

AUSTRALIA'S WOMAN INVENTOR**MRS MYRA JULIET TAYLOR.**

That trite phrase, "A prophet hath no glory in his own land" was never so strikingly illustrated as in the case of Mrs Myra Juliet Taylor. This remarkable little lady might justly claim to be the most versatile woman in the Commonwealth of Australia, yet she dwells in our midst unknown, almost in obscurity. This, in a measure, is owing to the lady's shrinking from publicity, and reluctance to speak of herself and her doings, and her present small venture into the limelight is due to her strong patriotic sentiments. Mrs Taylor is a practical inventress; her registered patents are the source of her income. She is a widow with a young family to support. There are 24 inventions to her credit, but her latest achievement takes pride of place, a "defence fence," which is said to be invulnerable. It is some two months since this invention was perfected and patented, and it is now under the consideration of the Defence Department, which authority, after much investigation, admits it is all Mrs Taylor claims for it—rifle, shell, and machine-gun proof.

Simplified Garments.

Another most remarkable invention is her "stitchless button." It is recognised that this will prove a universal boon when placed upon the market. No longer need the harassed housekeeper worry about the buttonless garments returned from the laundry. The "stitchless button" dispenses with the attentions of needle and thread, nor does it require the faking of a button-hole. In this department might also be mentioned two other labour-savers to the seamstress—the "stitchless press stud" and the "stitchless hook and eye." The military authorities have also the "stitchless button" under consideration for adoption on the soldiers' uniforms. Yet another appliance to appeal to the needlewoman is a "mechanical skirt and pattern-marker," which will mark and measure any pattern or size skirt from any fashion plate, and when the skirt is cut out will mark the required length, width of hem, and mark off for trimming in a few seconds. The appliance will adjust itself to any mode and any size.

Something that makes a direct appeal to the feminine world is the "camisole stayette," or boneless corset, a garment which is so constructed as to perfect a good figure and improve a bad one, and ensure ease, whilst conforming to every rule of hygiene. The "camisole stayette" is now being manufactured in England, and will shortly be upon the Australian market.

Closely associated with this is the medical and surgical belt, for use after operations, which has the written approval of ten leading doctors.

Devices in the Home.

Then there is her linoleum clip for putting down the floor covering without tacking. A wheat sampler and weigher, a fruit picker and packer, which was tested upon the most difficult of all fruit to handle—mulberries, and effects its work perfectly. The fruit is unbruised and hands need not touch it. An automatic window, which opens and closes by pressure upon a button; a collapsible rigid and folding hood, which can be made to fit any vehicle. Its ingenious utility is admirably illustrated on a baby's perambulator. It affords perfect protection from any kind of weather, and allows of free ventilation—an automatic air purifier and cooler, which can be adjusted to any requirements. Its principle is a form of condensation. The Patent Attorney pronounces this a master invention, and states that hitherto there has been no record of any invention to make water run up a flat surface. Yet the contrivance appears simple, and is unobtrusive. It creates no wet or damp, nor any such discomfort. Its adoption will dispense with the use of punkahs and electric fans, etc. Dwellers in tropical lands will hail it as a heaven-sent blessing. Another master conception is her advertising apparatus, which automatically throws illuminated words into space. It will be just as effective as the present disappearing electric signs, and do away with all the permanent structure required for their maintenance.

An attachable sole, which will fit any boot or shoe, and requires no tacking on, is another of her inventions, as is also a restful railway carriage seat, which will permit of every traveler being assured of comfort during his journey. Mrs Taylor is taking this device to America in a few months,

for, as she rather pathetically complains, it is so difficult to get anything done in Australia, and we are so slow and cautious about assimilating new ideas.

Mrs Taylor has just cause for complaint, since it took three years' hard work for her to get her first patent made—the skirt and pattern-marker. She also says that it is even difficult to get the Patent Attorney to listen to some of her new ideas. One would expect to find the person responsible for all this ingenious work to be rather difficult, but Mrs Taylor is quite the reverse when one succeeds in making her talk of herself and her doings. Her manner is simple, kindly, and affable. In appearance, she is essentially feminine, very fair, and plump, with appealing blue eyes and brilliant colouring, which comes and goes as she warms to her subject, and a soft, slow voice.

Started Inventing at Five.

Her inventive genius does not interfere with domestic duties. She is a devoted mother, and her two bonny children are her first care and consideration. The elder child, a daughter of seven, has inherited her mother's gift. At the age of five, to ensure more comfort for her dollies, she effected a contrivance which a Patent Attorney pronounced "an ingenious invention worthy a mature brain."

Mrs Taylor is the daughter of a clergyman, of a very old family, whose Celtic crest dates back over 900 years. She is much travelled, knows Ireland and England, and has been in most parts of all the Australian States.

The remarkable little lady has been inventing since she was a tiny child. She says she always felt as long as she can remember that she could see and do things which other people could not. Her first invention happened at the age of ten, when she made a self-fastening safety-pin, and announced to her mystified mother, "I can do something that you can't."

Neither Mrs Taylor nor her people understood her marvellous gift, and it lay dormant for years. Practically six years of her short married life were spent in constantly nursing an invalid husband.

Things Dreams are Made of.

No less astounding than her achievements is Mrs Taylor's method of working. An idea comes to her from observation, or hint from a