HOMEMAKERS' Dispatch

The Distinctive Touch

Most of us, when we shop for clothes, want something "a little different" so that we won't meet ourselves on every street corner. But too often, our purses fit only the identical dresses that hang in rows on the store racks.

You can—if you're handy with a needle—perk up an inexpensive dress to suit your taste. It's surprising what just new buttons will do. And these you may find in your own well-stocked button box. Ribbon trim, if there's not too much of it, can also be replaced for an individual touch. That's true of extra collars or vestee. It's a good idea, too, to hand-sew machine-finished edges for a better tailored garment. And, of course, you'll save the proverbial nine stiches if you check seams at the start to be sure they're sturdy.

Family Fun

Does your family have fun together? That's a personal question, of course, and strictly your own business. But the point is you may not realize how much you do enjoy each other as a family. Miss Margaret Brooks, a child development specialist at the New York State College of Home Economics at Cornell, describes fun as a feeling that you belong—to a family, to a social group, to a whole world full of new things to be done in new ways, to a great group of folks who ride hobby horses.

"Even if your family members are all rugged individualists," says Miss Brooks, "there's still much to share because you do belong to one family. How about your family jokes, your family traditions, holiday customs, birthday parties, your 'special event' celebrations? Those are the little things that loom so large in having fun."

Better Health For Children

A Community Service Issued by Children's Hospital of Buffalo, N. Y.

There is a mistaken idea among parents that toys provide only amusement. Many parents are unhappy if they can't give their child expensive playthings. Children's Hospital of Buffalo, therefore, points out that toys are the first step in education. What seems to an adult to be play is, in reality, as much work as going to the office or doing the family laundry.

The baby reaching for his rattle, the little boy fitting one block inside another, the little girl pushing things through the sides of her playpen—all are working with utmost concentration to learn. Toys which leave no room for the child's imagination to function soon bore him. A one year old has more interest in a pie tin and spoon than in most toys because they arouse his inventive curiosity. He finds they make a nice bang when struck, that they reflect his face like a mirror, or that the pie tin slides easily when he pushes it. Incidently, children learn to push before they can pull.

We know a grandmother who gave her sixteen month old granddaughter a discarded pocketbook equipped with a reasonably loose clasp. Inside she put a bunch of keys—large blunt ones, an empty vanity case, a small box, an empty change purse and a wallet with a few papers in it. The child was entranced with her new "toy" and worked with undivided attention until she learned to open it. Examination of the contents afforded endless delight as well as instruction and learning to close the clasp another achievement.

The time will eventually come when more expensive things such as tricycles, doll carriages, gym sets, roller skates, etc., are wanted and desired, but for the child under three, less expensive toys and household articles are usually entirely satisfactory. From then until he reaches six, a large box of assorted blocks is worth more than ten toys.

Since an iron heats more quickly than it cools, fabrics which take lower temperatures should be ironed first.

Home, Sweet Home

An Irishman, whose wife was fond of moving from one house to another, was hailed by a friend who espied him walking behind a vanload of household goods.

"Hallo, Mickey, shifting again? Where might you be going this time?"

"I don't know," said Mickey, "I'm following the furniture to find out!"

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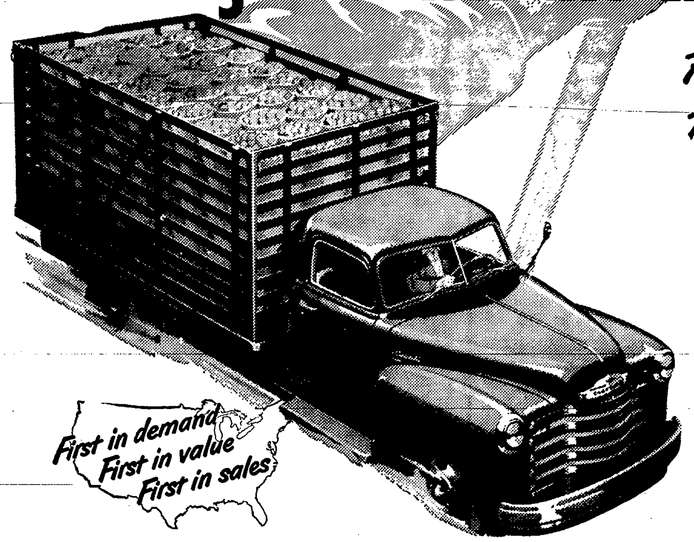

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