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White Goods Sales

By LOUISE STEBBINS

WHITE Sales! White Sales! Buy during the White Sales and save—no better time to buy towels, sheets, pillow cases, pillow sham, or anything, than during the White Sales. White sales are an annual affair for department stores. It is the time of the year when these stores are closing out their odds and ends in preparation for the new supply. The style in linens does not change from year to year so if you buy during sales it does not mean you are getting out of date things. It is truly a place of real bargains. But would it be economy for you if you attended one of these White Sales? Miss Smith spied the prettiest piece of yellow satin just a remnant it was, but so cheap she just could not resist buying it. She took it home, proud of her bargain, and laid it carefully away on the closet shelf, where it still reposes after two years. Perhaps there is not so much danger in buying unusable remnants in household linens, but there are other mistakes we must avoid. So before you venture into the chaos and confusion of the January White Sales be sure to fortify yourself with the following protectors:

Your need should be definitely known, or your fate may be similar to Miss Smith’s. How many sheets and pillow cases do I need? is a question well worth considering. Every housewife must in the end decide for herself to fit her own particular needs, but there are some general rules that will help her. Every household should have two sets of sheets and pillow cases for each bed. It has been found to be real economy to have more, since the sheets will wear better if they are alternated. We scarcely ever have too many towels, but it is possible to get along nicely with three bath towels per person and four hand towels, and two dozen dish towels. Every household should have one large tablecloth for company dinners, while the table is larger than ordinarily, two tablecloths for every day use if luncheon sets are used for breakfast and luncheon, or four tablecloths if no sets are used. We should allow at least three napkins per person. Now that we have decided how many we must have, if we take an inventory of what we have on hand it will be only a matter of a little problem in arithmetic to know how many we must buy, not forgetting to make allowance for those that will give out during the year.

After number, sizes of these different articles must be determined. In planning for sheets it is best to allow 10-12 inches lap on every edge to insure width enough to tuck in nicely. Sheetting by the yard may be bought in desired length, usually 2 1/2 yards, and it comes in five widths, indicated usually by the quarter yard. Widths are from six quarters or fifty-four inches wide, to ten quarters or ninety inches wide. Pillow ticking may also be purchased in various widths, the standard ones being 36, 40, 42 and 44 inches. Corresponding widths in flat material and also ready made cases come in these sizes. The size of the pillow cases will depend upon the size of the pillows.

Toweling when purchased by the yard may be found in varying widths, ranging from 16 to 27 inches. The length will de-
think of when attending a white sale is judging the quality of the cloth. It is very hard to lay down rules for judging these materials, for tests which might be used in the home are not applicable as when judging over the bargain counter. Cotton sheets and pillow cases should be closely woven, should feel smooth and soft, should show no difference on the right and wrong side, and the threads should be regular and smooth. If it is hard and starchy one should beware, for no doubt it has a great deal of sizing in it. Rub the cloth between your fingers and you will be able to rub much of this out and upon examining the cloth again it will look very coarse and loosely woven where before it seemed closely woven and firm. There are several standard qualities which sell in the nine quarter width from $.70 to $.75 per yard in bleached sheeting. The unbleached of the same qualities is from five to ten cents cheaper on the yard. Pillow tubing in the 42 inch width and of the same quality as the sheeting is from $.45 to $.50 a yard. It has been found by three scientific investigations that ready made sheets and pillow cases cost little more than when we buy the material and make them. If one considers the time it takes to make them, it is just as cheap to buy them ready made. It is important to be sure that they are "torn sheets" which means that the material has been torn in lengths rather than being cut, and insures a straighter product after laundering. Linen sheets and pillow cases are probably the best, but for most of us they are out of the question because of the cost. We may console ourselves because linen sheets wrinkle and become mussed very easily. Next to linen in desirability comes percale, but it, too, is too expensive for use in the average family.

Linen has many advantages over cotton for table use. It is much more durable than cotton. A hotel carried out an interesting experiment to determine the durability of cotton and linen tablecloths. They found that the linen ones wore six times as long. Linen for tablecloths had the advantage over cotton, too, in that spots are much more easily removed from it, and it does not become yellow or dingy with the same degree with cotton. Linen is harder to judge than cotton because it is often adulterated with a cheap fiber. The threads in the finest linen are flat and smooth and have a decided luster. If we hold a piece of linen up to the light and look across the flat surface there is no fuzz as in cotton material. If there is fuzz you may be sure the material has some cotton in it. It used to be a common practice to test linen by dampering the finger and placing it against the cloth. If the moisture went through the material we said it was linen, but today there are many mercerized cottons which will give the same test, while linen with sizing will not respond.

There are two distinct types of linens, the single damask and the double damask. The double damask is different in that it has more filling threads than the single and is therefore heavier. It is also reversible. The double damask is practically always of good quality. After all, the safest thing to do when buying linens is to buy from a reliable house. Table linens vary in price according to the pattern, whether single or double damask, the grade of yarn used, and the process of construction. Table linens by the yard are much less expensive than by the cloth. Linen in the pattern cloth sells for $1.25 to $1.50 per yard and up while the same grade in yard linen sells for $2.50 per yard and up. It is much better to use linens of small patterns, as dots or fine stripes, than the large and intricate patterns. One should avoid wide satin stripes for such a table cloth is very difficult to launder. It is a saving in our pocketbook, both in the original cost and in the laundry bill, to use breakfast sets and luncheon sets for these respective meals. These sets may be purchased ready made or they may be made quite inexpensively and yet be very attractive. Linen sheeting pur-

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chased in desired width and length and commercially hemmed makes a most attractive and comparatively inexpensive set. Indian Head and other similar materials may also be used and they too are very pretty and serviceable.

Now, if you do know just what you need and have a fair knowledge of materials and their prices, you need not fear the whites and very likely you will be amply rewarded for your time spent in preparation for, and in attending, one of these sales.

Books Girls Like

(Continued from page 6)


Tragic story of Amy Robart, wife of Queen Elizabeth's favorite, the Earl of Leicester.

Stevenson, R. L. Treasure Island. Illus. by N. C. Wyeth (Scribner) $2.50.

Always a favorite.

Teasdale, Sara. Rainbow Gold. Illus. by D. Walker (Macmillan) $2.00.

This is a very lovely collection, includes poems by modern poets.


The adventures of a prince who finds himself in the lattered garments of a poor boy and of Tom Canty, who finds himself in the prince's attire.

Van Dyke, J. C. How to judge of a picture. (Chautauqua Press) $.75.

Van Dyke, Henry. Story of the other wise man. (Harper) $.75.

A good Christmas Story.

Waller, Mary E. Daughter of the rich. Illus. by E. Shippen, Green Elliott (Little) $2.00.

Story of a rich young girl who spent a year on a Vermont farm.

A LIST FOR GIRLS FROM 6 TO 14 YEARS

Addington, Sara. Boy who lived in Pudding Lane, illus. by Gertrude A. Kay. (Little) 1.75

Belongs to a true account, if only you believe it, of the life and ways of Santa, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Carroll, Lewis. Alice's adventures in Wonderland, illus. by Tenniel. (Macmillan) 1.75

The most thoughtful of all nonsense books.

Colin, Padraic. Adventures of Odyssaeus and The Tale of Troy. Illus. by Willy Pogany. (Macmillan) 2.00

Retold from the Iliad and the Odyssey in excellent narrative style and well illustrated.

Craig, Dinah M. Little Lame Prince. Illus. by Dunlap. (Rand) 1.50

How the "Little Lame Prince" took wonderful journeys in his magic cloak. Hope Dunlap's pictures add much to this story.

Dore, Daniel. Life of Robinson Cruso, Illus. by E. Boyd Smith 2.50

One of the books that six and sixty enjoy equally.

Grimm's fairy tales, illus. by Crane. (Macmillan) 1.75

Hale, Lucretia, P. Peterkin Papers. (Houghton) 2.50

"Twenty-two funny stories of the un-successful efforts of the Peterkin family to become wise." C. E. Hardy.

Kipling, Rudyard. Just so stories. (Doubleday) 1.90

How the camel got his hump, how the whale got his tiny throat, etc.

Lofting, Hugh. Story of Dr. Dolittle, Illus. by the author. (Stokes) 2.00

One of the most delightful nonsensical stories in print. The doings of the queer, kind doctor and his animal patients are enjoyed by people from five to ninety years.

MacDonald, George. At the back of the North Wind, Illus. by Maria L. Kirk. (Lippincott) 1.50

Modern fairy tale so beautiful in character and so interesting to children that Josephine Daskam Bacon said that there should be a society founded to see that every child should own a copy.

Morley, Margaret W. Donkey John of the Toy Valley. (McClurg) 1.50

About a little wood-carver who lived in a high mountain valley where all the villagers cared for children.

Olcott, Frances J. Bible stories to read and tell. (Houghton) 2.50


Stevenson, Robert Louis. Child's garden of verses, illus. by Storer. (Scribner) 1.00

This beloved book needs no comment.

Stevenson, Burton E. Hogue book of verse for young folks, Illus. by Willy Pogany. (Holt) 3.00

If you can afford only one poetry collection for the children, buy this.

Wiggin, Kate D. and Smith, Nora A. Tales of laughter. (Doubleday) 1.75

A large collection from all countries, stories that are food for brightening young minds and waking gay laughter.

Williams, Margery. The velveteen rabbit. (Doran) 2.00

About a toy rabbit, loved to pieces by his little owner.

Working Surface Heights

(Continued from page 5)

amount of energy spent by the average housewife today, in the mechanical round of housekeeping and meal preparation is robbing her and her family of the things that make living most worth while, she should stop and take an inventory of her working conditions.

Along with the improvement of working surface heights will come better health for the housewife. The aching back and cramped shoulders and chest that the stooped position has brought about will give way to better health and posture, and an increased joy in work and in that free time spent away from the mechanical activities of the home.

Three Iowa State people are on the teaching staff of the Chazy central rural school on the banks of the Hudson River, N. Y. They are Berton Tilton, Voc. Ag. 52, Dorothy Cook, H. Ec. 24 and Miss Rosalind Cook who studied music and taught piano in the music department of the college.

Mrs. Johnson of Spokane, Wash., mother of Miss Elizabeth Johnson of the Applied Art department, has come to spend the winter with her daughter in Ames. Miss Johnson studied at Columbia University this summer and she and her mother motored from Ames to New York and back.