

# A Modern Version of the Hope Box

By N. BETH BAILEY

DO YOU love to look at pretty dishes, linen, and silver? I do! Just to see a quaint Royal Doulton tea pot gives me a thrill and why shouldn't it? It is instinctive for a woman to enjoy pretty table appointments. And it is often true that a woman expresses her personality more exactly in the selection of her linen, silver, and dishes than in any other of her house furnishings.

Right at first, let me say that a girl should not wait until she is to be married before she begins to collect these things. The business woman of today soon finds out that she has a real need for a tea pot, some cups, plates and a few other pieces of equipment that will change a mere "rented room" into "her own room." I can't imagine being happy any place where I can't have a few of my friends in for a cup of tea or a batch of fudge. I can stand heavy china, cotton napkins and unpolished silver for the three meals a day, if now and then I can get out my Wedgewood plates and Maderia napkins for a Sunday night lunch—if the lunch is only crackers and cheese.

The joy of possessing lovely linens, dishes and silver is increased if these treasures are acquired little by little. At Valentine's day a kind friend gives me an English block print luncheon cloth and I am delighted with it and have loads of fun showing it to my other friends. I save up my pennies—or should I say quarters, for a Lenox plate of the rich autumn pattern and I am proud as a peacock to own it. So it goes, month by month, little by little, thru one's own savings in pet extravagances, thru the kindness of friends and family on gift days the collection grows. I am astonished to see how many lovely things are mine. Never could I afford to buy at one time such treasures.

And think of the sentiment attached to such a collection! Alice gave me my Mt. Vernon butter spreaders one by one a way back in high school days. It was just as easy as to give me a box of stationery or a vanity case, and think of the real difference it has made. Of course, it meant that I had to select a pattern of silver that I really liked and then I announced to my family and friends "When in doubt—give me Mt. Vernon silver." Thus the silver pieces grew. One friend started bouillion spoons; another one salad forks. I bought my knives and forks slowly from the contents of my penny bank. I thrilled over every new piece like a little girl with a doll. Each piece made me more sure that my pattern was the very best one for me.

There is a word of caution, tho, to the girl who starts to collect silver. Of china, linen, and silver, I believe silver is the safest to start early. It really changes in style less than the other two. But most silver patterns are not run for over 25 years and many patterns have a much shorter sale. Therefore it is well to find out how long the pattern has been out and inquire if there is a guarantee as to the continuance of its output. For this reason, it seems unwise to start giving spoons to a baby. It is far better to put the money into a savings

account until she is old enough to choose a pattern that suits her and one that may be completed with other pieces.

In buying silver, decide between sterling or plated ware, according to the purse. We all want sterling, but the price is often prohibitive. If buying plate, be sure it is of no less than triple plate or it will not give long service. It is also advisable to see a whole chest of silver because even tho one likes the design, the shape of certain pieces may be ugly, or some pieces may not be comfortable to use.

So my advice to the high school girl is, pick out a pattern of silver that you like best of all and then, let your choice be known.

Dishes come next in importance to silver. The only trouble with dishes is that they are hard to pack. For this reason, the business woman is usually hesitant about getting too many. But it is such a temptation when the stores are full of gay patterned china and semi-porcelain. Selecting china is such fun because now days we don't need a whole set of dishes all alike. Each course of a dinner may be served on different kind of dishes if one wishes.

Semi-porcelain is not expensive and we find lovely designs in Wedgewood and Royal Doulton dishes. This stony ware crackles with hard use so that it is not suitable for continuous service but it is splendid for teas, breakfasts and luncheon.

The first piece of china I bought was an Old Leeds Spray Royal Doulton tea pot. I thought it was the quaintest thing and just had to have it. That was eight years ago. The little tea pot has traveled with me in my trunk on many movings and journeys and today it remains the same charming little pot. Of course, my Old Leeds Spray family grew gradually, first to a card table service, and now it has blossomed into a full sized breakfast set, thanks to my friends! These same friends love my Old Leeds Spray too, because they, the Old Leeds, and I have had many good times together.

You see, I don't believe in packing one's treasures away in a hope box wait-

ing for prince charming. Too often the prince is so slow in coming and at times he gets lost entirely! I for one, am going to live every day with my pet possessions. My silver will last a life time, and if I should break a cup, it is replaceable.

That thought leads to the question of selection of china. If one chooses a pattern from open stock, it is possible to keep the numbers complete. It would be quite a tragedy to break a cup of a special tea set and know one would never be able to replace it. Dishes like silver may be good or bad in shape as well as design. It is therefore wise to look at a number of pieces before starting out to accumulate a certain pattern.

As to makes of china, there is a marvelous selection of dishes now in our stores. We find excellent china made in United States by the Syracuse Company. There is a wide variety of patterns in this moderate priced china and it is so suitable for continuous use. For beautiful china, there is none made more lovely than the Lenox ware with its creamy background, its original designs, and its perfect flat or enameled colors. The Ming and the Autumn patterns of Lenox ware are very popular and though this is expensive, most any of us can start a salad or dessert service by buying one plate.

English ware offers many quaint old patterns in semi-porcelain but we also find the finest porcelains in Minton, Wedgewood, and Royal Doulton ware.

Today, Haviland is again coming into our stores, but it has strong competition for first honors. There are other French chinas made at Limoges that may just be the right ware for certain uses.

There are two other centers of pottery making that turn out beautiful china; they are Serb Bavaria and Japan. Both countries are putting out a high grade of china with a wide variation in price.

So to the girl who wants to make a little home of her room, I suggest that she begin with less expensive semi-porcelain or possibly china. It may be quite nerve wracking to pack a Lenox plate at \$3.50 per, but one can feel quite free

(Continued on page 18)



Old Leeds Spray China, Mt. Vernon Silver, and Italian drawnwork continue to express the individuality of the owner.

## A Modern Version of the Hope Box

(Continued from page 5)

with a basket Wedgewood plate costing less than \$1. As one's room develops into an apartment or as one's plans develop into a real home, these less expensive dishes may be supplemented with more expensive china.

One thing more about dishes. Don't buy all uninteresting gold band dishes. Gay colors and pretty designs add so much to the charm of the meal especially if that meal is a little one. It is at a large table set with many dishes that one must be careful to not over-do the decorative effects. For this reason, in equipping a home, a girl finds a need for some dishes of a small conventional design that will stand the test of constant use.

In grandmother's day, a little girl, of ten began to hem her linens. These were stored in blue paper with scented pads until the eventful time when the young woman established a household.

But these times have changed. Consider the girl of today who has laid in a supply of table cloths, only to find that the round patterned cloths do not fit the new oblong tables. Or that the lovely round Maderia doilies are not nearly so fashionable today as the oblong service doilies of Italian Mosaic. The fact is that styles in linen change almost every year, so that no girl should buy too much to store away.

Never before has there been such a choice of linens to suit every occasion and every purse. Today, a girl's linens show her own fancies. There are runners, oblong doilies, and lunch cloths made of coarse or of fine linen, in natural, white or colors. Often these linen pieces are so simple that anyone can make them. It is cleverness and originality that count.

But remember, styles change rapidly. No girl should lay in a supply of many of these novelty sets even though she is buying for immediate use in her own home. Select these sets with care. Consider the ease of table service, the laundrying qualities, and the changing modes. We all have seen the passing of the crocheted sets, the Cluny lace, and similar fads. The use of unbleached muslin and other non-linen cloth soon lost favor because these fabrics did not launder easily and in the long run they were more expensive than the coarse linen textiles.

Maderia embroidery, if on fine linen, seems to stand the test of time very well. At present the fillet inserts used to add great charm to the embroidery. But behold, Dame Fashion has decreed the luncheon napkins be eighteen inches instead of fifteen, and some of our old napkins look so small.

Today, the best luncheon sets are in Mosaic, Italian drawn work, fillet and Maderia alone, real in combination. But who will say what the next two years will bring forth.

For inexpensive linens we must not overlook the gay colored breakfast cloths of Irish and German make, or the English block prints on natural colored linen. The Japanese cloths have long been used even though the napkins are but a hint at real napkins.

Shall the modern young woman spend hours stitching on fine linens? If you

value your eye sight, don't! Too often after days of close work one finishes the piece but to find that the color, the shape, or something else is quite passe and oh the pathos of such a discovery!

Of course a truly beautiful table cloth is a joy forever, the loveliest cloths come in patterns of 2, 2¼, 2½ or more yards long and of carrying widths costing 15c and up. Most young women will not be apt to over buy at this price—but it is all the more necessary to have the cloth fit the table.

And as to monograms on linens! What atrocities have been committed in this line. There is not one woman in fifty who should dare attempt to embroider an initial on fine linen. And of all things, fashion is most capricious in the shape, size, and placing of such markings. Fortunately, at present, there is a tendency toward less marking of linen. If the monogram adds to the beauty of the piece of linen, well and good; but present prices of linen do not permit amateur experimenting.

And so we business women in our little nooks can gather about us silver, china and linens that are very personal and very characteristic. We add to these treasures bit by bit as we can  
(Continued on page 20)



We recommend  
**WOOLTEX**

tailored suits for  
their expert tailoring,  
choice fabrics and authentic styles

Sold at

**TILDEN'S**  
Ames Iowa

Spring winds dry and tan your skin. Try a Marinello Bleach Treatment here with Bleaching Lotion and Whitening Cream at home.

**MARINELLO  
COMFORT SHOP**

Commercial Bank Bldg.

## Some People Spend

their odd change; others "invest" it in a Savings Account. The difference later on in life is the difference between "Success" and "Failure."

Don't you think that the side you will be on ten years from now will depend a good deal on what you do today?

Open a Savings Account Today

**Story County Trust  
& Savings Bank**

AMES, IOWA

SERVICE

QUALITY

## Ames Laundry

Phone 47

219-221 Fifth St.

WE USE ONLY SOFT WATER

and we take such joy in our possessions that friends and families are never at a loss for Christmas suggestions.

Shall the modern girl start a hope box? No, and yes! If that hope box has a lock, and smells of lavender, and if it is in her room at home filled with hopes and dreams of a distant day, then I say "No!" But if that box or cupboard holds linen, silver, and dishes that she loves, and if she lives with these possessions and uses them to make her room more homey and her every day more livable then I say "Absolutely Yes!" A woman loves pretty linen, silver, and dishes and every woman should collect about her, table appointments that express her personality and give her joy.

## Canning Early Fruits and Vegetables

(Continued from page 8)

cubed rhubarb, one package of raisins, two oranges and one-fourth pound almonds. Spiced rhubarb is also a general favorite.

In England and our country also, the experiment of using a very small amount of salt for part of the sugar in making jam and marmalade has been successful. The proportions used were three-fourths cup sugar and one-half tablespoon of salt to one pound of fruit. This resulted in a product less rich and sickening than when made with all sugar, and the salt flavor disappears after five or six days standing.

Nobody likes to pit cherries for canning, but who doesn't like cherry pie piled high with whipped cream, or spiced cherries for that salad you are going to serve at club luncheon. And if you want a cherry conserve add oranges and raisins. The open-kettle method of canning has proven the most successful for cherries.

One's time should not all be spent in preparing sweets for the family, for they will need and relish green things next winter just as well as sweets. Then, too, the vitamins and minerals contained in green vegetables are most important in the diet.

The asparagus tips should be canned before they get too hard and pithy. If you want attractive, well-filled jars sort the tips, grouping those of one size and color together. Do not forget to thoroughly blanch and cold dip all vegetables. This not only loosens skins and reduces bulk, but also removes objectionable flavors and insures the keeping of the product. Intermittent sterilization is preferred by many housewives, but straight cold pack is successful for all vegetables.

It is well to watch your early beets and not let them grow too large before you can them. The small round beets averaging about forty to a quart are the most suitable for first-class packs. These are not only a good size for pickles, but will make a most attractive garnish for meat or salad dishes.

The older the beet the more chance there is for loss of color, altho well-canned beets show a slight loss of color when removed from the cooker, but will brighten up in a few days.

When preparing the beet leave one inch of the stem and all of the root while blanching, and blanch not more

than six minutes. Never peel beets, but scrape the skin off with a dull knife or rub off with the fingers. Beets more than two inches in diameter should be sliced or cubed.

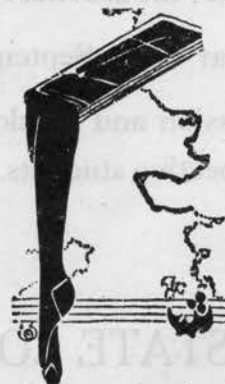
Firm small-sized carrots not more than one and one-half inches in diameter make attractive packs either whole or sliced. An unusually attractive pack is made by placing the circles in layers, putting the second layer into the space left by the first layer, and repeating until the jar is filled. The center should be filled in as each outside layer is placed against the glass.

Greens are spring tonic which may be canned to serve the year round. Don't let the dandelions, spinach, swisschard or even the beet tops get old and dry before you put away a supply. They are prepared in much the same way as other vegetables, but use care in selecting fresh, green, healthy leaves and can them the day they are picked. Thoroughly clean, place in a crate or cheesecloth, and blanch in live steam, either in improvised or regular commercial steamer for fifteen minutes. Cold dip, place on the table and cut into strips of convenient length. Pack tight in jars, but unless the product is thoroughly blanched be very careful not to pack too tightly as the heat may not penetrate and the product is apt to spoil, add hot water and season to taste. The addition of boiled bacon, chipped beef or even olive oil will somewhat improve the flavor. If meat is added the time of sterilization must be the time required for meat, or the product will spoil.

After removing your jars from the hot water bath, set on a damp cloth to keep them from cracking and keep out of cold drafts. Turn the jars upside down to test for leakage.

What a reward of labor to see the rows of neatly labeled jars in your preserve closet, and how your family will appreciate your efforts to preserve the good things that spring brings, for all the year round.

## GIVE HOSIERY A LONGER LIFE



It really saves time in the long run to take the few extra seconds that are required to put your Hosiery on carefully. The strain that is put on the fine silk threads by pulling Hosiery on hurriedly is very great and apt to result disastrously just when you are in the greatest rush.

**TRUEBLOOD'S SHOE STORE**  
Campustown

Say It With Flowers

## FOR Commencement

Nothing is more greatly appreciated than a careful selection of Olsan's Flowers.

Our Variety Is Complete

# F. J. OLSAN & SONS

Phone 8



## A Secret

THE secret of dressing attractively is simply this, know your type and accentuate it \* \* \* If you wish it, we will help you to understand your type so you may dress accordingly

## WOLF'S

712-714 Walnut  
Des Moines Iowa