

THE news of Rebecca West's marriage will surprise those who remember how that distinguished novelist and feminist used to refer pungently to average English husbands as "perfect nuisances." We can only infer from this that the fortunate man is well above the average—at least, in Miss West's estimation. Which, after all, is quite as it should be. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that on another occasion Miss West said: "Surely, to ask the intellectual women to stand aside and leave marriage to their dependent and sweet sisters who 'need protection' is eugenically unsound? Why should the nation be denied enrichment from these chosen stocks?" So at the age of thirty-seven this brilliant writer is entering on a love romance of her own, and we are sure that the best wishes of all her readers will accompany her.

THERE is always a fascination in putting a penny in a slot machine, whether it is for your weight, chocolate, matches, or a threepenny orange drink. In Berlin you can buy your morning and evening paper this way, but perhaps this would only lead to further unemployment if we had it in New Zealand.

BECAUSE prices are down, there's no reason for trade to be down. Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell, the well-known firm of manufacturers, have reduced many of their standard lines. Since this has been done their business has increased so greatly that they have been compelled to add a night shift to their factory staff. This increased business not only means more people employed in the factories, but it means increased employment among the Welsh tin-plate workers, printers, glass workers and box-makers. This is surely a bright sign though it is in England, but New Zealand considers it follows suit, so here's to our good times, which our factories and manufacturing firms will help to bring about. In business it is policy to look up and not down.

NOW the winds are not quite so ferocious, and the sun is not quite a stranger, the garden shows signs of brightness and colour, and one does not feel quite so disheartened at the thought of all the money spent on plants with very little result. There is really no cheaper way of beautifying one's garden than by raising plants from seeds. It is a method that should be more often adopted by those whose purse feels the pinch when it comes to buying large quantities of nursery plants. Be sure never to transplant the seedlings in clumps, but separate them by about a foot. If the seeds have been planted in a box, it is an excellent plan to place a sheet of perforated paper or coarse muslin over the top before watering; this prevents washing small seeds out of the soil or floating them to one corner.

JUST a word to those who are not very experienced in the use of an electric stove. Everything is very simple. An electric stove needs very little cleaning—that is one of its great charms. A cloth should be kept handy for wiping off anything that may be spilt. In an electric oven the back part cooks more quickly than the front. If you want to cook your cake quickly, put it well back, and if

Old-time Musical Evenings

Popularity Returning

WITH long frocks and long hair, once more in fashion it would appear that also the diversions of our grand-parents are returning to favour. I refer to the resurrection of the once-popular "musical evening," which will doubtless have all the appeal of novelty for the present generation.

Bridge-bored youngsters, already somewhat satiated with the mysteries of wireless and the mechanical precision of the gramophone, are clustering round the old piano singing glees, roundelays, and sea chanties.

Possibly this revival of the musical evening will produce a new type of drawingroom song, suitable for after-dinner singing, and more attuned to modern fancy than the simple ditties of the Victorian age.

you want it to cook slower, draw it forward. If you have a custard to cook, put it in the oven when you have turned off the power, as an electric oven holds the heat for quite half an hour afterward. If a joint is to be roasted, the best formula for time to use is 20 minutes per pound weight of joint and 20 minutes over; and the oven should be switched on for about twenty minutes before the joint is put in. As with the gas stove, there is no teacher like experience, but it is surprising how easily and rapidly one learns to judge the time required to obtain the necessary heats for the different food being cooked.

WITH the advent of the "talkies" the atmosphere of Hollywood is said to have changed completely. To begin with, a different type of actor or actress is required—one with something more than a mere "face value." The day of the "beautiful but dumb" artist has gone, and in their places has arisen a cleverer and more serious crowd, for the success of the talking picture depends largely on the brains of the actors. Curiously enough, salaries are smaller, and whether it is due to this fact or not, there are certainly fewer parties, while the "orgies" of former days are not in evidence. Perhaps this will dissipate the Hollywood mirage which has lured so many English lads and lasses across the Atlantic to try their fortunes at Los Angeles.

MR. ROBERT GRAVES has just had published a sequel to his highly controversial book "Good-bye to All That." In this new book, which is called "But It Still Goes On," the author sets out his ideas of a war from which all mechanicalised fighting is absent: "A duel of hand-to-hand fighting between picked national forces that would be formal, chivalrous and primitive. Weapons should be the simplest possible, standardised after the fashion of bats, golf balls and the like. The weapon could probably be the quarterstaff. The battlefield should be an area of 1000 square miles in a sparsely-inhabited region in a neutral country, with neutral umpires playing the part of mediaeval heralds. Time of action, two or three weeks."

—ALISON.

A Pioneer Woman Doctor

Distinguished Career

DR. MARY SCHARLIEB, who died in London last month at the age of 85, was one of the first women to enter the medical profession.

While in India with her husband she was deeply impressed by the need for medical work among Indian women, and qualified as a doctor at Madras Medical College. Later she took several degrees at London University, and was soon recognised as one of the foremost women doctors. In addition to a long list of academic distinctions, Dame Mary Scharlieb was a distinguished writer on social and medical problems. Moreover, she was a devoted mother to her children, and found time for a great deal of charitable and church work. She was always very feminine and dressed beautifully.

For her services in the war, Dr. Scharlieb was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and later became Dame Commander of the Order. She never spared herself, and was at work almost to the last day of her serene and noble life.

Colourful Furnishings

The Modern Trend

THE tendency for splashes of colour rather than symmetrical designs is noticeable in modern furnishings, especially in carpets and curtains. At one time it used to be considered necessary for geometrical patterns to balance each other, but now they are generally arranged at random.

The new "lightning flash" design of horizontal intersecting streaks in vivid hues is very popular for door or window curtains in tapestry or artificial silk. Carpets are being made in oval or circular shapes and those with a plain centre have usually a border of several shades in a contrasting colour, deepening to the edge of the carpet.

Mushrooms About

Recipe for Ketchup

JUST at present we are being favoured with a "little season" for mushrooms, and those who live in the country should take advantage of the fact to make some ketchup for winter use. Peel the mushrooms, break each one into several pieces and arrange in layers in a large basin, sprinkling each layer with salt. Leave standing in a warm place near the stove until the next day, then strain and measure the liquid. Boil it for half an hour, then add for each quart ½ oz. each of mixed pickling spice and bruised ginger, half a dozen cloves and three or four blades of mace, all tied in a small square of muslin. Boil for another half-hour, then strain off the liquid and bottle when cold.

Reducing Diets

Valuable Hints

IT was only a few weeks ago that an old man died in England at the age of 105. He had never been in a tramcar, bus or motor, not to mention an aeroplane. He walked everywhere. He kept his muscles in constant use, and consequently lived to an old age, never having known illness. Perhaps it is the present-day cheapness of taxis and easily caught motor-buses almost at our doors that tends to give so many women anxiety regarding their increase in avoirdupois.

Of course, reducing diets play an important part, and perhaps the following hints of what to choose in the way of diet may act as a signpost for some of you who are really serious regarding weight reducing.

(1) Choose food that has sufficient nutritive value, but of small bulk. (2) Take small but more frequent meals. (3) Seldom eat eggs. (4) Do without salt. (5) Eat plenty of baked apples. (6) Honey is allowed in some diets, and it is also a wholesome, energy-creating food.

Unfortunately, nearly everything that is nice is fattening, but beauty seems always to demand a certain self-sacrifice. In Hollywood dieting is simplified as regards "thinking" because dishes are all labelled "fattening" or "non-fattening."

Removing Ink Stains

INK stains can be removed from the hands by rubbing with ripe tomato juice applied at once. It is sometimes successful in removing ink stains from white fabrics. Next time you see tannin in any of your cups try using vinegar and salt. You'll find this will remove the stains quicker than anything else.

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