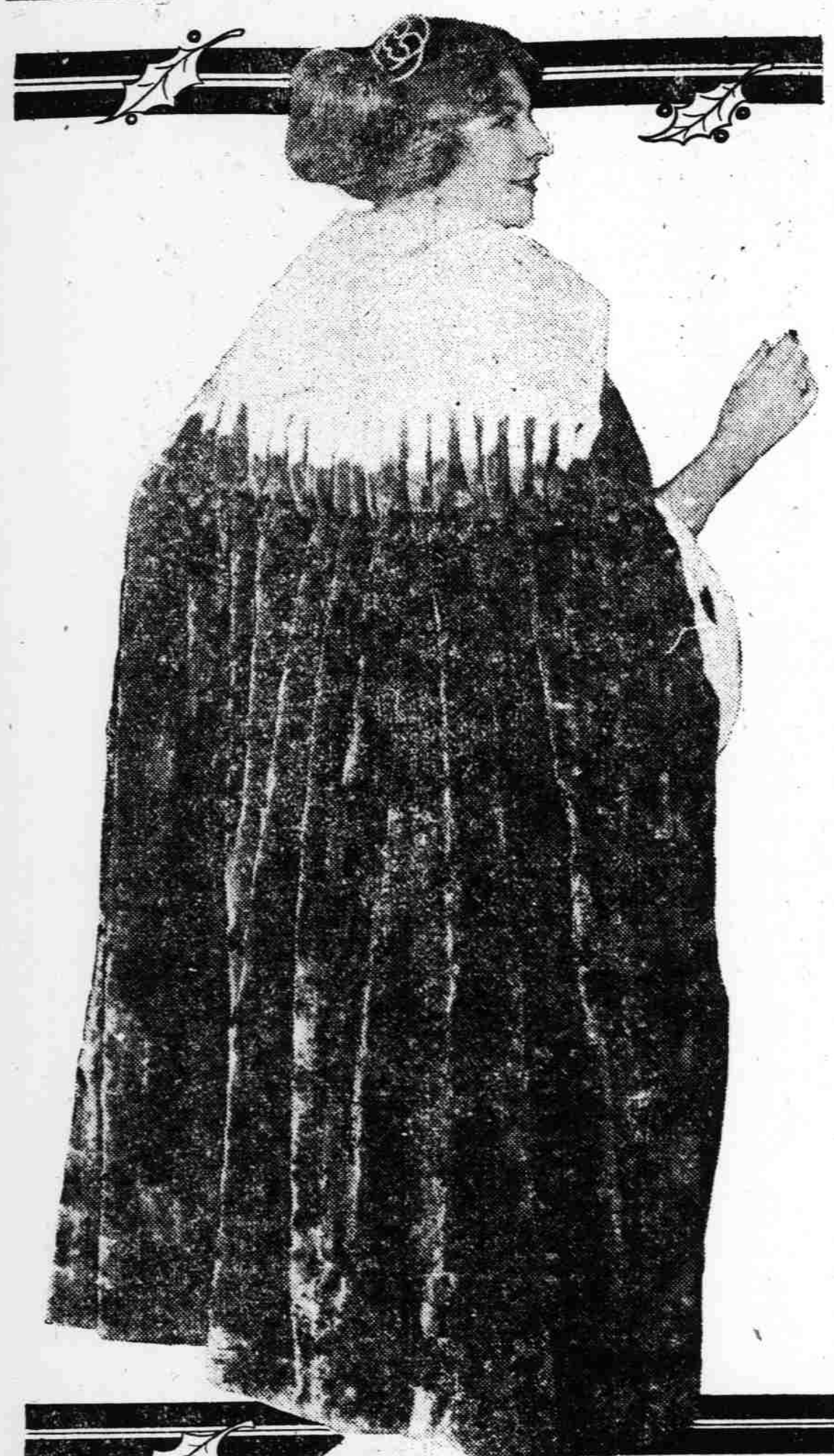


Furs for CHRISTMAS

by Hester Winthrop



Cloak of Moleskin with Just the Right Touch of White in Ermine Collar and Cuffs



This Scarf-Like Wrap Seems to Possess Sleeves but it is Hard to Say where Sleeves End and Muff Begins

The Coquettish Feature of This Little Evening Wrap is the Cosy Hood

A Striking Motor Coat of Civet, Rich Black Fox Relieving the Gay Pattern of the Civet

PHOTOS BY JOEL FEDER



Ermine and Chinchilla Achieve Special Smartness in this Evening Wrap

Wool is Scarce: Therefore Wear Fur, Says Fashion—Fur Scarves Approach Length of Stair Carpets—A Host of Alluring Little Fur Wraps for Theater Wear = Motor Coats.

FASHION HAS HIT upon a splendid alternative. Wool must be conserved decrees the government. Millions of soldiers need uniforms—or will be needing them in the coming months—and women have simply got to find something besides wool material for winter costumes. Why not fur? asks Fashion. Fur is one thing the government has not touched with its staff of conservation. Any woman may wear as much fur as she pleases; nobody minds in the least. And fur is so nice and warm and comfy for winter weeks! One must do without sugar in one's coffee, and forego delicious little sweet cakes at afternoon tea. One must breakfast on graham gems instead of wheat muffins, and dine on boiled haddock instead of porterhouse steak—if one is truly imbued with patriotism. One must cut her garment according to her cloth, and skimp her cloth to conserve a soldier's coat sleeve. One's buttoned dancing boots may not be over seven inches high, for the sake of some soldier's shoe leather. But in furs one may wrap one's self, swathe one's self—all but bury one's self!

And that is just what Fashion advises now. Furs must give the impression of being fairly piled on their wearer if her fur silhouette is to be correct. There are skirts with fur hems twelve inches deep, bodices with

fur cuffs to the elbow, and some of the fur scarves that twist and turn themselves over the shoulders and under the arms and across the bust and around the hips, are fairly as long as stair carpets—the modern sort of carpets, that is, called, I believe, "runners."

Fur Shops Thronged Just Now.
From the crowded condition of every shop and counter where fur wearables are displayed it is safe to say that Santa Claus is going to give more peltry this year than ever he has before, and already anticipators of furry gifts are selecting, trying on, and looking about for exactly the best bargain in what they most desire. Fur is the gift of gifts for a practical Christmas. It fulfills the condition demanded of it—usefulness—and also embodies that ideal quality without which nothing is a real present—the quality of being something outside of the prosaic list of have-to-haves. It is an unusual wife who, when Friend Husband announces two weeks before Christmas: "We must cut out all superfluous luxuries and unnecessary du-dads this year. What would you like that is really useful?" does not state immediately and succinctly: "Well, I need some new furs."

Fashion Commends a Variety Of Furs.
Nobody can have too many furs to

suit Fashion, just now. The one fur coat, supplemented by a set of scarf and muff for wear with a tailored suit, which used to be considered enough for winter needs, would be but a poor supply for the average woman these days; and the fashionable woman has several coats and half a dozen small sets of fur, with probably a dainty fur wrap or two for wear with theatre and afternoon frocks; all these beautiful furs under the charge of a special maid who sees that they are kept aired and brushed when not in use. The fur closet is as important an adjunct of the modern home as the "preserve closet" was of the old-time structure, and like the ancient jam closet, the modern fur closet has its window opening out of doors to insure a cold temperature, whatever the warmth of the adjoining rooms.

In addition to the street coat of sealskin, the modern woman must have a motor coat of muskrat, otter or civet (for sealskin is speedily rubbed and worn by contact with the leather seat of an automobile.) An evening or limousine coat is necessary too; this may be of moleskin, of

mink, of chinchilla or of Persian lamb trimmed with some long-haired fur. And in addition, there may be an evening coat of ermine. The small fur will include sets of fox, of sable, of opossum or beaver, and so on, to harmonize with the colors of street costumes. The little theatre wraps will be of ermine, of mole, of sable, or some combination of these dainty furs. So the woman who is going to receive furs for her practical Christmas gift will be at no loss what to choose when the time comes for her to make selection.

Trimming Furs Rank As Holiday Gifts.

Six yards of skunk banding in five-inch width will make a Christmas gift that no woman could treat with contempt; or say, enough black fox to trim a tailored suit, or enough ermine to garnish an evening wrap! The trimming-fur counters are busy places, these before Christmas days, and the fur bandings that seem in most favor for gifts are skunk, sealskin and moleskin. Some of these bands, in the wider sorts will be made into fur turbans; some of the very

narrow widths will be used on baby coats. The idea of fur trimmings for Christmas gifts is admirable in a season of practical presents. Among the desirable trimming furs are seal, gray and blended squirrel, kollinsky, beaver, ermine, lynx, mole, chinchilla, Australian opossum and skunk. Some of the foxes are used for trimming but the cheaper grades are not effective, and in the more costly fox pelts prices are prohibitive unless one is quite indifferent about expense. It is better to have no fur at all on a frock, or a tailored garment, than to have poor fur. Used as trimming, peltry shows its richness or vice versa in more striking effect than when used in a mass—in a large collar or a muff.

Civet Motor Coats Look Warm And Wintery.

One must be fresh colored and young, or have a vivid coloring in later years, to dare the pronounced pattern of civet. This pelt quite overwhelms a woman of nondescript personality or coloring. On a middle-aged woman with gray hair, dark eyes and rosy complexion civet may be, on the other hand, extremely smart and be-

coming. There is something warm and cozy about a civet coat on a cold day, and if black or pointed fox is judiciously used to relieve the conspicuous marking of the pelt, such a coat may be very good looking indeed. The civet motor coat pictured is a Christmas gift any young woman might covet, with its ample, dashing lines, its well marked pattern and the big collar and cuffs of black fox. For a motor coat of less conspicuous design, pick out muskrat which is fashionable this season, and by all means have a big collar and deep cuffs of seal on your muskrat coat for the car.

If Santa is Generous It Is An Evening Wrap.

In an importing retail shop a stone's throw from the Waldorf are two splendid fur coats which, the retailer probably fondly hopes, are going to make somebody very happy this Christmas. One of these coats, recently brought over from Paris, and of chinchilla fur chastely ornamented with silver fox may be had for ten thousand dollars. If Santa Claus is particular and feels like spending a little more, there is the other coat, made of nothing but sable—no trimming at all—which has a price tag bearing the figures: \$27,000. Not quite so expensive, but still expensive enough, dear knows, are the two evening coats pictured; one of moleskin with a tall-fringed ermine collar; the other of unspotted ermine, collared and cuffed with chinchilla. The moleskin wrap is shaped like a very full cape with ermine-bordered slashes for the arms.

Short Fur Coats Only For Sport Wear.

In theory the short, saucy fur coat to the hips is a very attractive garment but women and these coats impractical since they must be worn over a warm skirt. They may not be done with a silk frock unless one is to ride in a limousine, and the average woman wishes to wear her fur coat over afternoon dresses in the street. So the short fur coat is re-

served for sports when it may accompany a skirt of wool material. Santa Claus is going to give a good many of these dashing sport coats of fur, if all signs are to be believed. There are coats of muskrat, of seal and of otter, most of them made with convertible collars and a loose belt. Some have patch pockets in true sport style. It is on the dainty little fur wrap for dress-up wear that Santa specially dotes; for this is the ideal fur gift, not unduly practical, yet practical enough, if one looks at it that way. Three enchanting little gift wraps of fur are pictured; one a handsome affair of sable for the motor, with round muff to match, another scarf and muff, the scarf having sleeves oddly concealed; the third a cape of ermine with capuchin hood and very interesting sleeves.

Last Minute Shopping for Soldiers in France

ANY WEEKS AGO the American mails closed, as far as Christmas packages for the expeditionary forces were concerned; but perhaps in your own town there is a shop where they are taking orders for belated Christmas gifts to be delivered from Paris. Such packages go directly to the front from Paris shops, and the order given over here and cabled to Paris will go through in a very few days. The French shops are familiar with the needs of soldiers at the front; and, of course, there is not the delay in getting goods shipped that is experienced over here, across the submarine-riden sea. In shops where this service is installed there are lists of Christmas packages at all prices from two dollars to twenty dollars, and the packages contain comforts in the way of wearing apparel, toilet requisites and good things to eat. You may not see the package for it is over in Paris; but you stipulate the size you desire, pay its price at the American shop and rest assured that your gift will be delivered to your soldier at the front in shortest possible time.

Practical Christmas Gifts for the Housekeeper

IN SELECTING GIFTS of chinaware for the friend who is a housekeeper, some care must be exercised not to burden her with articles that do not appeal to her taste, or that do not fit into the general color scheme of her home appointments. Some women have a very sensitive taste in china where color is concerned. Anything red they simply will not use on breakfast, lunch, tea or dinner table; green they may tolerate, pink they may fancy and blue they may adore. Be careful to find out your friend's particular penchant in china—and do not judge by the set of dishes on which dinner is served when you are a guest. Very probably that set is the bane of your hostess' existence. She is tired of it and is dreaming of getting rid of it somehow or other and filling in with something nearer her heart's desire. Chinaware is the worst white elephant in the world. Once established in the pantry, it is there for life—or at least until breakage so depicts it that a new set is necessary. And everybody knows that china one abhors never gets broken! Many a bride has been afflicted with a dinner set—selected without reference to her taste—which weighed on her spirits through many a year. The solid phalanx of plates and soup plates and vegetable dishes and platters lined up

on the shelves must be used somehow or other—nobody wants to take them off her hands and they cannot be thrown away. And every time her eye rests on their uncongenial coloring, or pattern, there arises a feeling of resentment against the well-meaning giver. It would have been so easy to consult her taste; or so tactful to present her with an order on any stipulated firm, allowing her to choose the china that was to be her daily associate through the years! But how are you going to find out your friend's predilections in china? Easiest thing in the world! It is a most unusual woman who will not respond to interest in her china cupboard. Begin by asking her if she has any antiques. When these are shown you, follow up the advantage by admiring something else in the cupboard. If your hostess is proud of her china she will take pleasure in showing it off. If she dislikes her belongings and is dreaming of the day when she can replace them with what she really wants, she will be very apt to admit this, and a little tact and a few well put questions will be likely to discover her deepest desires in the chinaware line. Another way is to ask your friend to help you pick out a supposititious wedding present and be willing to rely

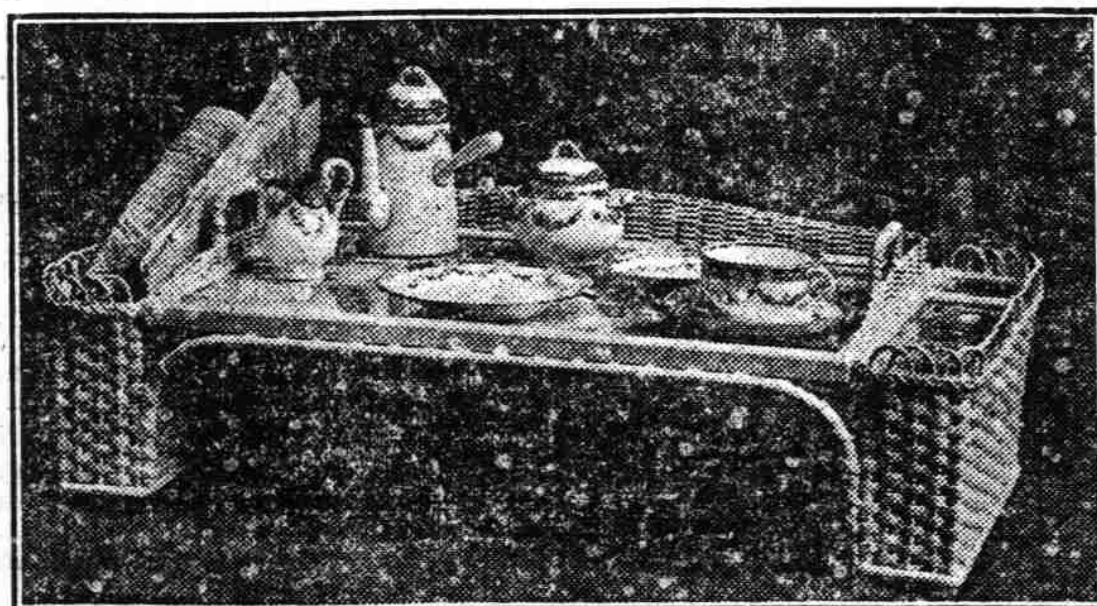
on her "superior taste and knowledge of what a housewife would like." You will be almost certain to obtain a very good idea of what she likes best herself, or would possess if it were possible.

Tea sets are usually a safe gift unless you are certain your friend has two or three. It is not essential for a tea set to match anything else in the china cupboard—providing there are enough cups and saucers and little plates in the set itself. Tete a tete sets are charming—but two people intimately associated in a home rarely get out the best tea set for the cup that cheers; and when guests are present there are apt to be more than two gathered together. Six cups and saucers and six little serving plates should go with the dainty tea set, even if the accompanying tray accommodates but two cups. The pretty tea set on the basket tray has the new squat tea pot and jugs and the cups have the straight sides now fashionable. This is a Sèvres set in Dresden pattern with a delicate use of gold and trailing floral design in pale pink and lavender. Of Royal Worcester is the dainty breakfast set with tall, side-handled coffee pot. This set is displayed on a bed table or tray of wicker which in itself offers an excellent Christmas gift suggestion.

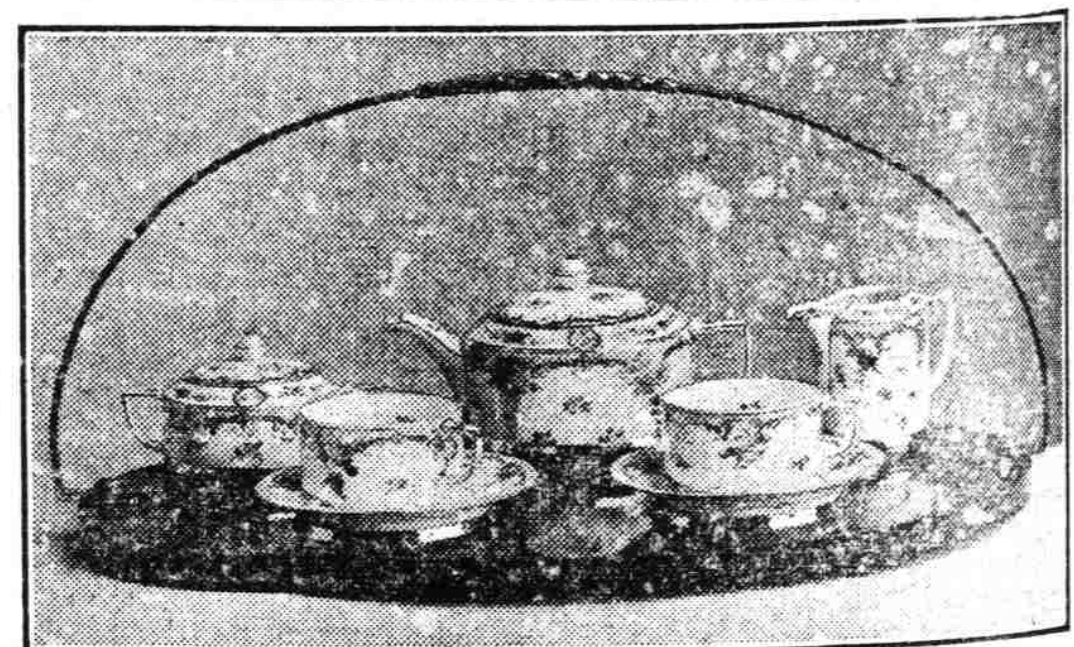
Not only the invalid, but anybody who enjoys the luxury of "breakfast in bed on Sunday morning" will be delighted with such a tray. At one side is a pocket for hot rolls; in the other pocket is space for the morning paper and the morning mail. The tray may be presented with or without a special set of breakfast china but, of course, the china completes a charming Christmas gift.

If you are positive your housekeeper friend has all the tea sets she can use, why not give her a set of service plates? These need not necessarily match her household china and you can spend almost anything for them. A set of Coalport service plates with

broad gray border embossed in black and gold may be had for about \$150 a dozen. Beautiful Royal Dalton plates in the wonderful deep blue with fine gold designs that distinguish this ware, cost about \$100 a dozen. Plates in a lovely Wedgwood design in gray-blue come for \$25 a dozen. And there are most attractive service plates of earthenware with an allover design in color and flower clusters set in medallions of white. These may be had as low as \$10 a dozen. Then there are oyster cocktail plates, each with a cup that fits into a groove in the center of the plate. A very smart set of a dozen, in blue and silver, costs \$75. These sets, also come in a wide



Who Takes Her Breakfast Luxuriously In Bed Will Appreciate This Table Tray Which Holds Everything—Even The Morning Paper.



A Charming Tea Tray And China Service For An Invalid—Or For Anybody Who Loves Dainty Appointments.

range of styles and at various prices. No matter what a housekeeper's taste in color, where china is concerned, she cannot but delight in a gift of handsome glassware; but do not, I beg of you, send her a cut glass bowl or worse still, a cut glass bonbon dish! These can be picked up so cheaply nowadays that rare is the hostess who has not been overloaded by them as week-end gifts. Tall, slender-stemmed glasses for serving sherbet or iced puddings may be had for \$3 to \$15 the dozen; one pays a little more for the glasses with plates to match, but most housekeepers prefer to use handsome service plates under the glasses. A set of cut crystal

water goblets of graceful shape will be appreciated by any woman who likes special glassware for formal occasions. **WARTIME SOUP WITHOUT STOCK.** ANOTHER ECONOMY for war time comes from a careful housekeeper. When vegetables are boiled for dinner she uses a little more water than ordinary and saves it by straining it off through a colander before dipping up the vegetable. This very good soup stock of pure vegetable origin she seasons tastily with onion browned in butter with croutons and grated cheese, or with the scrapings from a can of spaghetti-tomato served at luncheon