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The Tragedy of Errors

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The Tragedy of Errors

By Marjorie W. Smith

Former Instructor in Applied Art

THE co-eds, Susie Short and Tilly Tall were standing by the Post Office chatting of form and fashions, when Ada Stout came waddling toward them, puffing, red-faced and perspiring. Ada was wearing a small, close-fitting hat, brimless in front and with a low-hanging brim across the back which interfered greatly with the long-haired fur collar on her big plaid coat. Since she was very warm, she was unbuttoning her coat, revealing a large-patterned pink dress.

Ada (gaily): What are you discussing so seriously? You look as though the end of the world were going to happen within ten minutes.

Tilly Tall (gloomily): Well, if you knew all the things that were wrong with you, you'd look sick too.

Susie Short (interrupting before Ada's sensitive soul could be offended): Yes, we are just about ready to give all our clothes to the Salvation Army and start in again with a brand new wardrobe. You see a lecturer has just been telling us how to correct our physical defects by the right use of line in dress.

Ada (cheerfully): Sounds good. Let's hear about it.

Tilly, who was slightly stooped because of her desire to appear shorter, straightened up and threw back her shoulders.

Tilly: The lecturer said that round-shouldered folks like me should never wear collarless dresses, for that kind reveals a thin neck, and makes the curve of the shoulders more apparent. She also said that sway backs like mine should never wear a dress close-fitted in the back nor should long arms with big hands be fitted into close-fitting sleeves.

Ada (staring in wide-eyed amazement): Well what under the sun should you wear?

Tilly (looking at her sadly): I must wear loose, softly gathered sleeves with a bow at the wrist or a cuff over the wrist-band to widen the bottom of the sleeve. I should wear a slightly bloused waist too, and it will straighten the curve of my back.

Ada Stout (eagerly): Well, what's the matter with the neck line?

Tilly (pulling her crepe scarf up a bit

more closely around her throat): I'll never wear another collarless dress. I see now how scrawny and long my neck must look. After this you'll see me with a collar rather wide and soft. It must be one that doesn't fit up too closely in the back of my neck, for I guess that style will help conceal my round shoulders.

Susie Short had been waiting rather impatiently to talk about her own physical shortcomings.

Susie: Yes, isn't it funny, all the things that Tilly should wear are all the wrong things for me. I've discovered that a slight girl like me who is rather flat-chested and narrow hipped, should wear softly gathered styles and avoid tailored effects. I should wear cascade ripples, wide soft-looped bows or pleated or ruffled jabots on the front of my waist. Tilly Tall's trimmings should be in the back, while mine are to be on the front. I can wear collars that are wide in front, but not high in the back. I can wear capes, too, because they help to widen my narrow shoulders.

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Where Toothbrushes Grow on Trees

By Nellie Goethe

THE Hindu girl is very devoted to her religion, and she attaches a religious significance to all the occurrences of daily life," said Miss Phyllis Harley, Bombay, India, who is a member of the staff of the Women's University Settlement, in her address to the home economics girls on India women and their habits of living. "Every child is initiated into her religion," she said. "Women carry sacrifices of fruits, vegetables, etc., to the god in the house."

Miss Harley, an Englishwoman, has been awarded the first fellowship by the International Committee of the American Home Economics Association. She is making a three months tour of the United States, and is studying home economics and social work.

The typical home in India has no bed or furniture, except for, perhaps, a wooden cot and a square stool. A large brass plate containing the food is placed upon the stool, and, according to Miss Harley, they eat with their fingers. They are carefully taught how to do this, and must not soil the back of the hand or fingers.

"The typical diet of the Hindu girls is vegetarian because of the sanctity of



Miss Phyllis Harley

animal meat," remarked Miss Harley. "The Hindu believes that we don't give

life, therefore, we can't take it." She explained that this sanctity included not only the flesh of animals, but also eggs. Before a Hindu girl will try a new Western food, she will ask, "Are there eggs in it?" If there are not, she will taste the food.

"Rice is the staple food of India," added Miss Harley, "although fruits and vegetables are also eaten. I believe," she commented, "the diet does need to be studied, for there is a great deal of illness and tendency to illness."

"The Hindu girl doesn't need a tooth brush and tooth paste," said Miss Harley. "A twig of a tree that grows there makes a suitable tooth brush, and the acid it contains cleans the teeth."

India has no system of sanitation. People, called sweepers, come into the homes and remove the refuse and rubbish. "No one else will stoop to do this task," she explained, "so for this reason the sweeper can command any pay she wants."

Miss Harley is associated with the
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or yellow or rose should be placed where they will harmonize with the planting.

Gray-barked dog wood may be grouped with clumps of golden-barked or red-barked varieties. The last mentioned, *Siberica*, by name, has coral-red bark and white flowers followed by porcelain-blue berries.

Some of our questions on gardening are answered in two good books to be found in nearly every library:

Home Flower Culture by Prof. E. C. VOLTZ.

The Garden Month by Month by Mabel CAOT SEDGEWICK.

Briefly stated the points stressed in this article have been: Plant for the view out of doors as if it were another room, for a continuous supply of fresh flowers and for winter bouquets in those colors that will complete the color harmony within your home. Suit the color, texture and line to the container and to the place of its use. Choose the most permanent materials available. Experiment with color harmonies in the garden and in cut flower arrangements.

When the time comes to plant, with plans in mind and plants in hand, let us put on a smock the right color, of course our gloves and sun shade, and go to work in that warm rich soil. We can let go all nervous tension and lose ourselves completely, to find new life in the gifts of the garden, only one of which is its glorious gift of color.

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Ada (curiously): Can you wear collar-less dresses?

The Short Coed: Yes, my neck is short but not too thin. Oh, yes, and I must wear softly gathered sleeves to conceal my thin arms but never sleeveless numbers. I could wear a net bertha or a cape with that sleeveless dotted voile, though, couldn't I? I'm glad I like full skirts and ruffles, for I guess they are just right for my type. And thank goodness I can wear plaids, although I must be careful, of course, not to get too big plaids as they call attention to my thinness.

Ada gave instant attention at the mention of plaids.

The Plump One: Well, stout people like me can wear plaids, can't they?

Susie (looking whimsically at the big plaid coat on her plump friend): No, big plaids must be worn only by the average figure.

Ada (in a grieved tone): Oh, I do love plaids. But what did she say about those printed dresses? Do you s'pose she would say my dress has too large a design?

Susie (regretfully): Yes, I'm afraid she would. She said that stout girls

must avoid the large patterned fabrics, and that the tall ones could wear them better than any other type. The fine, small prints were suitable to my type and your type could wear a medium sized figure if the design were not in sharp contrast to the background.

Ada (blushing but game): Tell me more.

Tilly Tall (interrupting): You, Ada, can wear what I can't. I must wear lines that will be horizontally placed across my costume and you must avoid them. Short stout people, whose necks are short, should never wear long-haired fur collars on coats, nor deep cuffs. Tailored necks are best, it seems, and if a fur must be worn, it should be one that is short-haired like beaver or perhaps mink. Was there anything else you wanted to know?

Ada was at first too busy making mental notes of all these corrections of her physical defects to answer.

Ada (finally): What did she say about the long skirts that everybody is wearing?

Susie: Well, she says that the long flared skirts are becoming to nearly every girl but that the long skirts with even hem lines are better for the short girl than any other type, as they suggest length of limb. They also help to conceal thick legs and ankles. The skirt which is long in the back and short in the front only calls attention to ugly ankles.

Ada (grinning): Well, I'm glad that I met you. I'm just going to get a dress and now I know what not to get.

Tilly and Susie: Power to you. We'll be doing the same soon.

Child Health May Day

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That does not have prompt and efficient medical attention and inspection.

That does not receive primary instruction in the elements of hygiene and good health.

That has not the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body.

That has not the encouragement to express in fullest measure the spirit within which is the final endowment of every human being."

This Bill of Rights aims at a high goal, which, if reached, would go far in realizing the dream of America—that of making American youth strong and well.

And what part can we, college coeds, play in furthering this great movement? Doubtless all of us have small brothers, sisters, nieces or nephews. Why not write home to them personally (my! how it would thrill them) and tell them about what a wonderful thing this May Day is going to be? Tell them to enter the spirit of the day, have an examination, and be in the pageant. If big sister at college thinks it's the thing to do, then Jimmie or Mary Jean will straightway become interested and spread the news to the "neighbor kids."

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