

HER POINT OF VIEW.

A most interesting demonstration is now being carried on in London showing the adaptability of electricity to heating purposes. Oil and gas have already held out advantages over coal as heating powers, but it is probable that electricity will leave them all behind. At the International Horticultural Exhibition an electrical heating apparatus is shown, and Mrs. Mary Seaton, who holds a diploma from the English National School of Cookery, cooks cutlets, fries pancakes, and makes raspberry jam. It is not necessary to describe the technical process, beyond explaining that by means of fine platinum wire laid on the surface of an enamel plate, which is covered by an iron plate, the current is sufficiently obstructed to generate a cooking heat.

The heated plates are adapted to flatirons, and one of these electric "flats" will iron a whole washing without change, generating a steady, even heat, the advantage of which to the presser is apparent. The suggestion of risk with electric heat in our homes is met with the statement that the current sent in is of limited degree, not, at the most, above 400°. The important consideration of cheapness is also secured, a penny an hour being the estimated rate for the cooking done. These electric plates were also shown carried to the bottom of a teakettle and coffee urn, saucepans, and other utensils. There were, besides a footwarmer, a plate for heating a room, even an attachment for the toilet table to heat curling tongs. There is practically no limit to the application of the principle in household economy when once its feasibility is thoroughly established. It may be that the servant question of the future is going to be much simplified by electricity.

A handsome entertainment given recently at a suburban residence was a leap-year garden party. The ladies acted as escorts to the gentlemen, and the short cotillion which took place in the evening was led by a lady. The novelty of the affair, however, was the platform where refreshments were served, and, later, dancing took place. Part of the lawn was floored over in the shape of an immense heart, which was crash covered. Above this was a canopy, also heart-shaped, of greens, made of a light framework resting on uprights and covered with ferns and branches of pine greens.

Around the edge and hanging from this heart of foliage were alternate pink and white lanterns, heart-shaped. The tables were in the form of hearts and were daintily spread with cloths of drawn work over pink silk. Each table was decorated with a centerpiece of an upright heart of flowers, and tiny hearts of the same flower distributed to the guests indicated where they were to sit. The ices were hearts, of course, and the floral figure of the cotillion, hearts, silken and favor, were exchanged.

Maréchal Niel roses, with their own pale green leaves as foliage, in a creamy Wedgwood bowl, on a square of white brocade dashed with pale yellow, is a beautiful table centre.

Florists are using Iceland poppies with excellent effect for table centerpieces this season. They are something of a novelty, and in delicate shades, mingled with ferns and feathery grasses, are much admired. They possess, too, the advantage of standing heat and light better than most flowers.

Mrs. Oscar Wilde is described as a small-woman with no distinguishing graces, who dresses plainly and conventionally, except that she invariably wears an enormous Gainsborough hat, laden with drooping plumes.

A few drops of camphor in the water used to bathe the face will prevent the shiny appearance which so many skins have, especially in warm weather.

Pretty seats for bedrooms or the small sitting room of the house are the short wooden benches sold in the home-furnishing shops. These are painted in white or delicate shades of enamel paint and cushioned. An extremely pretty one is of white enamel, with light English violets painted on the legs and along the side pieces. The cushion is covered with a white silk, dotted with bunches of heliotrope violets. The cushion is merely laid on the bench and held in place by a broad band of heliotrope ribbon, passed around under the bench at either end, and tied on top in a handsome flat bow. Some strips of an old quilt, washed and cut into the requisite length and width, make an excellent filling for the cushion; a muslin cover is fitted over it before the silk one is slipped on.

"It is a constant surprise to me," said a man the other day, "that a woman with a palpably ugly hand will call everybody's attention to it by hanging her fingers with sparkling rings. A certain intuitive vanity that is common to men and women alike ought to teach her better. Freckles, big knuckles, and ugly or ill-kept nails are all accentuated by showy rings. I've seen a woman whose rough red hand must be her ever-present thorn in the flesh load it with big diamonds, the white sparkle and dull gold setting of which intensified the redness and coarseness of the fingers they encircled. I long to tell such a one to put her jewels at her throat, on her arms, in her hair, anywhere but on her hands.

In contradiction to this I recall a woman of my acquaintance who has a small brown hand like a gypsy's. She has evidently studied its limitations, for she wears never more than one ring, and that always of odd design. I've seen her wear a black pearl sunk in dull silver, a hoop of carbuncles, or an old English ring of hammered gold, but she oftenest wears a superb alexandrite that shows black in some lights and deep sea-green in others. I always applaud her wisdom in banishing pearls, emeralds, and diamonds, or any conventional styles from her ring box."

How many truffle eaters know that the dainty is a fungus growth found in loose soil a few inches under ground, usually in forests where oak, beech, and chestnut trees abound? All truffles are imported, none being found in this country. In olden times in England truffle hunting was a sport, pigs being used to scent them out.

White silk shades for white candles are much used in Summer table decorations. Really, however, the most harmonious effect is secured with green shades and white candles in the straight Corinthian candlesticks of white china or in silver branching candelabra. Green is nature's color and is always restful and in accord with flowers and fruit. An artist delights in a green and white dinner, and he will confess, if urged, that "yellow" and "pink" feasts seem somehow incongruous and jarring.

"Put a stained-glass window in the children's playroom," advised a friend to a woman planning a coming home. "From the baby up it will be a source of the greatest delight to the little people. I discovered that quite by chance in renting a house with one in my own bedroom. My baby, who was fretful from teething that winter, would go to sleep much quicker in my room than in his own, and when I remarked upon it the nurse told me it was because the bright window interested and finally quieted him. I soon saw that that it was so. All children love pictures and gay colors."

Mirror painting, which has seemed to suffer a decline, is again in favor. A pretty three-fold screen for a fireplace was of white enamel frame on the mirror panels of which were painted growing ferns and feathery grasses. It was a most artistic study in green and white.

The very poetry of shoe boxes was seen recently in a receptacle for such necessities attached to the dressing room of a young belle. One side was fitted up with a set of shelves divided into compartments, each one large enough to hold a pair of slippers or shoes standing side by side. Sliding glass doors protected the contents from dust and dampness, but permitted a view of their daintiness. Wadded and perfumed mats covered with light oak-brown silk to match the shelves were fitted to the bottom of each compartment, and on the mats stood a bewildering array of pretty boots, shoes, and slippers. There was foot gear for all occasions and to go with all sorts of gowns.

Hanging across little gilded hooks at the upper side of each compartment was its suitable pair of silken hose, the gem of the collection being a centre compartment where a pair of gold slippers with heels of the real precious metal pointed their pretty toes at the observer, and stockings of the same rich color hung at the side. Outside the glass doors was a rack with shoe horn and button hooks of several lengths, mounted in silver, depending from it, and the nook was completed by a pretty shoe and stocking stool with a linen cushion painted with an appropriate device.

"I've been abroad since last November," said a woman who landed in New-York a few days ago, "and my experience has been one of perversities. To begin with, in sunny Italy, last winter, we almost froze to death. I shall never forget the desolation and chilly discomfort of those Roman and Florentine lodgings. In May we went to London, because that is the month we were told to enjoy that metropolis. It rained all the time that it was not so cold we were perishing. We did the cathedral towns in uninterrupted rain and mist. My idea of English cathedrals is set in a cloud of gray moisture. "We dove out to Rosalind Castle from Edinburgh in the most pitiless rainstorm I ever experienced, so that historic place has also a wet blanket thrown over it for all time in my mind. 'Go to Devonshire in July for cool weather,' we were told. We did, and sweltered. The traditional 'green' English lanes were brown and dry. It wasn't much better on the Continent. At one place, after 4 in the afternoon, a chill mist always settled that penetrated one's very bones; at others sudden drenching showers were daily occurrences. "I should think Europeans who come over here must marvel at our monotony of glorious sunny days, with our charming summer twilights,

fading slowly into radiant starlit nights, when one can be abroad till midnight without risk. As we sailed up the bay last week under a sky more brilliantly blue than any I saw in Italy and through an atmosphere that would have made a Londoner think the millennium had come, if he should ever see one so clear, and I realized that this was just a common New-York day, that nobody noticed except rejoicing prodigals like ourselves, my heart swelled with delight that I was American-born and home again."

A firm of London furriers found a use for a quantity of old quilted satin linings, which were still good, but of no further business value, in distributing them through a city missionary among the destitute and pauper inhabitants of Soho, a miserable London district.

A very nice apple dessert is made as follows: Peel, core, and cut a couple of pounds of apples, boil till soft in a little water, then rub through a sieve; mix some powdered sugar with the juice of a lemon, add half an ounce of red gelatine dissolved in a little water, stir into the apples, and pour into a mold; when set and cold turn out and serve with custard or whipped cream. If red gelatine is not at hand, dissolve the white in a little claret for the desired color.

Persons in cramped quarters during their Summer outing will find a curtain strung on a rod or wire across the hall door a considerable aid to comfort. The curtain, which it will be well to carry with one, though a few yards of chintz from the country store will provide it, should be hung about a foot below the door lintel. The door may be kept open then almost constantly day and night, the curtain insuring privacy and ventilation. In a Summer hotel built without transoms, such curtains, of solid-color cotton flannel, hung at the door of every room in the house, proved efficient substitutes.

Miss Viola Fuller of Mitchell, S. D., will contribute a unique exhibition to the Woman's Building of the Chicago Fair, in the shape of an opera cloak made of the feathers of prairie chickens. The feathers used are certain small delicate ones, of which only five or six are found on a bird, and are sewed on a foundation, one at a time, overlapping each other. The garment is a deep cape almost five feet long and represents ten years of patient labor. A border of South Dakota otter fur trims the cloak.

Baroness Burdette-Coutts, although eighty years old, avows an intention to come to the World's Fair at the head of the philanthropic section.

A recent English bridegroom gave to the bridesmaids at his wedding brooches upon which were inscribed the number "933." This, it seems, was the majority by which he secured political preferment. If Americans should take to mixing politics with social events some curious results might be evolved.

The wife of a Northern New-York prosecuting attorney who closely follows her husband's cases commented with some vehemence the other day upon a recent decision of the Supreme Court which it seems overthrows a long-established precedent. The case in question is the first to decide in this State that a Judge of a criminal court has no power to suspend the sentence of a prisoner after conviction either by a verdict of a jury or a plea of guilty.

"It has been the practice, ever since the organization of courts in this country," says this protestor in petticoats, "for Judges to exercise the right to suspend sentence in a proper case, and nobody has ever questioned the power. Its judicious exercise has been the means of accomplishing a great deal of good and of saving many a young offender from a career of crime. My husband has often, in relating the labors of the day, told how an inexorable Grand Jury had found an indictment, and how, after a conviction and a thorough investigation of the character of the prisoner, he had prevailed upon a kind-hearted court to suspend sentence, and thus often restored a boy to his mother's arms or a father to his family. Now, however, the law must take its course and such mercy is no longer possible.

"The best Judges of the State have been all wrong, for they have for years arrogated the right to show judicial clemency by discharging a prisoner during good behavior. When I urge the injustice of this sudden awaking, my husband merely puts on his legal manner and says: 'My dear, the General Term in rendering this decision very pointedly asks why a Judge may not suspend sentence against one convicted of murder, if he may legally do so where the accusation is robbery, larceny, or burglary?' and there is not much I can say to that except that they have done so and that is a good reason to continue."