

Bob Davis Reveals

People Who Drop Coins in Tin Cans for Sweet Charity

HARDLY a week passes in this country without the inauguration of some sort of drive, the object of which is to secure funds for benevolent purposes. So general has become the custom that municipalities have found it necessary to establish regulations under which money may be collected and accounted for.

After many experiments made to simplify the business of receiving voluntary contributions, the sealed tin can, slotted for the reception of coin or currency, and bearing a plainly printed statement as to what particular organization or institution is behind the drive, has come into general use.

Women and young girls are the most successful collectors of largesse for the benefit of suffering humanity. While it is not obligatory upon citizens to respond, none the less a pleasant smile and a soft voice, plus an appealing look is an influence of proven value.

Quite recently at the peak of a drive, worthy in every way of generous public response, I returned to New York after a long absence, entering Manhattan via the Pennsylvania station. One of a dozen pretty girls, all armed with tin banks and enameled buttons, asked for a contribution. "Whatever you wish to give," said she. "We are grateful no matter what the amount."

From a vest pocket I produced several subsidiary coins and held out my hand: an invitation for her to help herself. She selected a quarter, fixed upon the lapel of my coat an unobtrusive button which established me as a member of the club, and expressed her thanks.

One in Six Contributes.

"May I suggest that you wear this symbol the remainder of the week," she said, "for the reason that the drive will go on for that period and we want the publicity. Also it shows that you have responded and that nothing more is expected of the wearer. It is insurance against further appeals. Really, if people only knew that, with an investment of not more than the cost of a cigar, the initial cost of a badge, a button, or a ribbon, they could render themselves immune against what many regard as an annoyance for the duration of a drive. These things have just got to be done if humanity is to carry on. I hope you don't mind my putting it that way."

Here was a girl of good sense, contributing her own time without fee, and as I learned immediately with no little pride in the part she played.

She would be easy to interview. "What percentage of those you ask to contribute respond with money?" I asked.

"About one in six, a little less than 20 per cent, and in amounts ranging from five cents to a quarter; occasionally fifty cents or a dollar bill. About half of those who pay tell me to keep the button and sell it again. But to that I say 'no, you must wear it so that others may know that you approve.' No man who is willing to help should be ashamed of having done so."

Women More Generous

"Men as a rule, but women are more generous when they do come in. In any case the middle class can be depended upon to make the best showing. I am sorry to say that many people who from their attire and manner seem to represent the prosperous class are downright rude at even the suggestion that they should be included in the trivial assessment for the good of others. It is heartening to find that there are some who come forward without being asked, to volunteer a contribution. One man, who from visible evidence appeared to be not overly prosperous, gave me a twenty dollar bill, but absolutely declined to wear a button. 'It will save you from being approached again,' he urged. 'Oh, I don't object to that!' he replied. 'It won't be hard to give something to the next collector.' Men of that sort are few and far between, however."

"The average daily total?"

The girl shrugged her shoulders. "Well the weather always has something to do with giving. Perhaps you will be surprised to hear that rainy days are the best. Instead of being chilled and depressed by gloom, a great many people seem disposed to respond to an appeal from others. Warm sunny days have almost the opposite effect; folks don't appear to realize that anything is worth worrying about. All is well with them; why not with the rest of the world? I find that the morning is more favorable for good returns. Most people are buoyant after breakfast. I myself work faster and with more satisfaction. Now about the average, I feel that the day has not been wasted if I take in twenty dollars."

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Time to Plan Sewing Program

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



WHY not start your spring sewing-at-home program now and "avoid the rush?" Those who are in a position to know declare that women are turning back to the art of sewing at home with an enthusiasm such as has not been manifest for years. Make-it-yourself clothes are not only a sure means of self expression, these enthusiasts say, but they offer the best answer to being really well dressed on a limited budget.

And there's the new spring fabrics! 'Nuff said! No further argument is needed. So here's taking a look toward the new materials. Such ravishing colors, subtle textures and glorified patternings as the spring prints, the cottons, the linens, the piques, the gabardines, the shantung, the silks, the satins and so on ad infinitum are flaunting is enough to entice anyone into bringing home rolls of yardage, and it follows like the night the day that you will eagerly and without delay be joining the sewing-bee clan.

Of course when one starts in to do spring sewing the really sensible thing is to tackle the simplest garments first, made of inexpensive wash materials. So let's betake ourselves to the wash goods sections and see what's doing in the way of pretty prints or "what have they." Never were sturdy cottons so novel, so amusing and so irresistibly likable. The best of it is, if you ask for the right kind you can get materials that are guaranteed against shrinking and that's something not to be lightly considered.

The new cottons and linens and other wash prints run the gamut of design from sporty little designs for house, active sports and spectator wear to gorgeous multicolored large florals that look handblocked, for evening dresses. There is a set of cunning classroom prints that are delightful for school and home wear. These prints are practical as well as youthful. History, geography, algebra, even music print

supply motifs for these clever prints. What could be more befitting to wear during study hours and easier for the amateur seamstress to begin with than a two-piece pajama outfit made of one of these interesting prints such as we are picturing to the left in the group illustration. The perky classroom print that fashions this attractive two-piece is pre-shrunk, which means that its snug neckband can not grow tight, tighter, too tight when pajamas go to wash.

A house coat of cotton so fine it rustles like silk and washes without a tremor because it is sanforized shrunk, as in fact are the materials in each of the garments pictured, is shown to the right. An effective light navy blue is its color with white cord and buttons. Any girl can make herself such a garment, since it requires no close-fitting. Merely cut carefully by the right tailored pattern and take care to give a neat finish so that the making will do credit to the lovely lustrous material.

It is especially encouraging to home-sewing enthusiasts to know that smartly new fabrics that wash perfectly yet look formal enough for any type of wear have come into their own in a big way. The dress centered in the group can be very easily made, especially after you have mastered the making of the pajama outfit and the house coat as shown. This is a broad-shouldered frock on the popular shirt-waist dress order. It has crisp youthful lines and contrasting color accents. Use swaggar broadcloth, which is one of the shantung-like new cottons now available in all wash goods sections and this frock will cost you next to nothing. The original style is developed in brown swaggar broadcloth with belt, vest and neck trimmings of the same material in rust shade. Can be sent to the laundry week after week without loss of fit or style through shrinkage.

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BRAIDED JACKET

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



This two-piece daytime dress is of satin-back bemberg and acetate crepe, a material you will love to wear during the midseason and coming months. It is simply but very effectively styled with all-over soutache braid trim on the jacket. The ascot and breast pocket handkerchief lend bright color accent.

NIGHTGOWN BIB IS WELCOME PRESENT

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**

A most original and welcome gift is something that you make yourself, giving that personal touch that means so much. A charming suggestion is a nightgown "bib" made of dainty lace. It is so easy to slip on for breakfasting or reading in bed, and is that becoming you will be wanting to make another one, after your gift is duly sent, to keep for your very own.

One we have seen is made of insertion lace gathered and joined row-and-row to form a circle measuring not less than twelve inches across. Satin ribbons were attached at the top and tied around the neck. There is great opportunity for originality in making these "bibs" for you can vary their shape, having them round, square, in triangle form or whatever strikes your fancy. You can use lace edgings, or insertions or all-over lace and decorate it in your own way. Thus you can express yourself to your friends and know that you are selecting a gift that is sure to delight any feminine heart.

Tiny Hat

A small skull cap made of black satin has a wreathlike arrangement of white lacquered wings across the front. This is posed well off the forehead so that the birds come somewhere near the top of the head

'Twas This Way

By **LYLE SPENCER**
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The Cotton-Picker

COTTON is harvested today exactly as it was when Eli Whitney invented his cotton gin way back in 1793. Negroes shuffle among the cotton plants, plucking the fluffy bolls by hand and stuff them into huge bags they drag behind them. The ordinary worker picks about a hundred pounds of seed cotton a day, for which he receives about 60 cents.

Great strides have been made in harvesting other crops. But in cotton little progress has been made since Revolutionary times.

Now, John and Mack Rust, two farmer boys from Texas, have just brought out a machine to pick cotton automatically. Engineers have been trying to build such a machine for 80 years. The International Harvester company is supposed to have spent \$3,000,000 on cotton-picking research. If the Rust brothers succeed, it will be the greatest invention of this decade.

John Rust got his idea for the picker watching his grandmother at her spinning wheel. She moistened her wheel to make cotton stick to it. Rust uses smooth, wet spindles to fan through the cotton plants, picking clean each boll en route.

In trial tests, the Rust machine has picked as much in an eight-hour day as a diligent picker can gather in an eleven-week season at about half the cost. Cotton planters believe that if the machine proves practical, as they think it will, they can grow cotton at a profit if the price drops below five cents per pound.

Ancient Machine Guns

MODERN machine guns are about the most destructive weapons used in modern warfare. Capable of firing 300 bullets a minute, they can sweep an open field so fast that no human being could hope to get across it alive.

The machine gun, invented by Hiram Maxim, is usually thought of as a very recent invention. Actually, however, the Romans had their ancient equivalent of it long before gunpowder had even been thought of. The polybolos, first built by Dionysios of Alexandria, was a crossbow so constructed that it was capable of shooting 30 to 40 arrows a minute. The tension string of the bow was operated by a crank. The arrows came out of a funnel above the arrow groove, and each time one was fired, another slipped automatically into place. The machine could be operated by one man.

Reconstructed models of the polybolos are surprisingly accurate in their aim, the only defect being that it had to be trained on one spot, so there was no "scattering." Under certain circumstances this was an advantage, like preventing the enemy from climbing up scaling ladders or escaping through a gate. This and other ancient weapons such as the "hurling" sling were once considered so dangerous that the church and the laws of some countries condemned their use.

Some of these weapons were indeed dangerous, such as the horn bow which could shoot an arrow 1,000 yards, an achievement which cannot be equaled by the heavy Colt revolver used in the American army.

Who Discovered America?

EVERY schoolboy is told that Christopher Columbus discovered America. And every schoolboy who believes that is wrong, for although Columbus was the first man to set foot on the New World, he did not touch the mainland of either North or South America on his first and second voyages of discovery.

On his third voyage, in August, 1498, he discovered the South American continent in what is now Venezuela. Little suspecting that this was really the terra firma for which he had searched so long, he thought it was only another island off the coast of southern Asia.

In his earlier voyage, Columbus had touched at Cuba and other islands in the Caribbean sea. Before he reached the mainland, however, an Italian merchant in the service of Henry VII of England named John Cabot had explored along the coast of Labrador and as far south as Chesapeake bay or Maryland.

But neither Columbus nor Cabot ever suspected that they had found a new world. Both believed they had merely opened up a new route to western Asia and the Indies, and that the land they had discovered was a remote and wild part of the far East. That is why they called it the West Indies.

Columbus even thought that Cuba was a western tip of Asia. The island was not circumnavigated until two years after his death. The only bit of land now under the American flag that Columbus ever touched was Puerto Rico, which he first named San Juan Bautista.

Does Not Envy Neighbor

"I do not envy my neighbor, Ho Hum," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown. "He is so prosperous that he feels it necessary to yawn in perpetual boredom in order to call attention to himself as a tired business man."

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By **VIRGINIA VALE**

INFLUENCED to a great extent by thousands of letters from fans, Norma Shearer has definitely decided to make more pictures. From New York, where she went to visit Helen Hayes, she telephoned the studio that she would come back soon ready to begin preparatory work on "Marie Antoinette." She chose this story in preference to any other because she had discussed every detail of its production with her husband before his death. Actual date of production depends on Charles Laughton, because she is determined to have him in the cast and he is under contract to make several pictures in England. It is good to know that we will be seeing Norma on the screen again.

The most encouraging and sympathetic audience any girl ever had

while making a film test was Alice Marble's when she tried out recently. Carole Lombard was right there on the sidelines making suggestions and cheering. Some people might think that Alice Marble won enough glory for herself in tennis tournaments for one young girl, but Carole thinks it would be nicer for her to get in the big earnings that come with glory in pictures.



Carole Lombard

Radio favorites are moving en masse to Hollywood. Harriet Hilliard is back at R. K. O. Milton Berle will be there soon, and very costly it will be for him too because he will have to pay all the expenses of bringing his radio troupe west. And soon Fred Allen will move his broadcasting activities to Hollywood, so that he can make another picture for Twentieth Century-Fox. He will be in "Sally, Irene and Mary," a new version of an old picture which launched Constance Bennett and Joan Crawford on their screen careers.

Those august personages at National Broadcasting company's artists' service have put a new artist under contract and they are fairly swamped with mail asking about her. She is Minnie, the singing mouse, who appeared on the National Barn Dance program, and who will probably be star of a program of her own soon. Minnie was trained by W. W. Lichty, a veterinary of Woodstock, Ill., who noticed that when he was playing the piano, one of the mice he raises for experimental purposes tried to follow the tune.

Paramount is going to defy the fates and attempt to make a picture that has long been a jinx in their studio. They started it last year with Marlene Dietrich, and when it was about half-finished, she walked out and declared that she would have none of it. So, Paramount engaged Margaret Sullivan to replace her, and then little Sullivan tripped over a cable and fractured her arm. Paramount still likes the story, once called "Hotel Imperial" and then "I Loved a Soldier" and also they like very much a young Viennese actress named Franciszka Gaal, so they are going to attempt to make it with her.

George Cukor, who will direct "Gone With the Wind," is determined to cast some girl who is not very well known in pictures in the lead. One faction at the studio wants Tallulah Bankhead, whose tests have shown her to be a brilliant actress, but too old for the early part of the story. Others want Margaret Sullivan. But by far the most promising candidate is a very young and vivid actress on the New York stage named Louise Platt.

ODDS AND ENDS—The M-G-M studio is busily pairing off their stars, but just professionally, trying to achieve a combination as sure as the box-office as Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur have proved to be. They are going to try Jean Harlow with Robert Taylor, Joan Crawford with William Powell... Both Warner Brothers and Paramount are trying to get Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence to do their nine short plays, that are Broadway's biggest hits, as screen shorts. But a radio sponsor is topping their every bid... Portland Hoffa always maneuvers an invitation to spend Sunday away from home, because that is the day her husband, Fred Allen, writes his radio script and he doesn't like to be disturbed.

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Importance of Good Posture—

Correct Attitude Promotes One's Health and Graceful Carriage

A GREAT deal is said and written about the importance of a good posture, both for the sake of health, and a graceful carriage. Most of the suggestions and aids are applicable to correct standing and walking, but the importance of sitting correctly is no less significant. There are instances of what are termed incurable diseases, being contracted by sitting repeatedly or continuously in a way opposed to nature's requirements, which are a free and easy functioning of the organs of the body.

Correct Postures.

In sitting the back should be erect or inclined backward. The legs from hips to knees should be approximately at right angles to the body, although they may incline slightly downward. The position of the legs from knees to feet is of minor importance. The limbs may be perpendicular or inclined out. Crossing the feet is sometimes restful to one foot and then the other. Crossing the legs may be indulged in, although this does throw the hips out of position a trifle, so it is advisable to alternate the crossings frequently.

Use of Footrests.

The use of a footstool is restful, and many times advised by physicians in order to promote good circulation. The height of the footrest is variable, from low, to as high as the chair seat in chaise lounge fashion. Always the body should be erect in sitting, or inclined backward, for it to be natural.

Injurious Posture.

This brings us to the especially injurious sitting position in which the body is bent forward, or the knees inclined up. In either event there is a slight "Jack knife" position, bringing the knees and body at an angle less than a right angle. This position is common when leaning over a desk and writing, or when sitting in a seat which is higher along the front than at the back. The position

in such cases cramps the organs of the body.

A wedge cushion will make an auto seat level. Learning to keep the body erect, when writing, will correct the difficulties of a bookkeeper or writer. However, to foster good health, walking with the shoulders well thrown back and the chin up, is recommended to counteract the wrong attitude. Also there are exercises one can take for posture which are important.

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Household Questions

When laundering sweaters or knitted blouses let dry on cloth or bath towel placed on a flat surface. No ironing is required.

Tablecloths that are no longer in use make good cot covers, bedspreads, or curtains if they are dyed to match the color scheme of the room.

Pie crusts will be flakier if a tablespoon of cornstarch is added to the flour used for each pie.

A boiled custard poured over peaches or bananas makes a delicious dessert.

To remove paint from cotton clothing soak the spot in a solution made of equal parts of ammonia and turpentine. When spot disappears wash garment in soap suds.

When the teakettle becomes discolored inside, it can be brightened by boiling a clean oyster shell in it.

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