



“Take it, my dear, from one who knows. There's a heap of difference between linen being clean and being a lovely white. Washing will make grey sheets clean, but where's the pride! Mark my words, **Reckitt's BLUE** in the final rinse keeps your linen a good colour.”

BL 52.

ABSOLUTE MINIMUM FOR BRIDES

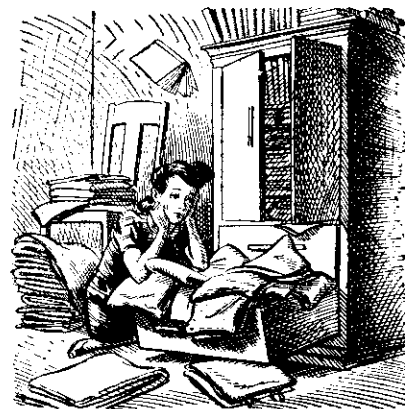
I AM not sure whether the A.C.E. Talk “A List of the Bride's Household Needs” left me amused, irritated, or merely jealous!

Usually, although singularly undomesticated, I enjoy listening to these pleasant and informative little talks, but when I heard the Bride-to-be solemnly told that she will need Twelve Bath Towels as an absolute minimum when she “sets up home” (horrid term) I gave a hollow groan, and settled down to listen with my tongue in my cheek.

“Now that you really are about to become a wife,” a voice said brightly, “you will have to get down to Rock Bottom!” (Although the Voice did not, I believe, put it quite like this.) Now if Rock Bottom really is Twelve Bath Towels, then I fear that my Six, plus one which has seen good service and better days in the Middle East, and serve as Bath, Hand, and Guest towels, are hopelessly inadequate!

Supposing our Bride-to-be is lucky enough to have accumulated a dozen bath towels (forgive this repetition), where is she going to put them? I sup-

Written for “The Listener”
by A.M.S.



“Surrounded by her bottom drawer”

pose it is possible that she might find a house (all to herself), but I can picture her in a very Small Flat (like mine), surrounded by her Bottom Drawer which threatens to engulf her, and is completely incapable of fitting into her one small Linen Cupboard, which has to house her husband's books and papers as well.

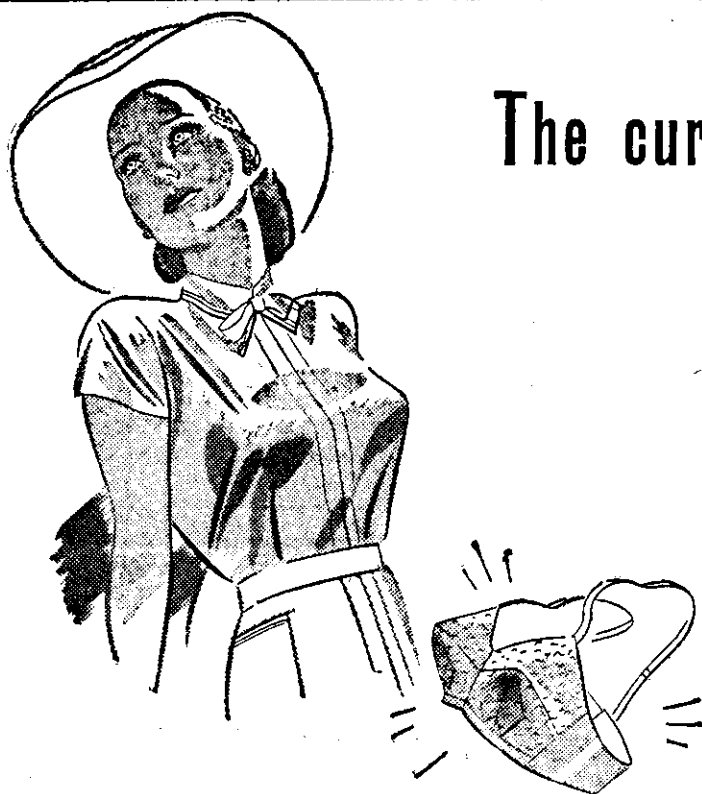
I leave the absorbing subject of towels, though reluctantly, and turn to the Kitchen! No, I cannot face the alarming number of Oven Cloths, Pot Holders, and other implements of Kitchen Torture.

Please let the Bride-to-be stay in her seventh Heaven. She will find that Marriage is the glamorous state she imagines it to be, if she doesn't wrap herself up in too many of everything!

I think it is the dream of a spacious house, with all the things in it mentioned in the talk, which has prompted me to write in this vein. What we cannot possibly have (at the present time) we must affect to scorn, and somehow, a talk such as this strikes a jarring note, when so many people all over the world are Homeless. My husband and I, who according to the standards of this talk are indeed in a sad way, feel we are extremely lucky, for we have found out that happiness does not consist of vast quantities of sheets and towels.

Although few people would consider taking up any occupation without some sort of instruction, it is not unusual for a couple to plunge into matrimony, thinking only of wedding dresses and household goods. I feel that much good could be done if talks were to be given which would be of help in all branches of married life.

Yes I enjoy the A.C.E. Talks immensely, but am so glad that I was not burdened with such a formidable stock of Household goods when I was married (even if they had been possible to purchase) as the cot, pram, and other necessities which are shortly going to Loom Largely in Our Flat would have been a positive nightmare, instead of the mild headache it now is, occasioning the remark, “Oh well, I expect we shall find room somehow when the time comes.”



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