

NOT long ago a woman bought half-a-dozen oysters from a stall on the Blackpool beach. While eating the first one she felt what seemed like a number of small stones in her mouth. Hastily withdrawing them she found to her surprise that she had nearly swallowed nine pearls! One pearl was a quarter of an inch in diameter, and the value of the whole nine proved to be in the vicinity of £30.

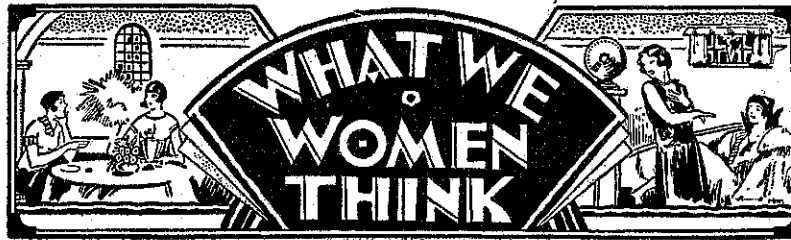
AN unusual wedding took place some months ago in a forest near the Avon Valley in England. The bride was a Torquay school teacher and the bridegroom a doctor, both belonging to the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry, and were named "White Lion" and "Brave Desmos" respectively. They were the first couple to be married according to the rites of the order, and the ceremony was extremely picturesque. The members were grouped round a camp fire in a sylvan amphitheatre and the bride dressed in Lincoln green, with a garland on her brow and sandals on her feet. The couple advanced to the fire, stood silent for a moment, then "Desmos" taking the hand of "White Lion" said, "In the sight of God and in the presence of this assembly I take you to be my wife." "White Lion" made a similar vow, and her husband placed a ring on her finger. For musical accompaniment there were the songs of the birds and the tinkling of water on the stones of a near-by brook.

A MOST effective treatment for floors in a country cottage is to paint them, and then, if desired, stencil a pattern on to them. There are two different effects to be obtained with paint—an all-over dappled pattern or the more conventional stencilled border design. For the former it is necessary to paint the floor all over first in one colour, and then before quite dry spray with the second. Two shades of the same colour are most attractive, but if a contrast is wanted the second colour might repeat the predominant tone of curtains and cushions. For stencilled designs it is generally better to choose a bold pattern, such as the Greek key pattern. Use ordinary stencils, but be sure to wipe the backs clean of paint before using again to continue the design. Apply the paint with short stabbing strokes to avoid getting a blurred outline for the motifs. Before beginning be sure that the ground colour of the floor is absolutely dry.

THE powers of electricity as a means of saving unnecessary labour, and of raising the standard of comfort and hygiene in the home, can hardly be exaggerated (says an "Economist" correspondent). Everything in England is to be done to help the householders to install electricity in their homes. There are to be attractive facilities for extended payment, either through the chief wiring contractors or concerns selling electrical appliances and apparatus, or through a finance company, for it is now realised that electricity is a great vehicle of civilisation.

NOW that pineapples are fairly cheap, it is a good opportunity to glaze some for storing. To do this, peel a small pineapple and after removing the "eyes" cut it into cubes. Make a syrup by boiling together for 20 minutes 6oz. lump sugar and a breakfast cupful of water. Then stir in the pineapple and boil for another ten minutes. Remove from the fire and let stand till cold, strain off the juice, spread the fruit on a large dish, and place in a very cool oven till dried. Dip each piece of pineapple into a second and thicker syrup, made by boiling together very quickly 1lb. sugar and one pint of water. See that every side is well coated with hot syrup. Leave on a sieve in a warm room to dry before packing in boxes lined with waxed paper.

SIR CHARLES HOWELL THOMAS, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, stated in the House of Lords, at the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, that the



environment of some of the works excluded women for posts as inspectors (writes a correspondent to the London "Times"). Sir Charles Howell Thomas continued that it was unwise for women to go to sea as inspectors in trawlers, and that the position of agricultural inspectors was also unsuitable. He further stated that the time had not yet arrived for them, for the farmers would not feel they could talk so freely to women as to men inspectors; he said that if there were more women farmers, and work which up till now had been done by men, was undertaken by women, the opening would be made, and the time then ripe for women inspectors.

EVIDENCE was also given during this same Commission on Civil Service upon "marriage bar," and it was decided that married women should not be debarred from candidature for, or

Thought for the Week

A sense of humour is the most hard-worked and most frequently misapplied phrase in our language. I prefer to regard it as the philosophy of the unbeaten.

N. K. STRANGE
in "Kenya Dawn."

employment in, those professional, scientific and technical classes in which single women may be employed. A woman doctor—Dr. Overton—representing the medical institution, said that the marriage bar should be abolished, because the professional classes took upon themselves a career as men do, and put themselves to considerable expense in qualifying.

IT is interesting to read the views of a German Fascist doctor on modern man's dress. The doctor, who is a leader in the Hitler movement in Berlin, has gone so far as to publish a book on male attire. He considers that the time has come when all good Fascists should cease to adopt the clothing of the bourgeoisie. Certainly, his views on the collar will be heartily endorsed by thousands of suffering males all over the world. "The man of to-morrow," he says, "will have no place for the collar, because it is unnecessary, ugly and unhygienic. It is the symbol of the yoke borne in a decadent era." After that slashing indictment surely even the starchiest of collars will be unable to stand upright.

WE are now having on the market smaller-sized vacuum cleaners at half the price of the full-sized ones, and diminutive electric washing machines which are selling in London at the moderate price of twelve guineas. They will do all that a larger one will do. Ten minutes of circular movement in the washer will cleanse the dirtiest of clothes. Its great advantage is that the movement is gentle, and we can satisfactorily wash woollens, silks and all delicate fabrics.

TO the American in London it comes as something of a surprise to discover that, so far as money is concerned, each of England's colonies is treated as a foreign country. Even coins from the Irish Free State are not legal tender in Britain. In the American colonies, on the contrary, even a dime can buy something for its owner, while in Europe French shopkeepers will generally accept English money. In Holland, both Belgian and English coins are accepted.

ELINOR GLYN, the well-known novelist, has just moved into a new flat, accompanied by her two Persian cats. Miss Glyn has had a "park" specially built for them outside a window, and there they lie basking in what sun there is, reclining in a quilted and silk-lined basket, with cushions to match and a coverlet to tuck round them. They are evidently being brought up on a modified Plunket system.

A NEW schedule of standard sizes for women's dresses and other garments, evolved after 18 months' work by the London Employers' Association, has been adopted by 40 manufacturing firms (writes the "Daily Sketch"). Women will in future be assured that if a size 38 or 42 dress of one maker is a perfect fit, so also will be a dress of the same size made by any of the 39 other makers. The new schedule is based on hip measurement, which has been found the most reliable basis, and the standard sizes range from 36 to 50. Dresses will vary in length according to fashion. More and more manufacturers are adopting the standard size schedule, and it is hoped that it will soon be universally adopted throughout the trade.

DURING the recent Christmas shopping week one could not fail to be struck with the altered methods adopted by women who were obviously buying presents. No longer did they send the shop assistants scurrying after first one and then another pretty, but quite useless article. This year they seemed to realise that in these "so-called" hard times nobody would thank them for objects of art. Every offering would be better appreciated if it could be used, and if it could also be admired, so much the better. Such an attitude of mind is interesting as pointing the way for new methods of house-furnishing. The house of to-morrow will be furnished on a more utilitarian basis, and the glass-fronted cabinets, stuffed with treasures, so dear to our grandparents, will not be granted a place any more than will the bed valances, and heavy-tasselled velvet curtains of the Victorian era. Moreover, lest we should lose our artistic appreciation of the beautiful, even the simplest implements of household use will have to be made pleasing to the eye. In this way it will come about that the economic depression through which we are passing will be rendering a very real service to the future.

THE clever modern girl is always thinking out something to employ her time; if she is in the happy position of not having to earn her own living there is no reason why she should not take up a "professional" hobby. Dressmaking, for those who have the gift is a very fascinating occupation and always a girl can be certain that there will be ample scope to make a livelihood from this work. There are not nearly enough good dressmakers at the present time, and we all know how grateful we feel to a friend who recommends us to a clever dressmaker. Therefore, any girl who has the gift of designing, drawing, doing fine needlework and a love of the beautiful could not do better than taking up as a profession dress-designing. In large houses designers are employed at salaries varying from £5 to £15 a week, but the qualifications have to reach a very high standard of art.