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A Modern Version of the Hope Box

By N. Beth Bailey

Do YOU love to look at pretty dishes, linen, and silver? I do! Just to see a quaint Royal Doulton tea pot gives me a thrill and why shouldn't it? It is instinctive for a woman to enjoy pretty table appointments. And it is often true that a woman expresses her personality more exactly in the selection of her linen, silver, and dishes than in any other of her house furnishings.

Right at first, let me say that a girl should not wait until she is 21 or 22 before she begins to collect these things. The business woman of today soon finds out that she has a real need for fine china, linen and silver. Of course, she is hesitant about getting too many. But it is the safest to start early.

In buying silver, decide between sterling or plated ware, according to the purse. We all want sterling, but the price is often prohibitive. If buying plate, be sure it is of no less than triple plate or it will not give long service. It is also advisable to see a whole chest of silver because even tho one likes the design, the shape of certain pieces may be ugly, or some pieces may not be comfor-table to use.

So my advice to the high school girl is, pick out a pattern of silver that you like best of all and then, let your choice be known.

Dishes come next in importance to silver. The only trouble with dishes is that they are hard to pack. For this reason, the business woman is usually hesitant about getting too many. But it is such a temptation when the stores are full of gay patterned china and semi-porcelain.

Semi-porcelain is not expensive and we find lovely designs in Wedgewood and Royal Doulton dishes. This stony ware crackles with hard use so that it is not suitable for continuous service but it is splendid for teas, breakfasts and luncheon.

The first piece of china I bought was an Old Leeds Spray Royal Doulton tea pot. I thought it was the quaintest thing and just had to have it. That was eight years ago. The little tea pot has traveled with me in my trunk on many move-nings and journeys and today it remains the same charming little pot. Of course, my Old Leeds Spray family grew gradually, first to a card table service, and now it has blossomed into a full sized breakfast set, thanks to my friends! These same friends love my Old Leeds Spray too, because they, the Old Leeds, and I have had many good times together.

You see, I don't believe in packing one's treasures away in a hope box wait-ing for prince charming. Too often the prince is so slow in coming and at times he gets lost entirely! For one, am going to live every day with my pet pos-sessions. My silver will last a life time, and if I should break a cup, it is replace-able.

That thought leads to the question of selection of china. If one chooses a pattern from open stock, it is possible to keep the numbers complete. It would be quite a tragedy to break a cup of a special tea set and know one would never be able to replace it. Dishes like silver may be good or bad in shape as well as design. It is therefore wise to look at a number of pieces before starting out to accumulate a certain pattern.

As to makes of china, there is a mar-velous selection of dishes now in our stores. We find excellent china made in United States by the Syracuse Company. There is a wide variety of patterns in this moderate priced china and it is so suitable for continuous use. For beauti-ful china, there is none made more lovely than the Lenox ware with its creamy background, its original designs, and its perfect flat or enameled colors. The Ming and the Autumn patterns of Lenox ware are very popular and though this is expensive, most any of us can start a salad or dessert service by buying one plate.

English ware offers many quaint old patterns in semi-porcelain but we also find the finest porcelains in Minton, Wedgewood, and Royal Doulton ware.

Today, Haviland is again coming into our stores, but it has strong competition for first honors. There are other French chinens made at Limoges that may just be the right ware for certain uses.

There are two other centers of pottery making that turn out beautiful china; they are Sèvres Bavaria and Japan. Both countries are putting out a high grade of china with a wide variation in price.

So to the girl who wants to make a little home of her room, I suggest that she begin with less expensive semi-porcelain or possibly china. It may be quite nerve wracking to pack a Lenox plate at $3.50 per, but one can feel quite free (Continued on page 18)
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with a basket Wedgewood plate costing less than $1. As one's room develops into an apartment or as one's plans develop into a real home, these less expensive dishes may be supplemented with more expensive china.

One thing more about dishes. Don't buy all uninteresting gold band dishes. Opalescent colors and pretty designs add so much to the charm of the meal especially if that meal is a little one. It is at a large table set with many dishes that one must be careful to not over do the decorative effects. For this reason, in equipping a home, a girl finds a need for dishes of a small conventional design that will stand the test of constant use.

In grandmother's day, a little girl, of ten began to hem her linens. These were stored in blue paper with scented pads until the eventful time when the young woman established a household.

But these times have changed. Consider the girl of today who has laid in a supply of table cloths, only to find that the round patterned cloths do not fit the new oblong tables. Or that the lovely round Madera doilies are not nearly so fashionable today as the oblong service doilies of Italian Mosaic. The fact is that styles in linen change almost every year, so that no girl should buy too much to store away.

Never before has there been such a choice of linens to suit every occasion and every purse. Today, a girl's linens show her own fancies. There are runners, oblong doilies, and lunch cloths made of coarse or of fine linen, in natural, white or colors. Often these linen pieces are so simple that anyone can make them. It is cleverness and originality that count.

But remember, styles change rapidly. No girl should lay in a supply of many of these novelty sets even though she is buying for immediate use in her own home. Select these sets with care, consider the ease of table service, the laundering qualities, and the changing modes. We all have seen the passing of the crocheted sets, the Cluny lace, and similar fads. The use of unbleached muslin and other non-linen cloth soon lost favor because these fabrics did not launder easily and in the long run were more expensive than the coarse linen textiles.

Madera embroidery, if on fine linen, seems to stand the test of time very well. At present the flæt inserts used to add great charm to the embroidery. But behold, Dame Fashion has decreed the luncheon napkins be eighteen inches instead of fifteen, and some of our old napkins look so small.

Today, the best luncheon sets are in Mosaic, Italian drawn work, fillet and Madera alone, real in combination. But who will say what the next two years will bring forth.

For inexpensive linens we must not overlook the gay colored breakfast cloths of Irish and German make, or the English block prints on natural colored linen. The Japanese cloths have long been used even though the napkins are but a hint at real napkins.

Shall the modern young woman spend hours stitching on fine linens? If you value your eye sight, don't! Too often after days of close work one finishes the piece but to find that the color, the shape, or something else is quite passe and oh the pathos of such a discovery!

Of course a truly beautiful table cloth is a joy forever, the loveliest clothes come in patterns of 2, 2½, 3½ or more yards long and of carrying widths costing 15c and up. Most young women will not be apt to over buy at this price—but it is all the more necessary to have the cloth fit the table.

And so to monograms on linens! What atrocities have been committed in this line. There is not one woman in fifty who should dare attempt to embroider an initial on fine linen. And of all things, fashion is most capricious in the shape, size, and placing of such markings. Fortunately, at present, there is a tendency toward less marking of linen. If the monogram adds to the beauty of the piece of linen, well and good; but present prices of linen do not permit amateur experimenting.

And so we business women in our little nooks can gather about us silver, china and linens that are very personal and very characteristic. We add to these treasures bit by bit as we can
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and we take such joy in our possessions that friends and families are never at a loss for Christmas suggestions.

Shall the modern girl start a hope box? No, and yes! If that hope box has a lock, and smells of lavender, and if it is in her room at home filled with hopes and dreams of a distant day, then I say "No!" But if that box or cupboard holds linen, silver, and dishes that she loves, and if she lives with these possessions and uses them to make her room and her every day more livable than I say "Absolutely Yes!" A woman loves pretty linen, silver, and dishes and every woman should hold linen, silver, and dishes that she loves.

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Canning Early Fruits and Vegetables

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Cubed rhubarb, one package of raisins, two oranges and one-fourth pound almonds. Spiced rhubarb is also a general favorite.

In England and our country also, the experiment of using a very small amount of salt for part of the sugar in making jam and marmalade has been successful. The proportions used were three-fourths cup sugar and one-half tablespoon of salt for part of the sugar in making a product less rich and sickening than is well to watch your early beets is for loss of color, although there is well to watch your early beets for loss of color, although. The older the beet the more chance there is for loss of color, altho well-canned beets show a slight loss of color when removed from the cooker, but will brighten up in a few days.

When preparing the beet leave one inch of the stem and all of the root while blanching, and blanch not more than six minutes. Never peel beets, but scrape the skin off with a dull knife or rub off with the fingers. Beets more than two inches in diameter should be sliced or cubed.

Firm small-sized carrots not more than one and one-half inches in diameter make attractive packs either whole or sliced. An unusually attractive pack is made by placing the circles in layers, putting the second layer into the space left by the first layer, and repeating until the jar is filled. The center should be filled in as each outside layer is placed against the glass.

Greens are spring tonic which may be canned to serve the year round. Don't let the dandelions, spinach, swiss chard or even the beet tops get old and dry before you put away a supply. They are prepared in much the same way as other vegetables are, but use care in selecting fresh, green, healthy leaves and can them the day they are picked. Thoroughly clean, place in a crate or cheesecloth, and blanch in live steam, either in improvised or regular commercial steamer for fifteen minutes. Cold dip, place on the table and cut into strips of convenient length. Pack tight in jars, but unless the product is thoroughly blanched be very careful not to pack too tightly as the heat may not penetrate and the product is apt to spoil, add hot water and season to taste. The addition of boiled bacon, chipped beef or even olive oil will sometimes improve the flavor. If meat is added the time of sterilization must be the time required for meat, or the product will spoil.

After removing your jars from the hot water bath, set on a damp cloth to keep them from cracking and keep out of cold drafts. Turn the jars upside down to test for leakage.

What a reward of labor to see the rows of neatly labeled jars in your preserve closet, and how your family will appreciate your efforts to preserve the good things that spring brings, for all the year round.

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