



## THE ART OF RENOVATING

By Emma M. Hooper

### CLEANSING LACES

**F**RENCH cleaners do not advise ironing lace, but if it is done have the ironing-board well padded and put a cloth between the lace and iron. Do not dry black lace by the fire or it will turn rusty. Wash black lace in a pint of warm water with a teaspoonful of borax dissolved in it, and use an old black kid glove for a wad to sponge it with. Borax, diluted alcohol, beer, strained coffee, and water in which a black kid glove has been boiled are all excellent renovators for black laces, as is also cold strained green tea. White cotton laces are washed in warm soapsuds, rinsed, boiled, rinsed for the second time, patted nearly dry and then pinned down on a clean towel over a smooth bed or pillow. Every point of the scallops must be carefully pinned down into shape. Grated breadcrumbs will clean white lace that is not very much soiled. Lace that has yellowed from age may be whitened by covering it with soapsuds and allowing it to stand in the sun. A creamy écu shade may be given to white lace by putting strained coffee or powdered saffron in the rinsing water until the right color is obtained. All laces should be soured up and down and gently squeezed or clapped dry between the hands. White silk laces are cleaned by soaking them in milk overnight, then they should be washed in warm soapsuds, rinsed, pulled out and finally pinned down on a towel while damp. Delicate laces are also cleaned with calcined magnesia. Spread the lace on clean white paper, sprinkle both sides of it with magnesia, place a second piece of paper over it, put it away between the leaves of a large book for a few days and finally shake off the powder. Gold and silver laces are cleaned with grated breadcrumbs mixed with powdered blue. Sprinkle this well-mixed preparation over the lace for a few hours, then brush off the crumbs with a piece of flannel, and rub the metal gently with a bit of red velvet, the color of which is as important as the material.

### ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS

**W**HITE crocheted shawls are cleaned by covering them for a night with flour or white cornmeal; then shake them well and if not perfectly clean repeat the treatment. The stockinet and good rubber dress shields can be washed in warm soapsuds, pulled into shape and dried by pinning them up in a window. Japanese, China and pongee silks and handkerchiefs should be washed in warm water, rinsed at once and dried in the shade. When nearly dry, iron with a cloth between the silk and iron. Soak genuine whalebones, when bent, in warm water, and then at the end of thirty minutes iron them out with a hot iron. Navy blue flannel dresses should be washed in bran and water without any soap, but with a cup of salt to set the color. Soft water is always the best for cleaning, or hard water may be softened with a little borax or ammonia. When jet passementerie looks dusty and rusty wipe it off with a wad of black silk or cashmere dipped in diluted alcohol and finally wipe dry with a clean rag. There is a waterproofed crape for wearing in damp weather, but if the ordinary crape is worn and gets rusty and slimy, as it will do in time, it can be renovated at home after a formula that I have personally tested many times. Rip out the hems of veils, brush away all dust with an old silk handkerchief, and wind the crape smoothly, catching it with pins, around a broomstick or clothes-stick. Fill the wash-boiler half full of water, and when it boils lay the stick across it, the ends resting on the edge lengthwise. Keep the water boiling and steam the crape all day, turning the stick so that every part of the crape may be steamed. Then put the stick away for twenty hours, as the crape must be perfectly dry before unpinning it. This will make it retain a good black color and it will be crisp to the touch. Clean ordinary spots from a black dress with a rag of the same, wet with ammonia and warm water.

### THE RIPPING AND BRUSHING

**R**IP up your goods, using a penknife or small pointed scissors; pick out the threads and shake each piece. Brush woolen goods with a whisk, but silk is dusted by rubbing it with a silk handkerchief or piece of soft flannel. It will answer to simply shake cotton goods. Put the buttons, ribbons, laces, passementerie, etc., in separate boxes, and tie up the different materials in separate parcels ready for the cleaning.

**P**UT a tablespoonful of sal soda to a gallon of cold water for rinsing blue and purple lawns. Use a teacup of vinegar in a gallon of water to rinse green and pink cottons, as it will improve the color. Black and navy blue lawns, etc., should be washed in warm suds containing a cup of salt; rinse in very blue water and dry in the shade; then immerse in very blue and thin starch, and when nearly dry iron on the wrong side with a moderate iron. Dry all cottons in the shade and use very thin, warm starch on them. Always iron on the wrong side and with a moderate iron. Never soak them overnight. Wash gingham and percale in only warm water, and use salt in each water to set the color. It is said, though I have never tried it, that if the color has been taken out of a natural colored linen waist it can be restored by dipping in a solution of one part of acetic acid to twelve parts of water. You can remove scorch stains from a summer muslin by soaking the material in luke-warm water, squeezing lemon juice over it and sprinkling salt on the stains; then bleach it in the sun. If a white dress has coffee stains on it remove with the yolk of an egg and twenty drops of glycerine mixed together. Wash off with warm water and iron on the wrong side. Shirt-waists should have the collar and cuffs stiffly starched and the rest of the garment very thinly starched; iron with a moderate iron. Clean French and domestic satens by placing them in a lather of luke-warm soapsuds containing a cup of salt; rinse in water and salt; dip in very thin, warm starch and wrap in a clean sheet; in two hours iron on the wrong side over a well-covered ironing-board. Iron embroidery on the wrong side and over a soft, padded ironing-board.

### CLEANSING KID GLOVES

**C**LEAN kid gloves with naphtha; put them on the hands, rub with flannel dipped in naphtha, and then wipe dry with a clean piece of white flannel. Remove the gloves and hang them up in the air. The first steps in renovating are uninteresting, but must be done well or the after results will be far from satisfactory. Silk embroidery may be cleaned with a camel's-hair brush and spirits of wine. Prepare to do the task well or do not commence it. Be careful of explosive cleaning fluids, like benzine, naphtha or alcohol. Always air goods after cleaning them in a fluid of strong odor.

### A STREET MATERNITY GOWN

**W**ITH the early advent of spring many wish and should have out-of-door exercise, who cannot wear the usual gown decreed by Dame Fashion. I have spoken before of having a soft, easy and well-fitting corset, and of curving the top edge of the skirt front up, in place of down, so that it will not draw up. Fit the skirt with a few gathers in front in place of darts, and use a draw-string at the back. Have a reefer jacket of the striped or mixed serge, cheviot, plain mohair or whatever it may be. This has a fitted back, loose double-breasted front, rolling collar and revers, very large sleeves and eight large buttons on the front. Have the entire fit easy rather than snug, and when necessary the buttons can be moved to afford more room. This is worn with a linen chemisette and club tie, a silk stock collar and tiny plastron, and a cotton shirt-waist or silk waist. A mixed brown is pretty with brown velvet collar and revers. A black mohair looks well with a plaid silk collar and plastron. Blue or dark green is set off with black satin for the collar and revers. Such a suit is comfortable to wear, and gives a good appearance. With a linen chemisette wear a club or De Joinville tie. Wash-silk waists are neat made up just as cotton waists are. A striped piqué for midsummer wear can be made in the same fashion and worn with a dotted Swiss and lace collar and plastron.

### FOR HOUSE WEAR

**T**HERE is the inevitable tea-gown, which is now made with the loose Empire front shirred at the neck and then falling unchecked to the feet. This centre front should be of Japanese silk, cotton crêpe or some such soft goods. A Watteau back is the most becoming, and a berth fall of lace or full epaulette ruffles and large sleeves. For midsummer, percale and white lawn Mother Hubbard wrappers are the most convenient. A silk blouse can be worn if it really drops in front over the waist-line. Striped lawns are made up with a blouse waist and always look very well. House sacques of lawn, cashmere or flannelette are useful and may be trimmed up in quite a dressy fashion. Select small-figured or narrow-striped goods. Have white or light dainty shades in place of gay colors. Have yokes put on all of the under petticoats, and if draw-strings are put in the back part at first no further enlarging will be necessary. Avoid any decided belting, be it wide or narrow. For a change a pointed jacket effect just below the waist-line in front is not a bad idea, with a soft draped plastron showing between. Above all, dress as comfortably and appropriately as possible.

**A**T this time women of all ages begin to look over their wardrobes and to select those gowns which are worth doing over for wear in the rapidly-approaching spring season. To such I would say, do not begin work on anything too old to repay you for your time and labor, and whatever you do let it be carefully accomplished or the result will be only a disappointment. Combinations of colors and materials are allowed in a manner to delight an economical person, and render the making of old clothes into new garments a pleasing task.

### CLEANING BLACK GOODS

**E**VERY one has or wants a black gown nowadays, and such goods as serge, cheviot, cashmere, Henrietta, etc., are easily cleaned. First remove the grease spots with naphtha, and remember that this fluid is very explosive when exposed to either light or fire. Make a lather of warm soapsuds, using a good, not strong, soap, and a teaspoonful of borax to every two quarts of water. Into this dip the goods up and down and wash between the hands; then wring gently and pat partly dry; hang in the shade, and when nearly dry iron on the wrong side with a moderately warm iron. Always rinse once in luke-warm water, and iron until the material is perfectly dry. Never rub a fabric that is being renovated on the washboard, nor wring it tightly, and in using naphtha remember that it roughens the hands, and that after using it it is well to put vaseline upon them and to wear old gloves. Wash alpaca in the same manner as cashmere, adding a little gum-arabic to the rinsing water. If the black goods are of a rusty color restore them by sponging with ammonia and alcohol. Always use a piece of the same material or one near to it to sponge with. Remove grease from colored cashmere with French chalk. Rub it on the spot, then let it remain all night, and in the morning brush off; if necessary repeat the treatment. Wash a colored woolen fabric, as cashmere or serge, in warm water, putting a tablespoonful each of beef's gall and ammonia to a pail of water. Have the rinsing water ready, with a small portion of beef's gall in that, and wash and rinse quickly; dry in the shade and iron on the wrong side with a warm, not hot, iron. French chalk can be used on any color and material. Benzine will remove paint—it is also very explosive—but sometimes leaves a stain like water. This stain may often be removed with French chalk. Grease is also removed by rubbing the spot with a lump of wet magnesia, and after it is dry by brushing off the powder. Remove all grease spots before cleaning a piece of silk or woolen goods. It is prudent to try the liquid you intend using, on a small bit of the material first to note the effect. In sponging any fabric always do it with downward strokes.

### THE INEVITABLE BLACK SILK

**A**GOOD quality of black silk cleans well and repays one for careful handling. If too shabby to make up as a dress use it for a petticoat. If worn for the latter garment be sure and put ruffles of taffeta on it, for no other silk has the same stand-out tendency as taffeta. Have a clean, smooth table to sponge your silk upon, and rub on the side that will be worn out. Here are several fluids for sponging black silk, and all are excellent: Equal parts of warm water and alcohol; cold coffee made strong and well strained; stale beer; water in which an old black glacé kid glove has been boiled, using a pint of water to a glove and boiling it down to half of that quantity. Cut the selvage here and there to prevent any drawing. Hang each piece on a line to drip nearly dry, and then iron on the wrong side with a moderately warm iron, putting a piece of thin black crinoline between the iron and silk. Lay the pieces away without folding them. A very hot iron often discolors silk. If a white silk handkerchief was ironed with a cool iron, and with a linen handkerchief between the iron and silk, the latter would not yellow. Clean black ribbons as you do silk. Clean colored silk with water in which a kid glove the color of the silk has been boiled, using a new tin pan to boil it in; strain and add a little hot water and ammonia. Wash in this, and put half a teaspoonful each of borax and spirits of camphor to a quart of the rinsing water, and hang each piece up until it dries, but do not iron. Another authority says that ribbons should be washed in a lather of cold water and Castile soap, and should be ironed while damp, using a cloth under the iron.