To Gather or Scatter Dust

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Individuality in Dress

By IDAMAE MILES

HOW often have we heard people say, "She has marvellous clothes; they're so individual." And how often do we sigh and say, "Oh, yes, but she has a special knack for doing the original thing."

Perhaps if we were to look more deeply into the situation, we should discover that after all it doesn't require much talent to have one's clothes reflect that little touch which gives them an individual stamp, and sets them quite apart from others of their kind. A little care and thought are the main requisites for acquiring this much-desired individuality in dress. The secret is this. Choose some one thing of beauty which especially appeals to you, pick out its essential bits of decoration, and adapt these in a suitable fashion to the frock—if it be a frock—to which you desire to impart that elusive touch of original charm. Perhaps this may be best shown by an illustration.

The attractiveness of this heavy, oyster white linen dress depends wholly upon the effectiveness of the simple red, blue and black wool embroidery which was copied in chain-stitch from a Greek apron worked in cross-stitch of similar color.

This attractive little Greek apron originally came from Megara, Athens. Embroidered in heavy wool on coarse canvas, it was doubtless intended for service as well as beauty. The main color scheme is one of black and cream, black wool yarn on a background of natural colored canvas. Here and there in the embroidery are spots of brilliant red, facing orange, and bright blue to keep the background color from growing monotonous. The stitching is just a very simple cross-stitch, but its simplicity is more than counteracted by the intricate lines of the design itself. The spots and tassels are perhaps its oddest feature. The consist of wool yarn twisted and tipped with tinsel and are more ornamental than serviceable. And now we shall see the important role which this little Greek apron played in the making of a modern American dress.

The dress before being embroidered was an exceedingly commonplace and characterless affair. In order to retranslate its plainness, an attempt was made to work up some sort of a suitable design which could be applied as wool embroidery. But with nothing for inspiration the result was a mass of meaningless jumbles of stitching, which was a very inappropriate. The Greek apron was brought to the rescue, its essential most suitable pattern chosen, and gadgetry and effectiveness combined in a dress in the form which you see. Immediately the dress was transferred from one of plain severity to one of individuality and quaint smartness.

This is a single example of how one may adapt the beauty of a lovely old embroidery such as this charm Greek apron to add original and attractive charm to one's wardrobe.

To Gather or Scatter Dust

By IDAMAE MILES

HOW do you clean your floors? Do you compromise your cleaning operations by sweeping with a broom, thus sending dust flying hither and thither all through the room again?

We have used the broom through a long period of time as a method of cleaning, but if we analyze it, it has resulted in a very inefficient method of cleaning. We no longer recognize this household tool as a true cleaning device; it is a means of gathering together pieces of decoration, and adapt these in a suitable fashion to the frock—if it be a frock—to which you desire to impart that elusive touch of original charm. Perhaps this may be best shown by an illustration.

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There are a number of non-electric vacuum cleaning machines on the market. Some of the best known of these with which the author has come in contact include:

1. Vacnette
2. Vital Rand
3. Sanitary
4. Wardway

Some data concerning the advantages of the non-electric vacuum cleaner has been worked out in a week's cleaning schedule for a family of five. These figures, we believe, are as follows:

Preliminary Cleaning

1. Sanitary

Sanitary Equipment, then with a non-electric cleaner. The schedule which was worked out for a family of five had conditions of occupancy: three children attending school, a three room suburban cottage, a seven room suburban cottage, fuel used was gas and house was equipped with a hot water heater.

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(Continued from page 4)

The Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>hrs. min.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thorough cleaning for upstairs bedrooms, bath and hall</td>
<td>1:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light cleaning upstairs</td>
<td>0:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning of bedrooms and closets</td>
<td>2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downstairs cleaning</td>
<td>2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total time for week</td>
<td>7:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The time spent in cleaning the floor of a room, size 14x16 ft., which is furnished with a carpet, using the broom, totals 12 minutes; time spent when using the non-electric cleaner is but 8 minutes. The difference between 12 minutes and 8 minutes is 4 minutes, thus one-third of the time is saved when the non-electric vacuum cleaner is used for sweeping.

A theoretical problem set up on this basis shows that if five rooms are cleaned once a week and the rooms average 20 feet in size, cleaning by broom will require 2 hours and 12 minutes; cleaning by non-electric vacuum will require 8 minutes.

The time saved by using the non-electric cleaner instead of the broom is 40 minutes for one week, 2 hours and 40 minutes for four weeks, and amounts to 1 hour and 40 minutes for 52 weeks a year.

It might be fun to carry our figures a little further. Suppose we calculate the homemaker’s wage along with the rest of the problem. Does she dare claim 35 cents an hour as a paltry sum for her very valuable and hard to replace services? Does her cleaner she could receive 34 hours a year. At 35 cents an hour this shows an annual value—in time released alone—of $11.91—not far from the cost of a cleaner, is it?

Surely these figures prove that non-electric cleaners are worthy of investigation from the standpoint of saving time and we have already noted their sanitary advantage, which surely requires due consideration.

We have just begun to get some idea of the actual cost of ill-health and lowered vitality as well as of sickness, medical care, nursing and death charges; and these economic losses are among the strongest arguments for better sanitary conditions and for more skilled housekeeping.

Home Economics Clubs in high schools are being studied by the Vocational Education Section of the Home Economics Department of Iowa State College. The study includes organization, initiation ceremonies and plans for work for high school students.

Excerpt from Cornell Bulletin September 1925: “Dormitory boarding halls will be in charge of Miss Leila Huebsch, a resident and a graduate of Iowa State College. She has been teaching at Sweetheart College, Virginia. Miss Huebsch attended Cornell as an undergraduate.

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