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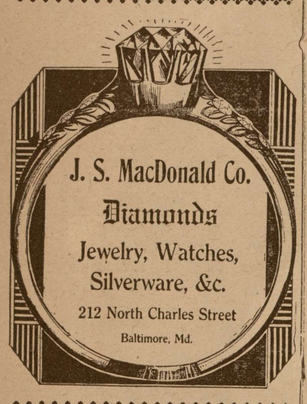

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BEAUTY THROUGH THE TOILET TABLE.

A beauty fiat has gone forth. No one knows where these things start from, but they are obeyed. It is only a short time since the flappers of America, as if of one mind, dropped their skirts to their ankles and then took out their sleeves. What unseen authority pronounces these decrees is beyond human ken—but there it is.

Along with the short skirts—which are now said to be coming back because of the freedom of action they give—the same qaulity of sense has decreed the banishment of the make-up box, except in its proper place which is behind the footlights. Farewell to the juicy—too juicy—red lips; to the pink—too pink—cheeks; to the penciled—too poorly penciled—eyebrows; vale also the white—too white—nose.

In the place of the painted lady, we are to have the well-groomed woman in all walks of life. That is the dictum, and when even the chorus girls of broadway—the Follies Beauties and the Winter Garden chorus—band together to eschew the tinted lipstick, the mussy eyebrow pencil and the ever-ready and germ-laden powder-puff, and go in for perfect grooming it means that all the feminine world will follow. There is said to be a Dorcas Society doing all this and bringing in the beauty that comes from good health, sound sleep, exercise, proper diet, sensible bathing and good grooming.

There's a world of meaning in that word "grooming." It suggests at once the beauty of the sleek and shining coat of the thoroughbred horse, with the wonderful muscles rippling beneath the satin skin, the very personification of physical beauty. Pass up beauty of feature, of line of contour. Let the plainest of women be well-groomed, clean and not smeared with cosmetics, redolent of personal care, and in that one thing alone there is a beauty that will turn men's heads.

The campaign against red gashes for lips, hectic flushes for blushes and black smears for eyebrows is but the natural reaction against the misuse of cosmetics by the inexperienced and inartistic. Hereafter you will have to be a pyschoanalyst or else a vocational expert to be able to tell an actress off the stage from any other well dressed, modest woman of refinement.

With the advent of the new dispensation comes a revolution in the toilet table as an aid to beauty. If the rouge-pot is to go, something must take its place. The ubipuitous powder puff, applied in public as freely as in private, is passing into the limbo where rest the toothpicks of older days, along with the finger bowl and the bustle. In its place, if milady would repair the ravages of too long an absence from her dressing table, there is the tiny tube of clean, cold cream, applied with the finger and wiped off with a piece of chamois.

Toilet waters, to refresh with their sharp tang and bring the blood rushing to the surface, have already sent the hare's foot running to cover and eyes are made brighter through being closed for a time in sleep rather than being made to look like two burnt holes in a blanket by something closely resembling lamp-black and grease.

There's an interesting story told about Aaron Burr, who was something of a fop. A young man watching him array himself for the street sought to make an impression by getting off the copybook sentiment and asking the great man if it was not true that "clothes do not make the man." "Quite true, my lad," said Burr. "But when he's made, don't you think he looks a good deal better if he's well dressed?"

Which applies with equal force to the woman's toilet table of today on which the perfume bottle holds the most important place. It is not that perfume makes a woman beautiful but that even a beautiful woman is more attractive if she smells as good as she looks. That is the function of perfume—to add to and to underscore a woman's individuality—to waft a delicate odor wherever she goes that is in harmony with the spirit of her being.

Whereas grandmother was wont to carry a fragrant piece of shrub or bergamot tied in the corner of her handkerchief, the modern woman exhales the subtle essence of flowers from her whole person. It has begun with her bath in which the toilet soap has been fragrantly scented with the odor that is her own, and this is associated with the appropriate color which pervades all things that are intimate to the person.

Not so many years ago the choicest perfumes all came from Europe—mostly from France—but today the perfumer's art has been developed in this country to the highest possible degree. All the world may contribute the essence of flowers—France, Italy, the Orient or Far Cathay—Arabia its spicees, Siberia its musk-ox and even the depths of the ocean gives up its ambergris, but it is the blending of these that the perfumer's art lies. Therefore, the domestic odor compositions are largely replacing those of foreign origin. Why not? Can you express the individuality of a thoroughly American woman, vital to the very core, with a French perfume?

Not very long ago a test was made of the taste of American women in the matter of perfume. One hundred and three women were brought together for the test from all walks of life—from society, the stage, the home, business, the college. Six perfumes—three foreign and three American—were offered for choice and, choosing by the name and reputation, sixty-one expressed their preference for the foreign. A second test was made, when the ladies were asked to choose by the sense of smell alone, the different perfumes being dropped on numbered slips of tissue paper. Eighty then chose the American perfumes as being the most expressive of their taste.

The study of the personality of perfumes is one that will pay large dividends to any woman who desires to conver the sense of beauty through all available means. From one girl you may get a scent of gardenia. You know that she is sweet and clean, and you know something of the mental quality which chose that scent. Her skin is clear and her lips and cheeks are a delicate, natural pink. Her whole appearance is a guarantee of the beautiful toilet table that you know to be a part of her daily regime.

Another is a langorous, heavy lidded beauty, with a touch of the Oriental about her and suggesting slowly waving fans and the spice-laden breezes of the East. You see her in heavy velvets, with dark and full glowing jewels, and with her personality you at once think of the orchid, or ylang-ylang or musk.

"Chacun son gout," say the French—"each to his own taste," but in the modern scheme of the beautiful woman's toilet "to each her own odor" expresses the charm and individuality without which no beauty, however perfect otherwise, can be complete.

IN THE WAY.

Ole Svenson, a son of the silent North, after having lived by himself and prepared his own meals for thirty years, had taken a wife. Mrs. Svenson proceeded to live with her husband for the better part of two months, after which she ran away to the city.

"Well, Ole," said a friend some time after the lady's departure, "are you sorry she went?"

"No," replied Ole.

"No? Why not?"

"Vell," was the reply, "she vas always getting in de vay ven I vas cooking."

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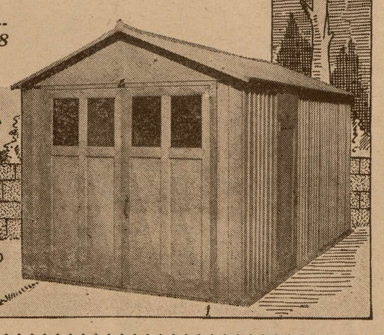

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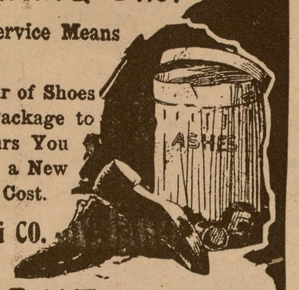

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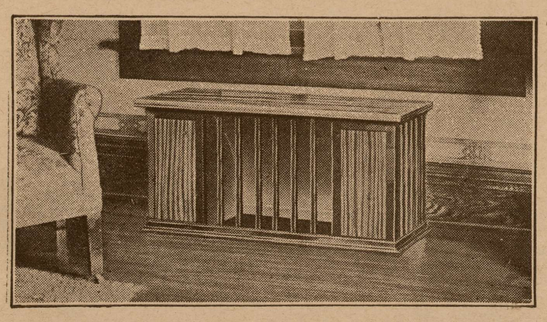

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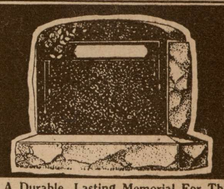

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