

it that their attempts at friendship are so often futile?

The best standard of true friendship is your relation to your mother; the moment your friendship becomes such that you are ashamed to tell your mother what you talk about to your friend, terminate that friendship.—Selected.

NEW FRIENDS.

While in a reminiscent mood sometime ago, I wrote you about the blue-eyed girl of mine and the brown-eyed one of my friend, going away to college. Would you like to know more about them? Well, they came home for the holidays and have returned to school again. But what I wanted to tell you is, that they had found new friends. I received a letter before Christmas with this request. "Mother, there are several girls here who are so far from home that they can not go home for the short holiday season. I should like very much to bring one of them home with me when I come. Do you care? Did I care? No, indeed. I was glad of the chance to meet one of her new friends. My friend received the same request from her daughter and the next mail carried two happy messages which made four happy girls, that we would be delighted to have their friend come with them to spend the holidays with us. And we were so glad that they came, for they added much to the good cheer and happy spirit of the season, and we knew at least one of their chosen friends and this was quite a pleasure to us, as was also the privilege of keeping two girls from spending a home-sick and lonely Christmas; but once I saw the tears starting in the eyes of our guest when Robbie was dancing around his returned sister and showering all sorts of caresses upon her. I knew quite well that there was a much loved younger one in her own home whom she was reminded of, but I quickly introduced something funny into the conversation and put the tears to rout. They do not love each other less, these blue and brown-eyed girls, but the circle of their friendship has broadened and they have learned that one can not have too many friends of the right kind, and we are hoping that they are learning to choose them wisely. Here is a little article that I asked them both to read before they went among strangers, and I am sending it to you, hoping that it may prove helpful to all girls in choosing their friends. Read it and take it as the advice of AUNT SALLIE.

HOME SEWING.

It is generally the girl with a limited dress allowance who is the best sewer, while at the same time she derives the greatest pleasure from the occupation. She knows that in order to look well dressed, she must make the greater part of her things herself, and in sewing as in everything else, practice makes perfect.

The girl who knows how to use her needle has an immense advantage over her less gifted sisters. Everyone knows that it is not so much the material which runs away with the money as the making up, and the girl with natural taste can save many dollars in the course of a season by purchasing a few yards of any pretty material she fancies, and transforming it into a waist skirt or full dress, according to her immediate need.

Underclothing especially is best made at home. Naturally there is a great temptation to buy some of the dainty articles which are so invitingly arranged in the shop windows, but many of the garments are highly priced, while others are of an inferior quality, although elaborately trimmed with lace and embroidery.

The art of plain sewing—hand sewing—has come to the front to stay, it seems, and the girl who cultivates this art need never be out of employment, or at her wits end to make pin money during spare moments.

Some girls who make their own clothes also make the dainty crochet lace and insertion which is such a strong and pretty finish to the work. Home worked crochet, dainty feather and coral stitching gives a dainty finish to home-made underclothing.

There is another advantage for the girl who is handy with her needle, and that is, the changing and making over of last season's dresses. I have seen dresses that had been made over or changed for wear the second season that were actually prettier than when first made. It requires such little work, too, sometimes to transform an out-of-style gown into one of the latest style.

It is often possible to make another garment of one which has served its day, but part of the material in it still available for making into a smaller garment. Many dollars can be saved in this way, and gives a girl the satisfaction of feeling that she is better dressed, and that very satisfying feeling added, that she can do things, which is a great stimulation to do better things, in the life of any one.

There is the hat question, too, which is a big one in the minds of some girls who desire a hat to match every dress they have. Some girls go to the milliner to have everything done in the way of changing their hats, while others can give the magic touch themselves by adding a bow, band, or whatever it may be, that gives the hat "this season" look.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR NEEDLE-WORKERS.

When you are doing embroidery which requires padding, try making the chain-stitch instead of the ordinary running stitch. This plan is especially good for scalloped edges, the chain-stitching being done between the stamped lines.

For darning a rent in fine white goods, use spool cotton No. 80, untwisting the thread. This makes a more invisible darn than the finest twisted thread.

When you wish to do shadow-embroidery, just take the thread from the sewing machine, place your goods under the foot as if to stitch and run the outlines. In this way you get the perforations of small even holes, and your stitches will be regular with no strain on the eyes.

When embroidering, crocheting or

doing any kind of needlework that requires one to keep their eyes on the work nearly all the time, try glancing at some bright color now and then to rest the eyes.

To remove all signs of old stitches in woolen goods, place a wet cloth over a hot flat-iron turned bottom-side up, and hold the dress goods down as tightly and smoothly as possible over the steaming cloth, moving along as the stitches disappear, and having the wrong side of goods next to the wet cloth. When all through, if the goods are damp, press on the wrong side with a warm iron. If there is silk in the fabric, remember it will scorch if the iron is very hot. It is said that a little castor oil

poured in the groove of the sewing machine and the wheel turned very fast for a few minutes, will tighten a loose band.

A young preacher went fishing for trout, accompanied by a couple of girls from his parish. A farmer who was also out fishing called to the young clergyman:

"Ketchin many trout?"

"I am a fisher of men," said the young preacher with dignity.

"Well," the farmer smiled, and then looking at the girls said: "I see you've got the right kind of bait with you."

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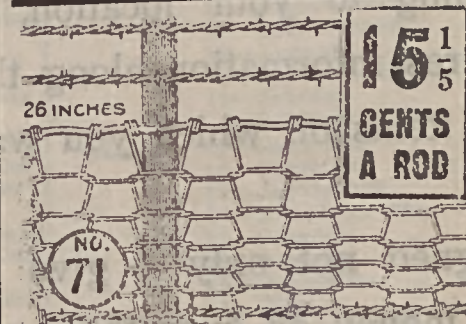
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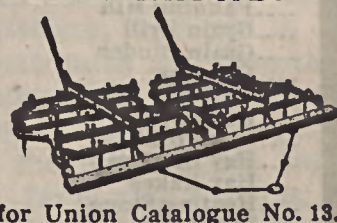
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