

# FEBRUARY SEWING

There are two ways of spending the disagreeable month of February. One is by getting a through ticket to the summery beaches of Florida; the other, by sewing at home, replenishing the family wardrobes and saving money.

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### *Left Lasting Records on Bricks and Stones*

Clay tablets, bricks and tables of stone formed the writing paper for those who made the first written records. Despite such crude equipment, the Assyrians and Babylonians possessed astonishing libraries. The library of Sargon at Agade contained thousands of volumes, including works on astronomy and astrology and many books of fables. The characters were impressed with a metal stylus on soft clay tablets, which were then baked in the sun or in a kiln. The prophecies of the Sibyl were written on leaves. Several copies of the Bible were written on palm leaves, and some may still be seen in museums. It is from this that the term "leaf" as applied to a sheet in a volume, is derived. In the Book of Job mention is made of writing on stone and on sheets of lead. The law of Moses was written on stone. Hesiod's works were written on leaden tablets and then rolled up like a cylinder. When the Greeks were merely shepherds, they put down their songs with thorns and awls on leather. Bronze tablets were used for their laws and more important records.—T. P.'s Weekly.

### *"Angling" With Volts Is New German Idea*

The "compleat angler" that Izaak Walton once had reference to is no longer adjudged complete unless he carries the new third-rail tackle in his basket, according to a German inventor who proposes electrocution of marine vertebrates instead of netting or hooking them. Under his plan a mild electric current would be passed through a brook, and early fish who came looking for worms would find volts instead. Shocked into unconsciousness all fish, large and small, that came in direct contact with the current, would rise to the surface and there the fisherman could sort out the sizeable ones at his leisure, permitting the little fellows to revive and swim away.

Fish hatcheries and game wardens, however, do not view the new invention with a credulous or condoning eye, arguing that even the most hardy of the fish, which were permitted to escape, would have their dispositions ruined by frequent electrocution and the process would be fatal to the delicate nervous system of infant trout.

### *Lucky Animals*

Animal mascots become ever more and more popular. Dancers are wearing little black pigs in effigy. The fisherman's mascot is the petrel, the omen of good weather. The black cat is almost universally considered lucky, but this is specially so with actors and actresses. Many of "the profession" would not dream of playing a first night through without a small black cat charm of some sort. The airman's mascot is the eagle, and a gardener will often keep for luck a charm in the form of a toad. People with gray eyes should always choose a monkey mascot. Brown eyes will find the horse a lucky animal, and blue eyes should wear a little bear charm. A quaint colored butterfly is the best luck-bringer for green-eyed people. It is unlucky for fair-haired people to wear any mascot in the form of a snake, and a mouse charm will only bring bad luck to anyone who is rash enough to wear it.

### *Whistler Stories*

A flippant reply to the secretary of a London club where Whistler's account was past due produced this retort:

"Dear Mr. Whistler: It is not a Nocturne in Purple or a Symphony in Blue and Gray we are after, but an Arrangement in Gold and Silver."

The money was paid.

A certain gentleman whose portrait Whistler had painted failed to appreciate the work, and finally remarked:

"After all, Mr. Whistler, you can't call that a great work of art."

"Perhaps not," replied the painter, "but, then, you can't call yourself a great work of nature."—Kansas City Times.

### *Planned City of Refuge*

In 1824 an idea occurred to the late Maj. Mordecai M. Noah, a distinguished Israelite of the city of New York, then editor of a prominent political journal called the National Advocate, that Grand Island, in the Niagara river, would make a suitable asylum for the Jews of all nations, whereon they could establish a great city and become emancipated from the oppression bearing so heavily upon them in foreign countries. The city of Ararab, which he contemplated founding for this purpose, never developed after a series of failures and disappointments on his part.

### *Can You Beat It?*

One of our friends dropped in the other morning.

"I'm going to tell you," he said, "about the meanest man you ever heard of."

"Some stunt," said we.

"Listen," said he. "I was driving over town in Wednesday's rain and saw a good-looking man plodding along sans umbrella. I held up and asked him to ride. He accepted. On Congress street he said, 'I'll get out here.' I let him out. A little later I looked back in the tonneau for the umbrella I had there. That had gone too."—Portland Evening Express.

### *Meadow the Scene of First Sunday School*

Robert Raikes of Gloucester is often set down as the founder of the Sunday school, writes an English correspondent, but nothing is heard of Emmanuel Twynning, the shepherd of Magpie Bottom, Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, from whom Raikes got his idea. Magpie Bottom is a beautiful crinkle at the edge of the Sheepscombe, where the lane departs down the valley, at last reaching Gloucestershire. The young man must have been up here to take a service. At any rate, as he went by Magpie Bottom there was Shepherd Emmanuel Twynning in that thyme-scented little paradise, with a ring of children round him, explaining perhaps pastoral parables of the New Testament. Master Bob Raikes stopped, perhaps joined in a hymn and talked to the shepherd, asking him how he "went on" when the weather was not so favorable. He was told that on wet days some handy cottage sheltered the class, and that, come wet or fine, there was a class every Sunday. During the walk back to Gloucester the thought took root and, without the thyme and the marjoram and the inconsequent chirruping of grasshoppers, Robert took up his shepherding in the dark streets of the cathedral city.

### *Ancient Greek Had Idea of Evolution*

Empedocles, the Greek philosopher, anticipated Darwin in his theory of evolution by more than 2,300 years. About 430 B. C. he published his explanation of life and its interpretation of the universe in which he held that "being" or matter was imperishable and hence eternal. He maintained the existence of two fundamental and opposing forces which he typified as friendship and strife. The first he represented as internal and the second as external and these two as in perpetual conflict—the first struggling to maintain the status quo and the second to change it—thus producing, according to his theory, all the phenomena of nature. He held that these changes had been occurring through all the past ages with the effect of development in all phases of existence with man as the highest product, thus far, of the process. Modern scientists declare that in thus indicating the principle "strife" Empedocles grasped the germ of Darwin's idea—the survival of the fittest—for by its exposition he seems to have intended to convey the idea of competition for existence or supremacy.—Kansas City Star.

### *Practical Bible Warning*

"There are extraordinary sarcasms in coincidences," says Alexander Black, author of "The Seventh Angel" and "The Great Desire." "One night a thief made off with my overcoat from a restaurant. It was not the sort of restaurant in which one is admonished to be alert. Moreover, I had never been robbed of anything in my life. I had had no admonitory experience. Naturally the incident made a rather profound impression. The weather deepened that impression.

"That same night I happened to open my Bible to verify the location of the verse from which I took the title of 'The Seventh Angel.' And in the verse immediately preceding I read these startling words: 'Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments.'"

### *Scented Teas*

In China scented teas are popular. The aroma is from flowers. The flowers commonly used are the white jasmine and the "yu lan," a species of magnolia. Such teas are prepared by heating the flower petals with the tea leaves. Sometimes the flower petals are left in the tea, but usually they are taken out after the tea has the desired scent. In the preparation of some varieties the process consists of sprinkling a layer of fresh blossoms over a layer of tea, and repeating the process until the container is filled. Then the container is placed aside until the perfume has thoroughly permeated the tea leaves. The old petals are then removed and fresh petals added. This is repeated until the desired aroma is attained. The tea is then packed for market.

### *Seeking Black Canary*

A Burbank of birds is trying to produce a black canary, according to a recent issue of the Pet Dealer. Canaries, to date, have been produced white and blue beside the conventional yellow, but no one has yet succeeded in producing a jet black feathered songster and perhaps there will be "millions in it" for the man who succeeds. Novel and harmonious color effects have been produced in recent years by the use of colored bird cages in interior decorations, but the novelty of a jet black canary and a pure white bird cage will be sufficient to satisfy the most exotic demands of the interior decorators.

### *Sounds That Soar*

In common with an investigation of city traffic noises in London, interesting tests were made to determine how high some of the sounds are carried, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The measurements were made from a balloon, as an airplane would have drowned out all other noises than that of its engine. Rumble of vehicles was heard as high as 2,500 feet, while the whistle of a locomotive was audible at an altitude of a mile and a half. A gunshot carried 5,400 feet high, and music was distinguished at a height of 4,200 feet. The investigators were surprised to discover that the croaking of frogs could be heard over half a mile above the ponds.

### *Getting It Straight*

"You say you didn't write burning letters," thundered the lawyer for the plaintiff in a divorce suit, "but here is the proof in black and white."

"Black and blue," interrupted the judge, "if you are referring to the letters in your hand."

"Eh?"

"The stationery is blue and the ink, I assume, is black."—Birmingham Age-Herald.


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