

My Week by Eleanor Roosevelt

ON AUTUMN AND THE WAR

We left Washington and, after seeing one or two people in New York city, reached Hyde Park in time for dinner. The cottage seemed very peaceful and the open fire was both comfortable and attractive.

Yesterday, we were out of doors all day, but it was not until morning that I woke early enough to have the full benefit of the early morning birds' serenade. One rather young one perched on the rail near me and repeated over and over again what seemed like a musical call. He cocked his head from side to side and his bright little eyes twinkled with each call.

The air is still soft, but cool in the evenings and early mornings. When the sun shines, the pool is still a pleasant place, but across the pond from where I sit, my swamp maple is completely red and I know that in another two weeks the autumn colors will be everywhere.

Again we opened our papers this morning to read about Stalingrad. This is certainly going down in history as a valiant defense. I have great sympathy for the three young Russians now traveling in this country, who must scan the papers every day and wonder why we, in this country, can live so comfortably and still be at war; when they know that war means a change in the everyday life to every citizen in the Soviet Union.

There is one advantage in fighting on your own soil. No one can say, as they occasionally do to me by letter: "Why do my boys have to go out of the country?" Everybody in Russia knows what is happening because it is within the borders of the country.

They tell me that even the besieged cities in Russia get mail by airplane, and that is one of the ways by which morale is kept high. That, of course, has been one of the great advantages in Great Britain also. The young British wing-commander, Scott-Malden, in his radio interview the other night, said he had been fighting two weeks before, about 70 miles from his home in the raid on Dieppe.

This is about the same distance as from New York city to Poughkeepsie. It is easier to know what is happening when the happenings are so near and many of them occur in civilian areas. Our distant operations have kept us, as civilians, safe from harm, but they also make it much more difficult for us to understand and co-operate in the war effort.

ON TAXATION

It seems curious to me that we accept with much less excitement so drastic an action as the right of the War Manpower commission to shift workers without their consent to new places of abode, or into other fields of work; and yet seem to find it so difficult to accept any suggestions for new types of taxation.

I was much interested in Senator George's remark that the treasury's "spending tax" was a leveling tax. I supposed that was the type of tax we were looking for at present. It must be, however, that the pull of material interest has always been one of our strongest motivating forces and is still stronger in the minds of most of us than the right to work where and whenever we choose.

I think that in the present situation we have to accept as workers in civilian life, or even as private individuals, the decrees of our government in exactly the same way that soldiers have to accept them. I would not oppose any of these decrees. The only thing which surprises me is, that where our pockets are concerned, we fight so much harder and apparently so much more successfully against certain drastic changes.

I suppose it is in our tradition and it will take us longer to make the changes. In the end we will accept them, as we do everything else when we realize that to do so will shorten the war and give our boys a better chance to come through alive.

The RAF and our own men seem to be effectively continuing their raids on Germany, but it does not look as though raids alone were the final answer to the battle of Europe. All we can do is to pray that our production will really reach the point where decisive action can be taken.

EARNED APPOINTMENT

Jacqueline Cochran has earned her appointment to direct women's air work and women everywhere will be proud of her achievement.

WOMEN IN THE AAA PROGRAM

The war is changing the position of women in many ways. I notice that the department of agriculture has requested the farmers of the nation to consider the election of farm women as well as men, to county and community committees to administer the AAA farm program. The AAA's Articles of Association are being amended to permit farm wives, as well as women farming in their own name, to vote in the committee-member's elections and to hold office.

Kathleen Norris Says:

Divorce Sometimes Is Justified

Bell Syndicate-WNU Features.



My second husband's daughters rifle the ice box. He thinks everything they do is right. The girls say they are always busy with outside activities and have no time for home duties.

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

I KNOW you hate divorce and never advise it," writes Norma Brown, "but I want to know what you advise in my case."

"Two years ago, after an ideally happy marriage, I was left widowed with a boy of 5. I was crushed, bewildered, young, and within three months I suddenly married an old friend, a chiropractor, a man I had always regarded as an advisor, an older brother. My mother was furious, and would not forgive me for months. Fred is 49; he had been recently divorced; he has two daughters, who were then 13 and 15. Their mother takes them off for every other Saturday, coming back to dine with us on Sunday night. I now have a small girl baby, Ellen."

"We have a large house; Fred's office are in it, also a room for the nurse. This nurse, who is friendly enough to me, expected to marry my husband, when he and I eloped. I never knew this until lately. They had been engaged for a long while, and although she laughed about it when she told me, the fact that she did not leave him indicates to me that she likes him still."

"I have no servant; it is impossible to get anyone to come here for what Fred will pay. The girls do nothing, not even make their own beds; they come and rifle the ice box of my custards or sandwiches; everything they do is right in their father's eyes. Sometimes Milly, the nurse, helps me clear the table; nobody else helps with housework, cooking, marketing, and the baby's needs and laundry. I am exhausted with fatigue most of the time; I never catch up. Both girls are in high school and they claim that with first-aid classes after hours and gym and Junior Red Cross they are always busy, and have no time for home duties."

There Is No Harmony.
"This would perhaps not be so serious if they were my own children, but there is no harmony between them and my own son, Phil. They tease and annoy him all the time, and my husband blames him. He would like to send Phil to his sister, who has children about his age, but I will not consent. Fred is passionately devoted to his daughters, and over and over again he will plan for them some outing that doesn't include me. He takes them to movies, buys them whatever they want and this summer, during the very hottest weather went away with them for two weeks, leaving me at home with the small children."

"This treatment has opened my eyes to the fact that I don't love him; I don't even like him, and I never will again. What he needed was a working housekeeper, and in these times he would have to pay her a good fat salary."

"I slave and struggle all day and far into the night, and my reward is that Sally won't eat this and Eunice won't eat that; little Phil is sent away from the table to wash his hands or comb his hair, and Fred comments, kindly enough on my own appearance. 'Is this the pretty girl I married?' He also questions all bills, and has asked me twice if I ever got money from the stores and had it charged on the bill. My heart is broken, but that doesn't mean I have to break my back, too."

AN EXCEPTION

In her advice to Norma Brown, Kathleen Norris makes an exception to her rule against divorce. Usually, she feels, divorce is just a lazy and immature way of settling grievances that are far less important than the integrity of the home and the unity of the family group. Read Norma Brown's letter carefully before you say to yourself that your problem, too, can only be solved by divorce. And remember that you may lose more than you gain by divorce. It is still a last resort, and things must be very bad indeed before it is worth the sacrifice it inevitably means.

"My mother is well-fixed; she has always despised Fred; she would gladly take me and my two children in and I could be of real help to her, for she takes summer boarders and has a few boarders all the year. But she keeps a fine colored cook and her daughter and what I would do would be only light work. I am thirsting for escape and for freedom. Fred, I suppose, would immediately marry his nurse."

What She Would Do.
"She practically told me the other day that in my place she would pack the girls off to school and get in a good servant, so it may not be all roses for him, but that isn't my affair. My husband has never shown any affection for Ellen, my baby, and my old doctor told me as a joke that her father's welcome of a third daughter was a hearty curse."

"Well, I have written you my problem. Am I justified in getting a divorce, in your opinion?"
It was a foolish union from the first, for anyone with eyes in her head could see that such a household was no place for a young wife and a small boy. Yes, I think you would be justified in legally ending a union that never was real marriage, and in living hereafter for your mother and your children. It is a strange thing that a man like Fred can present the prospect to various women so charmingly that they are willing to sacrifice common sense and reason to leap into matrimony with him; certainly his office nurse has had every chance to study the situation.

That you were young, plunged in grief, and that you had always looked upon Fred as a sort of big brother and guide, is your excuse; I hope you'll be a little more careful about a third experiment. At 27 you still have plenty of time to consider the serious thing that marriage is.

Fred could dispute your divorce, for in your state nothing that he has done is actionable. But if he is thinking of marrying his nurse he may not interfere with your going to Reno to establish a six-weeks' residence.

Unjust Treatment.
One would like to be able to get into the mind of a man like that, to find out just what he thinks he is, an East Indian Sultan or Superman or what? Not only to impose upon you himself, but to allow two untrained selfish girls to walk rough-shod over you; to restrict your purse, criticize your appearance, poison your first joy in your baby by a curse at her sex, and abandon you whenever he wants to go on a pleasure trip, is to treat you as though you were merely a mechanical device in his household and not a woman at all.



FIRST-AID to the AILING HOUSE

By ROGER B. WHITMAN

Roger B. Whitman-WNU Features.

WATERPROOFING GARAGE FLOOR

IN LAYING a concrete floor in a garage or outbuilding, or in the cellar of a house, for that matter, it is a simple matter to do the job in such a way that the floor will be dry, even in wet weather. When laid directly on the earth, a concrete floor picks up moisture, which passes through and evaporates in the space above. Dampness in the air leads to the rusting of tools, while a car coming in during a rain is slow to dry. On the other hand, with a dry concrete floor, the air remains dry; there is but little rusting, and there are the other advantages of comparatively dry air. Laying a floor that will remain dry adds so little to the cost and effort, that it should not be neglected. The job begins with packing and leveling the earth, which is then covered with sheets of heavy tar paper overlapped by at least a quarter of the width. Edges and ends are carried up the wall for a few inches, and the concrete is poured on top. That is all there is to it.

Crusted Chimney.

Q: The chimney of this house has a bend and two stoves are connected with it. We burn wood, and the crust that forms in the chimney closes the opening so much that smoke comes into the rooms. How can the chimney be cleaned? How can I prevent the crusting?
A: The crust is due to the condensation of vaporized sap and gum in the wood. There would be little or no condensation if you had a stronger draft in the chimney. But as it is, the draft is greatly weakened by connecting two stoves to the flue. For best results, only one fire should be connected to a chimney. The bend in the chimney also helps to reduce the draft. By far your best move will be to rebuild the chimney with a separate flue for each fire. You will find full instructions for the correct construction of a chimney in a pamphlet issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, Chicago, Ill.

Mixing Colored Paint.

Q: When I repaint our house my wife wants certain colors; but as far as colors are concerned I do not know much about them. I have been told to use white paint and to mix my own shades, but do not know what to mix with white to get the effects that I want. Where can I get the information?
A: Most of the large paint manufacturers publish handbooks that should be helpful to you. Instead of starting with white paint, it should be simpler for you to use ready-mixed colored paint and to modify the shades shown in the color sample card if you do not like them. Your dealer should be able to help you in this.

Floor Board Cracks.

Q: There are large open joints between the wide floor boards in my very old house. How can they be filled so that they will stay closed?
A: With the swelling and shrinking of the floor boards through the changing season, any ordinary crack filler will fall out. For permanence, the filler should be strips of wood cut to fit and nailed and glued into place. The first step should be to clean out the dust by running a wire the length of the crack and using a vacuum cleaner. The boards should be solidly nailed to the beams by toe-nailing at their edges. The strips should be given the same finish as the floor.

Calcimine on Wallpaper.

Q: Is it advisable to put calcimine over wallpaper? If so, is there some special kind to use?
A: If your wallpaper is on good and tight, you may be able to cover it with calcimine. If it is not stuck on firmly, the water in the calcimine may loosen the paper, which would then fall off. If the paper has a pattern, this would probably show through, although not unpleasantly. You would find that calcimine paint (also a cold water paint) is a better paint to use than calcimine, as it does not rub or wash off. Can be had in colors as well as white.

Casoin Paint.

Q: I am thinking of covering plain wallpaper with casoin paint, but am told that if I wish to paper the rooms next year it could not be done, for the casoin paint would prevent the present paper from being taken off. Is the casoin paint really waterproof?
A: Casoin paint is waterproof to the extent that water will not take it off. But it is absorbent, and when well soaked with water, the paper underneath would, I believe, become loosened. Of course, the quality of the paint and of the paper would make a difference but I think that you would be safe in going ahead.

These Items Are Highlights of The College Girl's Wardrobe

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



above picture definitely declares.

Thrifty college girls who are doing everything to save for bonds have discovered, too, that it's patriotic to make sewing their hobby. Nowadays sewing is an easy road that leads to fashion success and, besides, it is considered smart these days to "make your own." With the aid of one of the new thermo-plastic dress forms you can cut dress construction time in half by eliminating repeated try-ons. It's worth while knowing that your local sewing center can mold your form in half an hour. And then, with the fashion shorts cuts they will teach you, you'll be all set to do a grand job at home sewing.

If you feel the urge to sew you might try your hand at a jerkin costume like that shown centered in the group pictured above. This is a style easily made, especially if you provide yourself at the start with a good pattern that makes simplicity its theme. College girls adore jerkin costumes, for with a different blouse they may be made appropriate to any occasion in a jiffy. Then, too, jenkins are so chic and so flattering and so youthful looking.

Brick red is the color of the fine wale corduroy that fashions this jerkin dress. The billowy blouse is a golden yellow, which goes to show how wholeheartedly campus dwellers have gone in for high color. A smart idea is to write your name in your own handwriting across the front of your jerkin blouse, just below the square neckline then fill it in with a signature stitch quickly on your sewing machine.

Dear to every collegiate heart is pretty lounging apparel like that pictured above in the inset. The "lat-est" as shown at the national wash apparel show recently held in Chicago is cuffsless satin rayon pajamas done in blue for the pajamas and peach rayon satin for the quilted jacket. Please underscore the word "quilted," for there's a perfect craze for things quilted, from negligees to smart daytime jackets with bags to match.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

With Velvet



Velveteen is being combined with other fabrics this season in effective ways. When brown velveteen is paired with brown and beige hound's-tooth check woolen the answer is ultra smartness. That is exactly the case in regard to this charming jacket costume. A suggestion of the military appears in the double-breasted gold button fastening of the brown velvet jacket. The skirt is of the brown and beige check. The jacket edges and simulated pockets are overcast in beige yarn. The newest fashions feature considerable yarn stitching used as trimming. A little costume like this is ideal for early fall, with its warm colors and soft fabric.

Memo to a Modern: Buy Pretty Things

Here are a few fashion items that the modern girl might jot down in her notebook as "must haves." Sweaters with brushed surfaces, for shaggy effects are the thing this season. Add corduroy separates to juggle as you please, also a swank corduroy coat and a corduroy suit in beige or green or bright red. A jumper dress of denim, gabardine or corduroy should be included, and any and everything quilted from a house robe to a hat and muff two-
some.

The new "jive coat" which is a 30-inch topper is wanted in wool. A rabbit hair or wool jersey dress with embroidery touches. Velveteen dirndl skirt. Gingham pajamas, neatly tailored and a gingham nightgown to match. Flannellette nightgown for cold winter wear. Velvet date dress in a luscious color. Cotton gabardine raincoat. Necklace gaily painted acorns.

And she will add dozens of little hair bows, flowers and fantasies. Spotted fur tuxedo cloth coat (that to match). Something in the new purple or violet tones. Lace blouse to wear with afternoon velvet suit.

Cowl Neckline

Much attention is being given to creating flattering necklines. A "newy" message from style centers is the revival of cowl neck treatments. Very new and smart is the black frock that has a cowl draped about the neckline done in a contrast-color fabric. Often deep cavalier cuffs match the cowl. If collar and cuffs are detachable, one can make the black frock do double service. A cyclamen pink cowl on black is very effective.

THINGS for YOU TO MAKE



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Erratic Currents

Sometimes natural electric currents are so erratic over one area that they will disrupt telegraphic service, while they are so intense and steady over another that they may be used to send messages without the aid of other power, says Collier's.

An outstanding exhibit of this phenomenon occurred on September 2, 1859, when these currents alone were used to transmit telegrams for two hours over the 100-mile line between Boston and Portland, Maine.

Real Knowledge

When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not know it, to admit that you do not—this is true knowledge.—Confucius.

Gems of Thought

THE soul is a fire that darts its ray through all the senses; it is in this fire that existence consists.—De Stael.
I held it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.—TENNYSON.

You may depend upon it that there are as good hearts to serve men in palaces as in cottages.—Robert Owen.

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do which must be done, whether you like it or not.—Charles Kingsley.

Sauce for Potatoes:

Bland boiled potatoes or rice may be perked up by the addition of an onion sauce for which the recipe is given below.

Ingredients: One cup of chopped or finely sliced onions, two or three table-spoons of fat, two or three tablespoons of flour, one pint of cold milk, salt, pepper, chopped parsley or chopped celery tops.

Directions: Cook onions in fat; when they turn a little yellow add flour and stir until it is well blended. Gradually add milk. Stir and cook until it is smoothly thickened. Season to taste. Just before serving add parsley or celery tops if desired.

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TALK IT OVER WITH US

Buying Wisely

In these days people are buying wisely. They study values more closely than ever before, they compare prices. The buyer today studies advertising carefully, and the seller can use advertising and obtain better results than when money is more carelessly spent. Advertising nowadays pays—both buyer and seller.