1934

Wash Day No Longer Drudgery

Clarine Durr
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Durr, Clarine (1934) "Wash Day No Longer Drudgery," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 14 : No. 2 , Article 11.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol14/iss2/11
Wash Day No Longer Drudgery
By Clarine Durr

"The maid was in the garden
Hanging up the clothes,
Along came a black bird
And picked off her nose."

J UST pretend you had crawled out of bed at five of a morning, had gone down to a stream to bring back splashing pailsfuls of water, and had rubbed the royal linens until your knuckles were battered and your back was shot with pain. That's what the poor wash woman of the nursery rhyme endured before she was ready to begin "hanging up the clothes."

Since the first piece of soiled clothing was cleaned with water, women have endured back breaking methods of laundry. It took a situation such as the gold rush of '49 where there were no women to do the washing to inspire a man to invent a crude "washing machine."

Back in the nineties, washing was still an unpleasant event although hand forced machines were in common usage. Especially on farms, where as many as 14 tubs full of clothing were to be washed, did the housewife shudder on Monday morning. The task of turning the dolly of the machine had to be kept up continually. It was at this time that a great number of men became familiar with the work of washing.

Those of you planning someday to be doing your own washing will have a comparatively simple task. Today there are a bewildering number of types of washing machines from which the homemaker may choose the one best suited to her needs. Once the washing machine is in the laundry room, the housewife finds that even the best machine is more satisfactory if a certain routine is followed in washing.

Miss Lenore Sater and Mrs. Louise J. Peet of the Household Equipment Department make these suggestions in the new text book they are writing:
1. Sort clothing according to fabric, color, and the amount of soil.
2. Remove stains.
3. Soak clothing in cold water to loosen and dissolve soil.
4. Fill the tub with water (150°--160°F.) to the water line.
5. Add soap shavings or chips and form good suits.
6. Add clothing, allowing enough space for water action.
7. Vary washing period with type of machine as well as with kinds of articles being washed.
8. Rinse in hot water (a machine rinses about twice as efficiently as a hand rinse.)
9. Follow with a cold rinse; add bluing if desired.
10. When entirely finished, drain tub and dry well.

Success to you who will have airplanes instead of black birds swooping over your heads on wash days!

Sally the Style Scout
(Continued from page 5)

If you are interested in freshening up a much loved dress that has acquired a rather dingy look, try restitching the seams. Opening the hem and turning it on a new line gives a dress a decidedly new look.

The tunie dress design allows an effective combination of a silk dress and a wool or velvet dress. For an old plaid dress, cut a new yoke, including the tops of the sleeves, the cuffs and four military looking patch pockets of plain material. If the back of the dress is worn, cut the yoke and panel in one piece and extend it down to the bottom of the skirt.

Just keep in the back of your mind that variation within itself is a significant fashion idea for the fall outfit. Sometimes you may express the variation only in an interchangeable bow or jabot; in other instances a dinner dress may be converted into an afternoon frock, or a single street frock may be dressed up for afternoon wear. Just a dash of taste and discrimination—that's all you need.

Many college girls find cotton print pajamas practical and pretty. They're very easy to make and it wouldn't over-tax your summer supply of energy to stitch up two or three pairs, giving them a dashing air with an organdy ruffle or two, or some clever turns of bias tape.

Blouses aren't hard to make, either, and the more dainty, fresh ones you have the happier you'll be some frosty fall morning when you wake up late and simply must look fresh and sweet in no time at all.

If YOU'VE come under the spell of the craze for knitting you may think it fun to while away the hours making a flittering scarf and glove set in alternating striped beige and brown, or a dainty pastel sweater with a new draw string neck, or a pert little crocheted hat with even a quill made of yarn. If you're really ambitious, there are some stunning knitted suits and two-piece dresses you may attempt, but judging from some reports, we can't promise that suits and dresses won't run over into the second summer.

You may not believe it possible, but we can tell you what the fall colors in shoes are to be. When you come right down to it Miss Coed is pretty dependent on that item of wearing apparel. A chestnut brown designed to harmonize with the new browns of fall costumes and also to key in with greens is called marron. French mahogany is a rich deep shade described as suitable for tailored as well as formal types of shoes. It complements reddish tones of brown in fall costumes, and will also go with wine reds. Green, after an absence of several seasons, again takes its place in fall shoe colors. The shade, tailleur green, has a slightly bluish cast in harmony with tones of green for fall costumes.

With all these major dress matters out of the way during the summer, you should be in a very calm and collected state of wardrobe when September arrives. Really there won't be much more shopping left to do except buying the most becoming that you've yet had, picking out a nice practical handbag and a pair of gloves, or perhaps investing in a new box of powder. Thus fortified, you'll be ready to turn your mind to mastering science, secure in the possession of the right clothes—the kind that won't let you down at the crucial moment.

Reader
(Continued from page 10)

an economist to help her.

"Undoubtedly home economics offers the largest field for professional careers to women, since its workers have not the competition that they would have in other fields in which men excel. Opportunities are increasing in the field for teachers, extension workers, home service directors, journalists, welfare workers, and many others. In the present economic crisis home economists are realizing their resourcefulness and practical ability."

—Hazel Moore