

# MAID AND MISTRESS

**A Woman's Question.**  
 Before I trust my fate to thee,  
 Or place my hand in thine;  
 Before you get your overcoat  
 Or help me on with mine;  
 Before I peril all for thee,  
 Question thy soul to-night for me.

Before we stir a single step,  
 Stand back and let me know;  
 Does my black skirt touch on the sides,  
 And does the white skirt show?  
 Speak now, lest at some future day  
 My whole life wither and decay.

Look deeper still within thy soul,  
 And let me learn my fate;  
 Am I all buttoned down the back  
 And is my hat on straight?  
 Let no false pity spare the blow  
 But in true mercy tell me so.

Gaze on my face and answer true,  
 Before we start to go,  
 Can'st thou detect the roseline  
 And does the talcum show?  
 If so at any pain or cost,  
 Oh, tell me now ere all is lost!

Nay, answer not; thou could'st not tell,  
 The words would come too late;  
 Get on thy hat and hurry up,  
 We haven't time to wait.  
 Whether in my heart may fall,  
 Remember, I must risk it all!  
 —Puck.

## Waiting for Some Man.

Woman has been handicapped through the ages by being brought up to think that there is not much worth while in life outside of marriage, writes Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine.

How many precious years and opportunities for growth, for life enlargement she has missed while waiting for marriage!

Even to-day, in this splendid age, we see young women everywhere with splendid possibilities who seem to be just waiting, waiting, waiting for what they have been brought up to believe is the supreme event of their lives. Many of them might broaden their education and improve themselves wonderfully while they are waiting for the right man to come along. Did they but know it, they are not half as likely to find the right man while waiting inactively as when they are vigorously preparing themselves for a large and useful life.

It is most unfortunate that any girl should be brought up to-day with the antiquated idea that marriage is everything, and that other things do not count much.

The traditions of the past, however, are rapidly falling away from the emancipated woman of the twentieth century. In this new era tens of thousands of girls have found glorious openings in all departments of life. Vast fields of usefulness are awaiting woman on every side. She is realizing that achievement is sexless; that she can be just as independent as man, and that there are just as many opportunities and fields of usefulness for her.

Who can estimate what this new era means to the plain girl, the girl with splendid mental powers, but who may be physically unattractive, or who may prefer a single life?

## Fads and Fancies in Dress

Pale-toned gloves are being worn in Paris more than white ones for smart afternoon dress.

Satin is best left untrimmed, although for afternoon gowns for spring it will be among the most popular fabrics.

Hats of fine coral chip, as well as the once more popular crinoline, will be seen, with wide-spreading brims curled up on one side.

A rather wide band of ribbon, brought up around the hair and tied in a broad, girlish bow at one side, is a French head finish much favored.

Dangles, tassels, fringes, all are in order, and passementerie drop trimmings may be found in all the modish colors and in the metallic, pearl, jet and crystal effects.

Metallic tissues and nets are being brought out in amazing variety. Every shade of gold, silver, gun metal and bronze is represented, and there are, too, all of the colors shot with metal.

Net girdles of wide soft mesh, embroidered boldly in ribbons (a lustrous fiber) and fringed with this same ribbons, are offered in many of the fashionable colors and in white, which may be dyed to any shade.

Raffle has been woven into extraordinarily smart bags and belts, the straw often being oddily but delightfully studded with semiprecious stones,

whose color shows attractively upon the soft shade of the straw.

Heads are no longer crinkled and ratted past all semblance of humanity. The simpler the better, say the knowing ones. If your "style" permits a demure wave flowing away from a classic center part, so much the luckier for you.

## Fancy Tucked Blouse.



The latest blouses are made with just such long pretty sleeves as these, and this model can be utilized both for the separate waist of net, thin silk, lingerie material and the like and for the entire gown. In the illustration it is made of fine lawn combined with banding of Valenciennes lace, and with hand embroidery worked in the squares formed by the design, but these squares can be filled with applied motifs if preferred, and for the trimming any banding is appropriate.

## Wives of the Presidents.

The wives of the Presidents are as follows:

Washington married Martha (Dandridge) Custis; John Adams, Abigail Smith; Madison, Dolly (Payne) Todd; Monroe, Eliza Kortwright; John Quincy Adams, Louisa Catherine Johnson; Jackson, Rachel (Donelson) Robards; Van Buren, Hannah Hoes; Harrison, Anna Symmes; Tyler, Letitia Christian; Polk, Sarah Childress; Taylor, Margaret Smith; Fillmore, Abigail Powers; second wife, Caroline McIntosh; Pierce, Jane Means Appleton; Lincoln, Mary Todd; Johnson, Eliza McCordie; Grant, Julia Dent; Hayes, Lucy Ware Webb; Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph; Arthur, Ellen (Lewis) Herndon; Cleveland, Frances Folsom; Harrison, Caroline Lavinia Scott; second wife, Mary Scott Dimmick; McKinley, Ida Sexton; Roosevelt, Alice Lee; second wife, Edith Kermit Carow; Taft, Helen Herron.

## Cracks in Floors.

There are three methods of filling cracks in floors. First, dissolve one pound of glue in two gallons of water. Stir into this enough fine sawdust to make a thick paste and fill the cracks with it. The paste may be colored to match the wood. Second, fill the cracks with putty. One can make the putty by mixing whitening and linseed oil together and kneading it until the paste is smooth. The putty may also be colored to match the wood. Third, soak finely shredded paper in water and boil it until it is soft pulp, and to every two gallons add one pound of glue. The cracks must be filled solid and even with the boards.

## To Overcome Boils.

A French doctor has had great success with scattering boils by applying at the first sign of inflammation compresses wet with equal parts of tincture of arnica, tincture of iodine and spirits of camphor. Continue until the trouble seems to be passed. If with the compresses one drinks sulphur water or red clover blossom tea, it will help to scatter the boils and overcome the tendency.

## How to Walk Gracefully.

Nearly every woman walks far too rapidly for anything like grace to enter into her movements. Tall women, for some reason, walk more slowly than little ones. Their elbows, shoulders and hips move from side to side with every movement of their feet.

If you want to be graceful, don't look at your feet, but hold your head well

up in the air. Don't shuffle. A little thoughtfulness and practice in high stepping will soon break you of this ugly habit. Don't bend your back at the waist, under the impression that you are thereby walking erectly. It throws the stomach forward, and is almost as inimical to grace as round shoulders. Finally, don't allow yourself to walk "pigeon-toed" — that is, with the toes turned in or straight. You can never be graceful in movement while you do.

## Your Sewing Machine.

Women who do not thoroughly understand the sewing machine often blame the machine when the fault of stiff running can be traced to not keeping the machine clean. Most persons think that liberal doses of oil are all that is necessary. Too much oiling is injurious, and oil where there has not been careful dusting is worse than none at all. It is not enough to give a surface dusting; the cracks and crevices must be kept clean. This can not be done with a cloth. Instead use a coarse silk thread, to draw back and forth through cracks to get out fine dirt that can not otherwise be removed. Care should also be taken that pins and needles do not slip into the shuttle part of the machine, as often they clog it and the cause can not be discovered for some time. It is a mistake to use a cheap oil, as it cokes and makes the parts sticky. Never let the machine stand uncovered when not in use; and guard carefully from dampness. Rubbing the running strap occasionally with a little vaseline or oil will make the leather wear longer.

## Perfuming the Hair.

There is a difference of opinion as to perfumed hair; some women, nice ones, too, think a faint, elusive, individual fragrance to the hair correct, while other women are strong in their condemnation of scented tresses.

If you are not one of the women who think perfumed hair vulgar, you may like to know how to impart an odor to it instead of paying to have it done by the hairdresser.

The best time is immediately after the hair is shampooed, while it is still slightly damp. Pour five or six drops of oil of lavender, oil of jasmine or oil of violet in the palm of your hand and rub it over the bristles of a clean, rather stiff hair brush.

Brush the hair thoroughly for five or ten minutes, and you will carry around for a week a faint, delicate fragrance.



A paste made of fine starch and a very little water spread on a bruised spot immediately after the blow will often prevent discoloration.

When the brows are thin and scant they should be rubbed with a drop of warmed almond oil or a very small quantity of pomatum of vaseline. This should be put on before brushing and shaping.

To keep the hands smooth and white soak them in sweet almond oil every night. Pour the oil in a bowl and immerse the hands for several minutes. Wipe gently with a soft towel and draw on loose white gloves for sleeping.

The habit of biting thread with the teeth, of using the teeth as a vise for removing corks, for cracking nuts or to supply a deficiency in tools is most unwise, and will surely cost the unwise person dear. It cannot be condemned too strongly.

A good treatment for white spots on the nails is a nightly application of a paste made of equal quantities of turpentine and myrrh. In the morning the nails should be wiped over with olive oil. If you are manicuring your nails yourself, you may be digging them too hard, thus causing spots.

## Pajamas for Children.

It has become the accepted thing to put little girls and boys in pajamas instead of nightgowns. They are warmer in the winter and cooler in summer than the long sleeping robe, and healthier at all times. These pajamas are made in striped flannel, in soft cotton, in crossbar dimity and striped China silk.

## For Tonsillitis.

Oil of eucalyptus for 10 cents—not tincture, but oil. To cure any affection of the air passages of the throat or lungs take 6 to 10 drops placed on sugar, and allow same to dissolve slowly and then swallow. Repeat every two to four hours, according to severity of the case.

## Polish the Furniture.

A furniture polish that is recommended by those who have tried it is made with one wine glassful of olive oil, the same quantity of vinegar, and two tablespoonfuls of alcohol. Apply with a soft cloth and polish with flannel.

## ENGLAND'S WEALTHIEST DUKES.

### Bedford and Westminster Head List in Territorial Possessions.

Speculation was rife a few days ago concerning the identity of the two millionaires who are credited in the statistical abstract of the United Kingdom with possessing between them the enormous sum of \$32,095,000, says the Montreal Star. These two fortunate persons are probably the dukes of Westminster and Bedford.

The Duke of Bedford, who is known among his intimates by the nickname of "Hatband," owns the larger portion of Bloomsbury and the whole of Covent Garden, including the market, which is reputed to bring him \$250,000 a year. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford care little for society, and the only occasions on which they appear are at rare intervals in the Bedford box at Covent Garden opera and at Prince's skating rink in Knightsbridge. At Woburn Abbey, their principal palatial residence, there are private zoological gardens. The Duchess of Bedford is a fellow of the Zoological Society. The duke is greatly taken up with all the varied interests of his property and is the author of a book on "The Management of a Great Estate."

It is doubtful whether the Duke of Westminster realizes exactly what he is worth. He is probably the most wealthy territorial magnate in the kingdom, counting among his properties the valuable Grosvenor estate, which is situated in the heart of the West End.

The Grosvenor family represents one of the few remaining sets in London society that may be described as strictly exclusive. They live in a world of their own. Outsiders for them do not exist, nor will they willingly tolerate the presence of any one who by birth and breeding does not belong to the privileged elect. This exclusiveness is probably the result of the successful marriages made by the Grosvenor girls into exalted families.

An idea of the duke's colossal wealth can be gained by an inspection of the splendid town mansion, which is a treasure house filled with objects of priceless value. Many people are content with a clock which costs a few dollars, but that which tells his grace of Westminster the hour possesses a pendulum which in itself is worth \$240,000, for it is set with forty-eight flawless diamonds, each valued at \$5,000. The Duke of Westminster is a popular sportsman, and is known among his particular friends as Bend Or, a nickname conferred on him to commemorate the famous race horse of that name, owned by his grandfather, the late duke. Socialists and others may forgive him his great wealth when it is stated that fancy foods have no favor in the Westminster household. Simple dishes are always provided, such as mutton cutlets, milk puddings, fruit tarts and so on. Much of his vast wealth is derived from ground rents. He grows rich because he can't help it.

## The Human Heart.

The heart of a man is a book—no, it is an encyclopedia of everything that has ever come within the range of its personal experience. It preserves an eternal record of all the stories in which it has played a part. It is strange what sad things may be hidden in its depth without giving any token of their existence. The heart may be gay and may send the smile mantling to the face, but all the while you see only the topmost stratum. If the graves beneath were to give up their dead the smiles would seem strangely out of place. It is just like this great earth of ours that renews itself year after year and has not on its surface any token to tell what is the simple truth—that it has given graves to 200 generations of human beings.—Farrell.

## Early Methods of Curing Skins.

The original process of curing skins was probably the simple one of cleaning and drying them. Removal of the hair by maceration in water seems to have been common among the very early tribes, and one writer has suggested that the idea was obtained from the natural process of depilation. They must certainly have been familiar with it in the case of drowned animals, where maceration can be plainly observed. Following this smoke, sour milk, oil and the brains of the animals themselves were found efficacious. Many of these primitive methods are employed in remote places at the present time.

## How They Met.

Accidentally they encountered each other for the first time at a railway turnstile.

"Let me pass!" haughtily exclaimed one of the two.

"No!" said the other, with equal haughtiness. "I am first, if you please!"

"O, you are, are you?"

"I am!"

"Indeed? Who are you?"

"I am the Gibson girl!"

"Then you shall go first on account of your age. I am the Harrison Fisher girl."

With a mocking smile the Harrison Fisher girl stepped aside and let the Gibson girl pass.—Chicago Tribune.



## Novel Egg-Breaker.

A Colorado man has invented an egg-breaker which reduces to a science the breaking of an egg and makes what was sometimes a painful operation an interesting bit of work. This device consists of an apparatus much like a pair of pliers, with long wire handles and semi-circular jaws, each equipped with tiny teeth at the end. Above and below the jaws are conical springs, forming a receptacle the shape of an egg. The egg is placed in these springs and by gripping the handles of the device the jaws press upon it, cutting through the shell as neatly as a man might cut a piece of fruit with a knife. The egg is thus opened not only without soiling the cloth, but without burning the hands, which was the inevitable experience in the old way.

## Dainty Potatoes.

Boil potatoes until thoroughly cooked, mash and stir in egg and one cup of milk, a teaspoonful of salt and a pinch of pepper. Roll potatoes into balls the size of a tennis ball. Make a cup out of a lettuce leaf twisted and put in one ball. Arrange leaves and balls in a flat dish with slices of hard-boiled eggs around edge and a sprig of parsley. Serve with roast beef.

## Eggs and Oysters.

Beat up three eggs, add one tablespoonful of cream and a seasoning of salt and pepper. Melt one tablespoonful of butter in a saucepan. When it is hot pour in the egg mixture and stir over a slow fire. When it is just beginning to thicken add twelve oysters and continue cooking the mixture till it is a soft, creamy mass. Serve as quickly as possible on toast.

## Sponge Candy.

Put together in a saucepan two cups of granulated sugar, one cup of New Orleans molasses, a half cup of water, a tablespoonful of vinegar and a small bit of butter. Boil until a little dropped into cold water is brittle, then taken from the fire, stir in a spoonful of baking soda and, while foaming, turn into greased dishes to cool. Do not oull.

## Pumpkin Bread.

Stew a good-sized pumpkin as for pies, mash fine and make stiff with flour. Add a teaspoonful of salt. Mix well and turn into a greased bread pan, and bake in a slow oven for three hours or more. This may be eaten hot or cold, but is best when cold; it is cut into thick slices and fried, then served with jelly or a sweet sauce.

## Stewed Beets.

Cook six medium-sized beets. When soft peel and chop in dice. Take water and vinegar, salt and pepper to taste, one dessertspoonful of sugar, butter the size of a walnut. Cook all together fifteen minutes, then thicken with flour to the consistency of cream. Serve in side dish as a vegetable.

## To Prepare Vegetables.

Place all long vegetables, such as asparagus, carrots, parsnips and salsify, in cold water to make them crisp, then put on board and scrape from you. A great quantity of vegetables can be prepared in a short space of time, besides leaving the hands absolutely stainless.

## How to Use Sage.

When preparing dressing for poultry sage is generally used, and the stems and leaves are found so disagreeable in the dressing. A good way of preventing this is to steep a tablespoon of sage in half cup of boiling water. This can be strained right into the dressing.

## Candied Peelings.

Cut into strips after removing the white membrane. Soak in cold water for two hours, then wipe dry. Boil two cups sugar with one of water until the syrup threads. Dip the strips of peel in this and lay on oiled paper in the sun or warming oven to dry.

## To Keep Eggs from Bursting.

Eggs when boiling frequently burst. This is caused by their being too full of air, and may be prevented by pricking one end with a needle before putting them into the water. This makes an outlet for the air.

## Short Suggestions.

Keep tacks in bottles. It saves opening many boxes to find a particular kind.

For the roast of cold lamb course serve an egg sprinkled with minced mint leaves.

Covering the pan when fish is frying is apt to make the fish soft. A solid, firm meat, that is at the same time flaky, is what the good cook likes.