

Fashions -:- Health Hints -:- Woman's Work -:- Household Topics

Pin Money Frocks

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Little Things That Count



Checks are fashionable, says Harper's Bazar, and a suit with a checked skirt and plain coat will be found most becoming. The model shown on this page is not difficult for the seamstress, as it requires so little tailoring. The sleeve is in one with the coat, the difficulty of fitting a set-in sleeve being thus avoided. Always remember never to have a fitted armhole made in a coat, unless an experienced tailor is employed, for the set of the sleeve makes or mars the garment.

The striped frock is an excellent model for linen, although it was designed to be made of Silkenfil, the new mohair material. This model, made of sand and green striped Silkenfil, with bodice and tunic of sand color, will be found very useful for early spring wear. The gown of soiree is very charming, for the color combinations are so lovely. Soiree, being changeable, makes the combination of plain chiffon with contrasting embroidery most effective. In matching chiffon or any material with a changeable silk it is best to ravel a small piece of the silk, and match the chiffon to the raveling, as in this way the colors will blend harmoniously.

The chiffon dress is edged with silver fringe, which hangs slightly below the underskirt. A good idea when putting the lace on the chiffon drop skirt is to attach it with machine hemstitching; much time will be saved and a more finished appearance gained. The embroidery on the bodice may be embroidered or any material with a changeable silk, and a cluster of yellow panicles is fastened on the front of the corsage. In wearing flowers, whether they are artificial or real, it is always much more becoming to pin them at the waist line than higher up on the bodice.

Petticoats are again wide and ruffled, and there are some with a hoop in them. A wide featherbone, usually placed at the heading of a five-inch frill of lace is used to make these hoops. But why take the trouble to make one of these petticoats when you can buy them most reasonably at the notion counter of any large department store? They come in black or white net, and are hung on tapes so they can be made the desired length, and in addition there is an adjustment of tapes which makes it possible to arrange the skirt to hoop only at one side, if that is preferred.

The housekeeper is always on the watch for conveniences or novel accessories that will help to save her time. As we look into the household, it does not seem as if there were a need un supplied, a better, easier or quicker way of doing anything; yet week after week new things appear, taking their places in turn, all doing their part to help out the general scheme of harmonious house-making. The things described below are all practical and likely to take their places as helpers, perhaps the housewife will find something of interest among them.

By the use of a new, light, portable heater, rooms and small apartments can be kept warm at a cost of 7 cents an hour. The heater is eighteen inches high and may be attached to any socket by a flexible cord, supplied with it. In the middle of a reflector, surrounded by wire coils, is a glass globe that gives off a pleasing light. The heater is circular in shape and fitted with a convenient carrying handle. An implement to delight the children is a six-sided rolling pin; on each of the surfaces is a die of an animal, a bird or a fish. Cookies and cakes with these various designs in relief may be easily made. The dies are each about two inches square. A stove, fourteen inches by twenty-six inches, that will burn wood, coal or rubbish as fuel, is designed to stand at one side of the gas range. It is fitted with a gas-kindling attachment that makes coal burn quickly, without the use of either paper or wood. With it, one may broil over the coals or bake with a coal fire heated oven. Every woman knows the advantages of coal over gas as a cooking fuel. A device that fills a niche all its own is a pair of long, silver-plated tongs, operated by a plunger with a downward pressure through a silver tubing. With the pressure, the prongs are opened and any elusive olive or cork in the depths of a long-necked bottle may easily be brought forth. A dish riser, designed to fit over the hot water faucet, is a new kitchen convenience. Instead of allowing the water to fall on the dishes in a splattering stream, it sprays the water over them, washing them clean in a woman's time. It is about two inches deep and four inches in diameter. The water sprays out on all sides slightly more than the four inches, so that all the pan is reached. Children's clothing has an occasional tendency to shrink after being washed. To prevent this, adjustable forms are now made over which the garments may be stretched to dry, so that they will keep their shape. They are made of hardwood and fold compactly into a small space; they may be expanded, as the child grows, to receive larger garments.

Different Kinds of Hearts

The Habit of Smiling

By FORTUNE FREE. Josh Billings remarked that "hearts are queer things. Some folks get along with mitsy little of one." He knew a man who lost all faith in a village doctor because he certified a relative of his as having died of "an affection of the heart." He would not believe it. He might have died of anything else, but that was the very last thing possible. He knew him. He was doubtful whether he had a heart to begin with. And as to "affection," you might have found as much in the village pump. I remember Montague Williams telling the story of the eldest of an Irish scold. The client was a rough kind of individual who had got himself into trouble rather through thoughtlessness than through any harm that was in him. He was, indeed, a peculiarly honest-hearted individual. But he had put himself in the power of Dan Burke, and there was no getting away from it. The scolder advised him that the only thing was to appeal to that gentleman's feelings.

Feelings were remarkably acute, but they were all centered on himself. When a young lady complained to Lord Beaconsfield that an acquaintance had described her as a "heartless person," she was, no doubt, delighted to hear his first words. "Nonsense, my dear young lady. You heartless! Absurd! I have never known a heartless person yet. But I have known those whose hearts were wholly set upon themselves." But the smile faded from her face as she waited for him to say that she was not one of them. He didn't. Lord Beaconsfield was a gentleman who could be remarkably disagreeable at times. The fact is we all have hearts, and they must be filled with feeling of one kind or another. Nature abhors a vacuum. We can't have them empty, but with what they will be filled with depends a great deal upon ourselves. One of the wisest men who ever lived wrote the following advice some thousands of years ago, and it is one of those pieces of advice that keep-are as good today as ever they were. Truth keeps fresh. His advice was that one should "keep one's heart with all diligence."

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX. When you ask yourself the question, "Am I easily irritated?" the answer will be "yes," unless you are the hundredth individual following ninety-nine irritable, excitable, uncontrolled humans. Smiling when everything goes wrong is a beautiful and much to be desired accomplishment. Smiling when things go fairly wrong ought to be simple enough—and isn't. Most of us confess with a laugh that isn't as shamefaced as it ought to be that we "fly off the handle" very easily. And it does not occur to us that that confession marks us as being illlogical, weak and rather unpleasant, individuals with whom to associate. Self-control is to a large extent a matter of habit. I know a girl who when she had nothing in particular to be cheerful about deliberately tried the experiment of curling her mouth up at the corners. Now, when you are curling your mouth up at the corners you are arranging your face into a little automatic smile. And when you are smiling physically you are inducing the mental state of smiling. The girl who arranged her face into a smile because she thought it the wisest way to look at trouble actually taught herself a cheerful frame of mind with which to meet difficulty. She deliberately chose her weapon. Now, certainly facing trouble cheerfully ought to be no harder than facing irritation amiably. But the most of us excuse ourselves for the excitability with which we face petty irritation by saying, "Oh, I could much more easily endure a real trouble. It's just this constant stream of annoyance that I can't endure."

Some man's uncertainty as to what he wants to do—we face annoyance. Anything in the world from finding your steak too well done to losing the particular appointment that means everything to you is likely to hurt you. The point is not how much or how little you are hurt or annoyed. It is, however, precisely this, "How did you take it?" Smile when you might almost be excused for yielding to irritation is within your power, and it is about the most tonic thing conceivable for yourself and your point of view. When you have disappointment, difficulty, inefficiency or any mischance either of circumstance or of stupid or unkind human agency to face, you only make bad matters worse by getting irritated over things. If, by taking thought, you can make bad matters better, it is distinctly worth your while to sit down sanely and try to adjust the situation. And if it is beyond you to handle, you are silly indeed to let it handle you and mould you into a spluttering, irritated, unhappy bundle of nerves. Getting irritated is a matter of letting yourself get irritated. Form the habit of smiling at petty annoyances and of conquering great ones.

In-Shoots

Indifference is akin to laziness. Most every man can assist in answering his own prayers. If you must harbor a grudge, keep it in cold storage out of sight. One brand of reform consists in seeking amusement in new places. As a rule parents either abuse their children or treat them too well. Too much religion will destroy a man's talents as a horse trader. The non-hoarding patriot is the most desirable for any country. The man with the guinea-hen-laugh is the joy of the funny story-teller. Those who sow wild oats realize that the devil attends to the harvest. As a rule the fat woman is always complaining of a loss of appetite. City beautiful talk from the man who allows rubbish to accumulate in his back yard arouses no enthusiasm.

Bluing and Bleaching

The use of bluing is really an attempt to deceive the eye, to which a light blue appears whiter than a light yellow. Were it possible to have pure water, unlimited sunshine, and air free from dust, clothes would not need to be blued. Most of the bluing on the market contain iron, which in time produces a yellowish discoloration of the clothes. The indigo used by our grandmothers was preferable to modern bluing on account of being a vegetable compound, and it is still sold by first class stores. Blue streaks and spots, due to an excess of bluing, or to imperfect mixing, can be removed by soaking in a strong solution of ammonia, but the yellowish discoloration can only be overcome by a general bleaching process. Nature's chief bleaching agent is sunlight, and every housewife is familiar with its helpful action in whitening the fabrics which she spreads on the grass to bleach. Sunlight is not always available, however, and is slow at best, so we hasten the process calling chemicals to our aid.

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Do You Know That

Elias Howe, whose sewing machine was the first to come into popular favor, was not the originator of the idea, as an Englishman had made drawings of such a machine in 1790, and another was in operation in Paris as early as 1830. There are said to be more cattle in this country at the present time than ever before. Fully 60,000,000 coconut trees are under cultivation in Ceylon.

621 Residents of Nebraska

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