MISCELLANEOUS

To Purify the Air

Oil of lavender sprinkled over a few live coals will purify the air and cause an agreeable odor to permeate the rooms.

Alterations

February is the month in which to have all curtains, cover-scarfs, etc., laundered, mended and put in repair. Also such alterations made as are needed in the show room of the retail milliner. Everything should be spick and span for the opening of the Spring models which should come two weeks before Easter Sunday.

Flower-Basket Economy

I used to empty my wire flower baskets each fall and pay a florist to refill them in the spring. Now hang them in the cellar in the dark before the frost touches them, and water them about once a week. When spring comes, putting them for a week or two in the air and sun makes them more beautiful than ever.

Neat Lunch Boxes

Such convenient, compact tin lunch boxes can now be secured, that one's food may be kept not only perfectly clean, but moist until the noon hour. And if every employee is instructed to either burn or place in the sanitary receptacles provided for such, all the wrappings in which food is brought to the store there will be no inducement to ants, flies, roaches or insects of any kind to inhabit the work rooms.

Packing a Blouse

Much difficulty is often found in packing blouses. If folded in the following way, they can lie, closely packed, for a long time without looking crushed when taken out to wear. Lay flat on the table, front down, and fasten. Then fold back the sleeves, and pin to the blouse at the top and at the cuff to keep in position. Now fold back the foot of the blouse at the waist-line, and pin to make secure.
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To Restore Pearl Buttons

When pearl buttons look blurred they can be restored to their former brightness by rubbing with a chamois skin dipped into olive oil; then cover with nail powder and rub with a clean piece of chamois.

Waterproof Suit-Cases

Straw matting suit cases and shopping bags can be very much improved in looks and usefulness by a coat of cheap wagon varnish, which makes them waterproof. A good wetting will generally spoil them, but the varnish causes them to shed water like a duck. This should be done once a year.

To Steam Chiffon

Chiffons and mousseline de soie should be dipped in warm water, dried and then steamed in order to convert them into a material similar in appearance to crêpe de chine. Silk nets and all kindred materials should be similarly treated. Velvets, in steaming, should be brushed carefully, in the same direction always, in order to raise the pile and eradicate the creases. Buckram frames which have become limp and crushed will resume their former pristine stiffness and rigidity by being properly steamed. Metallic bands, beaded trimmings and other hard substances, likewise malines, are about the only articles of millinery merchandise not susceptible to a treatment of this kind.

Knowing what you have in stock, you can readily understand that with these few exceptions there are very few articles which cannot be beautified by a judicious application of the steaming process. Beaver cloths, beaver hats, and felt shapes take on new life and assume a freshness wonderful to behold.

Pasting Feathers

Those of us who have hats trimmed with the bird wings consisting of innumerable little feathers something like fishes' scales know how these drop off and what an unpleasantly bald appearance they give to our best hat trimmings. One woman has solved the problem by pasting them on as they come off. They were black in her case, and, so that the paste she used should not show.
she pasted them on the back with library paste on which she dropped black ink and let it soak in. This same plan can be followed with any color ink to match the feather, even the iridescent feathers (as these often are) being usually easy to match.

Another plan is to use court-plaster, although this is possible only with black and white feathers. The plaster must be cut in little strips and fastened in back to the cloth foundation, for feathers of this sort are always what is called "made," that is, stitched on to a backing of fabric in wing form.

**To Hide a Fence**

Plant morning glories along the fence and wind strings up and down the fence for them to cling to. Long wire nails driven into the fence will support twin or cord. Plant wild sage and salvia in front of the morning glories in two hedgerows. Both plants are scarlet, though of different shade. The sage is green during the summer, turns a pale cerise and finally a most beautiful red. This combination makes a very handsome fence covering.

**Extinguishing Gasoline Flames**

To extinguish gasoline flames, use milk instead of water. Milk forms an emulsion with the oil, whereas water only spreads it.

**To Keep Cut Flowers**

Cut flowers may be kept for a long time by burning their stems with a piece of wood or a candle flame. Seal the end with any vegetable gum. Place in water as usual. Chrysanthemums may be kept in good condition for a long time if treated in this manner.

**Winter Crocuses**

Crocuses may be had in winter if treated like the Japanese lilies. Put the bulbs in a shallow earthen dish of water half filled with pebbles. Keep them in a dark place for a little while, and then in the light, but do not set them in the sunlight until the flower-buds form, which will be in two or three weeks.

**Kid Glove Facings**

Economical women who have on hand a supply of evening gloves of which the finger portions are worn will be interested
in the Parisian fancy that just now prevails for giving a brim of kid facing to a fur-crowned hat. Wide-brimmed hats, too, are treated to a band of kid; but its principal use is upon hat forms with the other sort of crowns.

To Keep Evening Gloves Clean

To keep evening gloves clean in a street car or train draw a pair of loose white silk or lisle gloves over the kid. The outer gloves may be easily drawn off and slipped into muff or pocket.

How to Care for Gloves

There are right and wrong ways of putting on gloves. The right way does not injure them; the wrong way weakens and tears the skin or fabric in a very short time. Black kid gloves should be kept in paraffin or oiled paper. A black glove is a white skin painted. This paint will harden and dry if not properly cared for. All gloves should be kept away from salt or damp air as much as possible. They should be kept dry, but away from heat. Time and great care should be taken in putting them on the first time, so that the seams may not be stretched.

Long Gloves, Cut Off

Cut off the hand part of long gloves. The arm part is perfectly good. Take it to a glove factory, and have a short pair of gloves, that match in color, sewed on the arm part, or you can do it yourself, using a feather or embroidery stitch.

To Prevent Crushing a Hat

A woman may prevent a hat from being crushed by placing it upon a tumbler on the closet shelf or in the hat box. By following this plan the trimming will also be kept fresh under the brim.

To Bind a Felt or Straw Hat

Measure the brim of hat and cut bias pieces of velvet two and a half inches wide; join up to measure three inches less than hat brim. Turn in each edge a quarter of an inch, and herringbone lightly, taking care that the stitches do not show on right side. Snap the velvet over the brim, and it will keep in place without
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sewing on. Of course, this applies only to very firm felt or straw hats.

Hat Boxes

Nowadays attractive beflowered hat boxes may be readily procured, and three, or if necessary four—all of the same size and design—are bought for the stand. A single box fits into each division. The hat boxes must all be of the size of the largest hat, but if there are small hats two may be put into one box by fastening cushions to the sides of the box and pinning the hats to these.

If space is too limited to permit of this hat stand with the other necessary furniture, a very acceptable hat box may be made in combination with the writing table. A writing desk will not do for this purpose, but a writing table is quite as useful and comfortable.

For this purpose a rectangular table is best. It should have no drawer and it is necessary that it be a four-legged table. Of course a handsome mahogany table or one of other fine wood is not usually used for this purpose, but a table is selected which is to be enamelled or stained to match the room or which is already finished in a conventional way. It should have a shelf quite far down from the top, but if there is none one may be put in by a carpenter. The ridges are then closed in, the front opening on hinges. In this box or closet are kept the hats. The outside is enamelled to match the table and the inside is papered or lined with cheesecloth or with flowered crêpe paper. A cushion is tacked to each side of the box, and, if there be room, to the bottom also, and to these the hats are pinned.

In order that the table may be comfortable for writing the top should come out some distance beyond the legs and the hat box. It is necessary to have a fairly good sized table for this, but as it is to serve two purposes, the room may usually be spared. The top of the table is fitted as a desk and a wall cabinet hanging directly over it, quite low down, may be used for the cubbyholes so necessary for a complete desk equipment, or a set of small rectangular boxes covered with flowered paper may be set on the back of the desk.
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Hat Building Tips

From building the large bows and choux and swathing the folds of piece silk and satin to sewing in feathers and flowers, hat trimming, in fact, has entered a new phase, and many of the old theories on wiring, sewing and trimming have had to undergo some modification. The choice of a thread for sewing on the trimming is most important, a black hat or one in a dark shade, no matter whether it is made of silk, velvet or felt, requiring cobbler's shoe thread in preference to machine thread, however low a number may be available.

A good bow is always the test of a beginner's progress, nothing being, as a matter of fact, harder than to evolve a large and perfectly balanced bow whose loops spring evenly from the center. A professional milliner always in beginning to make a bow gives the thread three or four turns round the first loop without knotting the thread. When all the loops have been made she cuts it off about ten inches from the last turn and after threading the needle uses the loose end with which to sew the bow to the hat. If the ribbon has to be wired the wire should be sewed the full length of the loop, no considerations of time suggesting such an evasion of trouble as that of attaching the wire simply at the base, which causes it to work out of place with wear.

To bind the border of a hat with wire necessitates the use of No. 24 cotton, the stitches being carried slantwise over it, while care must be taken to prevent the stitches from being seen on the wrong side.

Hatpin Holder

To the making of novelties in hatpin holders there surely is no end, for the latest is a large rose made from ribbon in a color chosen to match other toilet accessories. The center is hollow and the rose is set on the top of a small glass vase about six inches high. The stem of the glass is concealed by green baby ribbon tied into knot, loops, ends, &c., so the effect is of a beautiful rose standing upright on the table.

The hatpins are, of course, passed through the hollow centre of the flower, the points going to the bottom of the vase.
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The Moth Pest

Probably no other pest works such havoc in millinery goods as the moth, unless it be the equally aggravating small fuzzy carpet beetle, or Buffalo bug. Though an exceedingly dangerous remedy in the hands of a careless person there is nothing more effectual than gasoline to use for these ravages.

Choose a clear bright day when doors and windows can be opened so the odor will quickly evaporate and be certain no open light or fire is burning about the place. Use an old teapot or long spouted oil can, pouring a small stream of the gasoline along baseboards, doors and window casings and all crevices where such small pests find lodgment.

A thorough application of gasoline will kill both the creature and its eggs, and do no harm to hangings, carpets or furnishings.

Should an old sofa or upholstered chair be suspected of harboring these pests, place it in an unoccupied room, tightly close every window and other opening and burn three or four sulphur candles in the room, lighting them all at once. Keep the room as nearly air tight as possible for twenty-four hours.

Frequently a large box can be utilized for this fumigating process and be eminently satisfactory. Paste strips of thick paper over each crack and set the sulphur candles in a tin basin or iron pot on the seat of the chair so there will be no danger of a fire. Place the lid on and cover with old carpet or tarpaulin to prevent the fumes from escaping.

The woodwork of the chair, if rubbed with a soft old cloth and equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine will look as good as new after the process.

Piece goods which are suspected of harboring moth eggs may be ironed with a hot iron to kill the animal life.

Goods should be frequently looked over and every precaution taken to prevent these pests from taking up their lodging in store or home, for once the festive moth or fuzzy carpet bug establishes his residence it is difficult to dispossess him.

Noisy Nuisances

Ill-fitting doors and windows represent a happy hunting ground
for the disturbing winds. In fact, so annoying does the constant rattling of these openings become that many a bad state of "nerves" has resulted therefrom without the sufferer realizing the cause.

The noise can be stopped by a small wedge of wood driven in at the side of an open window. A door can be prevented from rattling if a pad or strip of thick felt be nailed on the edge of the sill.

The annoyance of creaking drawers can be eliminated by rubbing common soap upon the top, sides and bottom of each. Very heavy drawers should have trunk rollers placed on them, which will roll on the bars on which the drawers now slide.

Creaking hinges on anything should be well oiled, while the grating, irritating noise of a sewing machine can be overcome in a similar manner.

The little noises wear away the patience that is required for other things. It is foolish to dissipate energy through the channels of irritated nerves when a little time will obviate the nuisances.

Mailing Papers

The next time you send newspapers or magazines by mail, if they have to be rolled, try the following plan: Lay a heavy thread lengthwise of the paper, with a short end hanging out, just before you paste the wrapper, and see if the recipient will not thank you when she finds how easily the paper is opened. Pulling the exposed end of the thread tears the entire length of wrapper.

Saving Silk Petticoats

A girl who knows says that she keeps her taffeta-silk petticoats from splitting by hanging them upside down. Put two ribbon loops on the wrong side at the top of the wide ruffle and hang the petticoat up by them. When it is possible, buy or make two silk petticoats at a time. By wearing them alternately, they will last far more than twice as long as one constantly worn.

To Take the Shine from Voile

The best way to get rid of the shine on a black voile skirt, perfectly good otherwise, is to sponge with warm water, into which a little ammonia has been dropped.
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An Embroidery Hint

When making the round holes for eyelet embroidery put a piece of soap under the fabric, and allow the stiletto to pierce through it. When the stiletto is withdrawn it will, being soapy, impart a slight stiffness to the material, which facilitates the making of very even, perfect embroidery.

Strew natural flowers on the cloth to be embroidered, remove them one at a time, drawing their outlines, to be filled with silks, in natural colors.

Statements

It is excellent business to send out statements once a month regularly to all customers who are indebted to you. It can be clearly understood that these are not urgent duns if that is necessary, but the routine of sending out bills the first of each month should not be neglected.

Suède Restorative

When the nap on suède shoes or gloves gets packed down or soiled, rub the article lightly with sandpaper. This will restore its good appearance.

The Value of Steam in the Workroom

The discovery of the power of steam was not necessary for the use or benefit of the milliners. The force and strength of the vapor is but little required. It is only necessary to have a very small amount of dry steam to work wonders in the atelier of the millinery establishment. Strange as it may seem, the most essential thing in any establishment of any pretension is in almost all cases entirely overlooked. There is nothing quite so absolutely necessary at all hours of the day as that there should be a supply of steam accessible to the help in the work room, and there are very few who apparently realize this and have at all times, a sufficient supply for ordinary purposes.

The most primitive methods are employed by the milliners in producing steam and then only in very small and limited quantities. It is the prominent feature of renovation and renewal of everything
which is used by artistic milliners for freshening up that which is old. It is almost beyond comprehension why so few are prepared to have upon short notice an adequate supply of that which is undoubtedly the most essential necessity known in the millinery world. Thin, dry steam is the only thing in the world that will put life and vigor into ostrich feathers. It is quite probable that the majority do not know that all feathers, before being placed upon the market, are starched just the same as a shirt or shirt waist. This starch dressing is affected by dampness in the feathers identically the same as any piece of wearing apparel. Many articles may be washed, cleaned and starched again, but it is not the case with the ostrich feathers. The process of doing this is entirely too long and tedious. Take the feather or plume between the thumb and forefinger. Shake it gently over a steaming cloth and instantly note the improved condition of the ostrich fibre. It imparts life, freshness and vigor. No feathers, under any circumstances, should ever be curled until they have been first thoroughly steamed. This has a tendency to straighten and loosen the flues and fibres and make them more pliable and less liable to be broken off.

Steam Silks and Ribbons

All silks, silk ribbons and materials of a similar kind and nature should be steamed instead of ironed. The weight and pressure of the hot-glazed surface moving back and forth upon the silk finished material or article has a tendency to produce a gloss. This is so evident that any one can easily discern that the ribbon has been refreshed and renewed. The use of steam absolutely obviates this and leaves no telltale impression upon its surface by which any one could discern that the life of the ribbon has been renewed by artificial means. It is quite true that if the steam is too wet that the ribbon will wrinkle and spot. Great care must be taken to prevent an occurrence of this kind.

For Straw and Braids

Straw hats and straw braids that have become brittle and show a disposition to be unruly can be better manipulated after a thorough treatment of good steaming.

To Hold Veil in Place

A number of clever expedients have been devised to hold a veil
snugly under the chin without giving it an ugly line. Here is one method which saves the veil also and involves hardly any trouble. Get the narrowest kind of round elastic, the same color as the veil (paint the white elastic with water colors for a colored veil) and whip it over the extreme edge of the veil, taking up only a single thread all around. Include any cut edges, but afterward pare them off neatly with a pair of small scissors. Fasten in back with a tight knot.

The veil is slightly gathered on the elastic, fits nicely under the chin and over hat, and stretches when it is raised. It seems the best solution of a vexing problem of dress.

Mourning Veils

Beautiful veils for mourning may be made by using black chiffon and bordering same with No. 7, 9 or 16 black taffeta ribbon. Each corner must be turned in a diagonal or bias outline. Many of the wide veils with black borders have two or three narrow strips of ribbon sewed up on the body of the veil in such a manner that the chiffon shows between each strip of ribbon and are frequently used for second mourning.

Chiffon Veils

Chiffon veils and scarfs frequently have edges of narrow Chantilly lace. Wide ties for little girls’ poke bonnets are often seen made of this all silk fabric. They should be renewed and restored to their former freshness by the use of steam. Great care should be taken in ironing chiffons as the hot, smooth surface of the sadiron is apt to produce an undesirable gloss. Rain spots and other water marks can only be eradicated by washing the material. These damp spots are due to the fact that the water destroys the dressing and it then becomes necessary to remove all of it. The reason that hot water must be used is that it causes the silk to full up.

To Weight Tall Vases

To weight tall vases fill them to a depth of several inches with white sand. This is often used in rose jars, and not only weights the jar, but helps support heavy-stemmed flowers. It keeps the water pure and needs only occasionally to be placed in a pan and baked to render it clean and sweet.
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To Prevent Candles from Dripping

Candlelight is one of the prettiest decorations we have, but they often make such a mess one hesitates to use them. You may avoid all this. If you freeze the candles before using, they will never run, and burn twice as long.

To Prevent Window Glass from Frosting

Apply a very thin coat of glycerine on both sides of the glass. This will prevent the formation of moisture.

Silver Powder

Nitrate of silver and common salt each 30 grains. Cream of tartar 3½ drams; pulverize finely, mix thoroughly, and bottle for use. Unequalled for polishing copper and plated goods.

To Clean Britannia Ware

Britannia ware should be washed with a woolen cloth and sweet oil, then washed in water and suds and rubbed with soft leather and whiting.

Electric Powder

Used for polishing gold and silver plated ware, German silver, brass, copper, glass, tin, steel, or any material where a brilliant luster is required. To 4 pounds of the best quality of whiting add ½ pound cream of tartar and 3 ounces of calcined magnesia. Mix thoroughly together. Use the polish dry with a piece of chamois skin or Canton flannel previously moistened with alcohol, and finish with dry polish. A few moments' rubbing will develop a surprising lustre, different from the polish produced by any other substance.