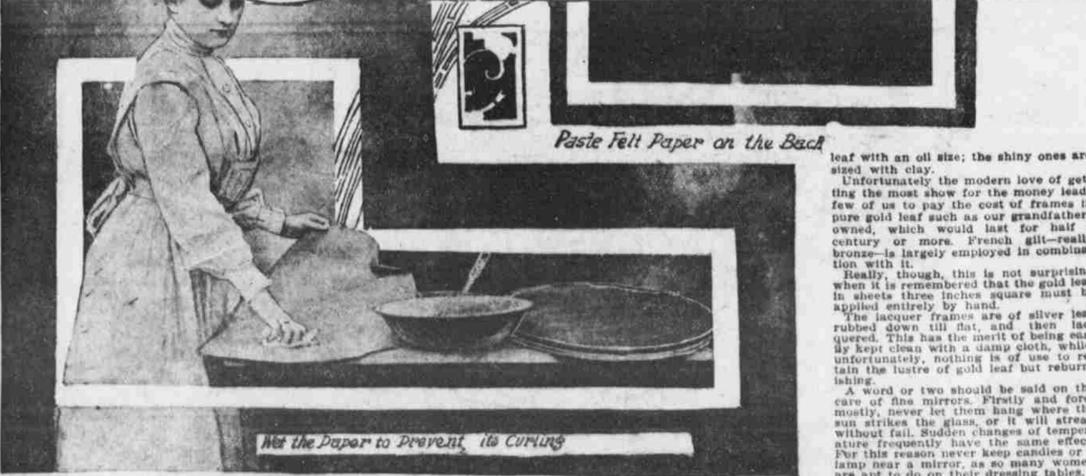


Mirrors Old and New and Their Care



Use Tissue Paper for Polishing



Use the Paper to Prevent its Curling

LOST in the mists of the past is the name of the man—was it a woman?—who first enabled the daughters of Eve to see their faces reflected otherwise than Narcissus-like, by limpid stream or purling brook. The genius that gave to the world a mirror must go unsung, unobscured and unnamed, though deserving of canonization by woman every time wind-tossed locks are smoothed, or a fresh young face receives the comforting assurance, "I am a beauty."

Whence or when or how came mirrors none can say, though Cleopatra has it we owe them to that mythical medico, Aesculapius, and antiquaries trace them to the Stone Age. Or, perhaps, after all, they came to us from a watchful sun-goddess lured from her dark cave by curiosity and jealousy at first seeing her sulky face reflected. The Japanese think so, and see, where rests that first mirror given by the goddess to her grandson, the creator of the Empire of Japan, with the command to worship it forever, is to the devout son or daughter of Japan a shrine as sacred as Mecca to the Mohammedan or the Holy Sepulchre to the Christian of today. In palace and cottage alike, the most precious possession of the Japanese woman, the most important part of her trousseau, is her small, convex bronze mirror covered with mythical symbols of the island's history.

We only know that mirrors arrived very soon in the world's history. The earliest written records refer to them. The ancient Peruvians had them of silver, copper, brass and a polished opaque black stone; they have been found in Egyptian tombs; the first Greeks used small pieces of bronze, thinly coated with silver, at the latest, while Pythagoras and Seneca declared it to be the object of every foolish woman to possess a silver mirror, and our forefathers, the Celts, copied the Roman fashion.

Though the first mirrors were of metal, there have been found in the Gallic, Roman, Thracian, Hymettian or Egyptian tombs, and in the tombs of these were simply a blown glass bubble cut in a curve like a watch crystal, with melted lead poured in the shell which was mounted in a metal frame; others more elaborate had a plaster pentagonal frame with a triangular piece cut underneath, which was a lead line of glass surrounded by fragments of glass set in plaster for ornamentation.

These lead mirrors, though reflecting clearly, were affected by dampness. Even when they are used in Italy, while those of polished metal are still found in the Orient.

It was not until the fifteenth century that mirrors, as moderns understand them, were introduced by the Venetian glassmaker, who first succeeded in cutting a flat glass surface covered by a backing of an amalgam of mercury and tin. These flat-glass mirrors held their way until Peterpan in 1856 patented the present process of silvered mirrors which reflect 95 per cent. more light than their predecessors.

Venetian mirrors were very beautiful, even from the first. With all their wonderful carvings and a collar most of the "fair dames" of the Renaissance were loath to give up the small, circular pieces of polished gold or copper in richly carved frames of un-

amel and ebony which they carried at the side to be ever ready for use.

The French soon vied with the Italians in mirror making, and those of the reigns of Louis XIV to XVI have never been equaled for artistic workmanship and beauty of design and color.

The original idea of these mirrors was not as a separate device, but as a part of the wall, and they were used in paneling with richly carved wood frames, gilded or highly colored.

Frequently a picture adorned the top, painted by the most famous artists of their day. Beautiful specimens have come down to us from the brushes of Watteau, Lenoir, Fater and Fragonard.

One of these mirrors, with a panel representing the *Joy of Europa*, by Boucher, is as rich in coloring as when it reflected the gay court dames of Louis XV.

Another, a carved mirror of the period of Louis XIV, of Italian workmanship, is richly tinted in different shades of soft greens, with a brown heading and inlaid designs of black. An ecclesiastic mirror in a brocade frame is equally lovely.

An interesting Louis XVI mirror, with an elaborate gilt scroll on a white ground, has a quaint old painting in grisaille (black and white).

It was not until the eighteenth century that the detached mirrors and those shaving stands were introduced, chiefly by the English.

In France, during the Empire, the vanity of "little Nap" evidently was contagious, for mirrors lined every inner door of a house on both sides of the panel.

The sedan chair of the eighteenth century even carried a mirror on the outside, perhaps, forsooth, that the Beau

Brummel of the day might take a peep at his fiery before seeking his hair inamorata with, while she, to run no risk of beauty patch away, had a hand-mirror stowed away in the curtains inside.

There are quaint old sewing boxes of inlaid wood lined with numerous mirrors.

To the late Georgian period belong the heavy balls and beaded trimmings of flat carved frames covered in gold leaf, which have known such a marked revival of late under the name of colonial mirrors. Fortunate is the woman who owns one of them as an heirloom, and chide blessed if it happens to be a triple one.

The modern mirror is worthy of note for artistic workmanship, though there seems to be no special originality of design. Instead, we see close copies of the Colonial period, especially of the triple mirror, with a leaning toward simplicity and away from the vulgar or covered with exquisite gold leaf and inlaid designs of black. An ecclesiastic mirror in a brocade frame is equally lovely.

In many of the more recent ones we see a return to the French and Italian art, with curved emblems (machine work generally), pictures of the Aurora, or covered with exquisite gold leaf and inlaid designs of black. Most of the frames are gilded, but many are of mahogany or rosewood, with gay prints.

A fascinating copy of a French mirror of the Empire is about ten inches wide and covered with exquisite gold leaf and carved with the Napoleonic eagle and laurel-wreath.

By the way, there is a great difference in gold leaf, and it is rare to find the lovely soft, dull effects of the earlier generation. In having old mirrors refurbished it is well to insist on the dull gold. This is gained by applying the

leaf with an oil size; the shiny ones are sized with clay.

Unfortunately the modern love of getting the most show for the money leads few of us to pay the cost of frames in pure gold leaf such as our grandfathers owned, which would last for half a century or more. French gilt—really bronze—is largely employed in combination with it.

Really, though, this is not surprising when it is remembered that the gold leaf in sheets three inches square must be applied entirely by hand.

The lacquer frames are of silver leaf rubbed down till flat, and then lacquered. This has the merit of being easily kept clean with a damp cloth, while, unfortunately, nothing is of use to retain the lustre of gold leaf but reburnishing.

A word or two should be said on the care of the mirrors. Firstly and foremost, never let them hang where the sun strikes the glass, or it will streak without fail. Sudden changes of temperature frequently have the same effect. For this reason, never keep candles or a lamp near a mirror, as so many women are apt to do on their dressing tables.

With care a good gold-leaf mirror should last a generation, it is well, though, ungrudgingly, to shroud the frames in nothing in summer, though some connoisseurs claim it is unnecessary.

The Girl Who is Going Visiting

SIT down, the next time you plan to go a-visit, and make out a list of the everyday necessary things you mean to take with you. Check before you lock your trunk, run over the list, and see if you've forgotten any of them.

No matter how dearly your hostess may love you, a visitor who is continually borrowing all sorts and conditions of things, from pins and sewing utensils to lounging robes and fresh linens, is in put it mildly, a nuisance, who has literally worn out her welcome.

One long-suffering hostess, whose lounging robes were the envy of her numerous visitors, was the most generous mortal alive, until she realized that what lengths some women, those who ought to know better, will go for the sake of wearing pretty, effective clothes.

Every one of her lovely robes was borrowed and worn to trail around the house in, or to look languorously attractive in at breakfast time. Yet, two or three of them had cost between one and two hundred dollars apiece; and not one of the women who wore them so carelessly possessed a single robe of that class. One pale blue beauty—crepe de chine embroidered in the same pale shade in a design of heavy-headed chry-

santhemums—was almost ruined by the thoughtless—or worse—treatment it received.

Your own kimono, your own sewing utensils, all the little personal things should be among those you take with you.

When you leave, be as punctilious about collecting your various things—not like the girl who left her trinkets in one room, a dress in the closet of another, and almost every other room honored (?) by some one of her possessions.

Look over everything you pack; you don't want to carry off some trifling thing of your hostess's by mistake. And if your room is full of them, the error is easily made.

The whole thing in a nutshell is: remember the rare distinction between "mine and thine," and remember it particularly when you are visiting.

Uncured Ostrich Feathers.

THAT new trick of fashion—leaving ostrich feathers uncurled—is a boon to the women who have had to tame feathers because the curl would come out.

Lavender Pillows

SINCE those extra little pillows have become so frequently met with as a part of bed-furnishings, and lavender pillows have both become more popular.

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Saving

DO your saving at the beginning of the week, you who live upon a salary, so far as this counts, upon a salary.

Extra expenses which often come upon you unexpectedly in the latter part of the week may be easily met, if you've been husbanding your resources a little, instead of spending up to the last cent.

A good plan is to allow yourself so much for little expenses for a given length of time, and then to keep with in daily bounds, saving even a bit from that, if possible. Then, if it is not raised upon the little emergency, either put it away or use it toward some definite purpose, such as subscribing to a good magazine, getting a good book or seeing a good play, all of which should be considered as mental investments.

FRENCH BATHING CAPS



A Plaid "Beret" is Pretty for Young Girls

For Real Protection

FRENCHWOMEN have taken American styles and colors for inspiration in the matter of designing bathing suits, contenting themselves with their own wonderful, inimitable charm of cut and of trimming. And that one striking bit of color, which is played about in so subtle a way with all fashions alike this summer, finds its expression in the bathing cap, which still remains thoroughly French—one might almost say aggressively so.

Scarlet or the brightest of blue, pale pink or violet or white are all worn in bathing caps, with most popular of all, Scotch plaids, draped into the most becoming, still, however, imaginable, not wonderfully serviceable, but almost dramatic in its coquettish beauty.

"Scotch plaid" is rather a misnomer for the plaids that all Paris is in love with at present, for the tartan plaids are, in the main, rather quiet, if you except two or three, while the French plaids riot over the whole rainbow of colors, with the Scotch plaids, every color added has its own particular meaning; with the French colors are heaped on colors, daring combinations made, and the only meaning attempted—and expressed with true French gentleness—is beauty.

It is these French versions—French-Scotch plaids (as we have French-Scotch caps)—which have taken the place of the old-fashioned French plaids and taught their own uses for her cap when their own

bathe in the sea at Trouville.

Plainer caps there are a-plenty, some with real service in them, in the way they protect the hair from the ravages of salt water, trimmed, perhaps, with wash-tapes looped on like narrow ribbons—wash ribbons used

as often.

However she may be content to dress herself in the soberest of blues or browns or black, her cap must be as effective and as becoming as the one for which she is so justly famous.

Week-End Entertaining in the Country

AS THE desire for country life grows in this country, more and more are we adopting the English custom of giving week-end parties.

The time was, and not so very long ago either, when it would have been considered positively a breach of hospitality to limit a guest's visit in an invitation.

Now, however, as life grows yearly more conventional, a hostess has no hesitancy in telling even her nearest and dearest friend just how long she will be welcome.

This method is not merely more satisfactory to the guest, who can plan other visits accordingly, but to mention packing her trunk with much greater ease, since she knows just how many days she will be required, but it is absolutely essential to the comfort of a hostess, especially to one who entertains constantly, to know that one set of guests will not overlap another.

Therefore, when a young woman or man receives an invitation to visit at some country home over Sunday, it means just that, and it is a great mistake to take it as an invitation to be prolonged into a longer stay, even though a hostess may seem urgent. Of course, there are times when it is permissible to lengthen one's visit, but generally a rigid adherence to the limits of an invitation is advisable.

Occasionally a hostess invites a house party for a week, a fortnight or even a month, but by far the most common just now is the week-end party from Friday or Saturday to Monday.

There are good and sufficient reasons for this. In the first place, the average hostess, unless the resources of her country home are rather special in the way of providing amusements, finds somewhat formidable the task of entertaining a party of guests for a longer time. Then, again, most men find it impossible to get away from business during the week, and a house party with the prevalence of women of the proverbial summer home is not apt to be gay.

The first essential of a successful week-end party is, as every experienced hostess knows, a wise selection of guests. They simply must be congenial. Just one man or woman who forms a discordant element is enough to throw a damper on the crowd of young people.

The personalities, keen-eyed jests and even the occasional practical joke, which the camaraderie of a well-chosen houseful of guests makes so enjoyable, seem childish, trifling and even unimportant in the presence of the outsider. And that outsider in turn is very apt to feel uncomfortably de trop.

Again, the selection of guests is the easy one. Now this is an art that is not by any means common. The woman who does not fuss over her guests, who can smile when things go wrong and can carry off an ill-humored dinner, is sure to have her parties sung as a gracious entertainer, while she who is subscribing to a good magazine, getting a good book or seeing a good play, all of which should be considered as mental investments.

weigh upon her, is very apt not to "make good" as a hostess.

Naturally, a woman, unless she has competent servants, does not undertake the burden of a week-end party in the accepted meaning of that term; she will doubtless often have a few friends out to spend Sunday, but that is quite a different proposition. Even so it is important to be systematic in arrangement.

Plan each meal, and give the orders written out for the entire visit to the cook several days before, so that no possible mistake can occur. For it must be remembered that most young people have hearty appetites at the best (nor does much laughter diminish them), and the country is not the happiest spot in which to find some important food supplies will be required.

Rooms must be carefully assigned. If there is any doubling up to do, let it be among the women, for man as a rule is more fussy about a room to himself.

In preparing for the amusement of a house party, so much depends on the character, the taste of the guests and the ability of the hostess to gratify them at all, it is difficult to lay down any hard-and-fast rules.

If the young people are athletic, and the place affords facilities for golf, tennis, canoeing, bathing or long tramps, the question of quickly and pleasantly passed days is solved. Indeed, nothing is more charming after dinner in the evening than to take a pull on stream or lake, strolling at night, unfortunately, has its drawbacks in unexpected calm.

Then a long drive for part of a day at least is sure to prove enjoyable. If it is turned into a half picnic and the party goes on horseback or in carriage to take lunch or afternoon tea at some picturesque spot in the neighborhood, all the better.

But one thing is important for the hostess to remember. Let her not surprise her guests with plans. Give them an occasional breathing space when the literary can look into a book and the musical into a record, and the hostess objects decidedly to this tipping, and where such a feeling is known it should always be respected.

ess deeming herself a lamentable failure unless every one was on the go every minute? Did you enjoy it? No, of course, you didn't! Many a time you were simply dying for the rest which a mistaken sense of hospitality forbade.

As a rule, it is better to have dinner late, so as not to be shut in the house during the delightful twilight hours. But, by all means, allow your guests, especially the girls, sufficient time to throw themselves on couch or bed for a short time before dressing for dinner. The evening will be all the gay if every one gets a rest after the violent exercise of the day.

How to spend the evening depends largely on the weather. If the nights are cool enough to stay indoors, cards, dancing, impromptu theatricals or even an occasional rousing game, dear to childhood, are all in order.

But most of our summer weather makes it most pleasant to remain out on the porch. This is often the pleasantest of all, just to dilly dally in the soft air, singing occasionally to twanging guitars and mandolins, joking, telling stories or even playing a silly round game, or two such as "Twenty Questions." "My Minister's Cat," "Love My Love With an A," or "Joking to Mackerel."

Sunday, as a rule, even in the least religious household, is more quietly spent than the first two days. But it is none the less enjoyable for that. Often a long drive to some quaint country-old church makes the morning hours pass pleasantly, while the afternoon and evening fly all too rapidly for the party that is to reluctantly separate in the morning.

One thing about that departure, it is the usual thing for each guest before leaving to take a bottle of water, which has been put to much extra service. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible, but there may be some in the party made uncomfortable who simply cannot afford to express their appreciation in this way. Sometimes a host or hostess objects decidedly to this tipping, and where such a feeling is known it should always be respected.

Working Gloves

KEEP the inside of the old gloves you wear around the house for the rough work clean. If they are allowed to become begrimed with the dust and dirt of the work, they are almost as hard on your hands as the work would be.

Gasoline will clean almost any sort of glove, although with the heavy ones—the castoffs of the men of the family, which, being loose and strong, are the best to work in—the cleaning fluid sometimes seems to take out the natural oil, leaving them dry and harsh to the touch.

When that occurs rub a little pure kerosene into them—just a little, so as not to make them greasy.

Stains in Flower Vases

FORK the stains which often mark deep vases when they are in constant use, the same treatment as that for water bottles should be followed.

Put points parings into the vase, leaving them there over night. Then simply them out and wash in the usual way. Repeat, if necessary.

A cleaning pad may be made by cutting a groove around a long stick, using one end, and tying securely by means of the groove, a bit of cloth, doubled up so that it makes a round half-like covering to the tip. With this all sorts of ugly stains can be got which would otherwise be inaccessible.