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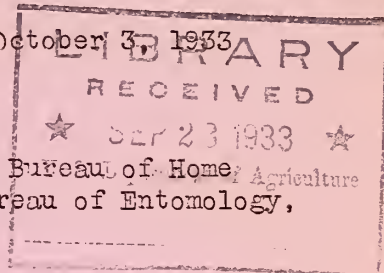
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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Tuesday, October 3, 1933

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)



Subject: "Questions and Answers. "Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A., Bureau of Plant Industry and the Bureau of Entomology, U.S.D.A.

--oOo--

The fall sewing season has set in in earnest. How do I know? I can tell by the questions you've been asking, questions about making new clothes and buying new materials, questions about making over old clothes. Lots of questions today from home dressmakers. Let's start right in to answer them.

Here's a make-over problem that many of us have. One of our friends asks what to do about fixing over a dress with worn or pulled-out armholes. The dress is in perfectly good condition otherwise, but it's not wearable now because it is worn out at the back of the armhole. Sometimes when dresses are fitted too snug across the shoulder blades, they pull out. How to make over a dress when that has happened.

Well, I have three suggestions. You can take your choice. First, put in new sleeves that are large around the top and require a larger armhole. Second, remove the sleeve entirely, finish the armhole with fine binding and convert the dress into a sleeveless outfit to wear for winter with a little jacket of some sort. Third, cut off the top of the bodice and make a fitted yoke of some contrasting material. A white or light yoke on a dress often makes the dress more becoming and more dressy.

Some of these suggestions are also useful if you have the problem of fixing over a dress that is stained at the armhole. I have seen such dresses remodeled very successfully by cutting out the stained portion and putting in new sleeves of dolman style or some other design requiring a very large armhole. Or you can cut out the stained portions and make the dress into a jumper or suspender model to wear with separate blouses.

These two questions remind me to remind you that the Bureau of Home Economics is interested in helping you conserve clothes as well as food, all in the interest of the family pocketbook. If you are remodeling clothes this fall--and most home dressmakers are, write to the Bureau of Home Economics at Washington, D. C. for advice on saving and making over clothes.

One more make-over question. What to do with a dress when the sleeves wear out at the elbow? You can cut off the lower part of the sleeves and replace it with new material. Cut it off on a diagonal line. If you have some left-over pieces from the dress, you can replace with those. Otherwise, use some different material that harmonizes with the rest of the dress. A second remedy is to cut the sleeve off at the worn place and finish as shorter loose sleeves.

So much for dressmaking questions. Now an item of interest contributed by our friend WRB, the garden advisor. He brings up that subject of how to



save the green tomatoes in the garden before the frost gets them. A short time ago you and I had a chat on some of the good ways to use green tomatoes. Remember? We mentioned cream of green tomato soup, fried green tomatoes, stewed green tomatoes and so on. Well WRB suggests that some of these tomatoes will ripen in the house if you pick them in time and if you care for them properly. Pick fully grown, unbruised green tomatoes before the frost. Wrap each one in a piece of plain white paper and set it on a shelf where the temperature is about 55 to 65 degrees F. The tomatoes will ripen during this month and next. Treat the tomatoes gently when you pick them to avoid bruises. And break the stems off carefully so they won't puncture the tomatoes. Be careful never to let the tomatoes get too cold while ripening--never let the temperature go below fifty degrees. Such chilling causes the tomatoes to decay. On the other hand, a temperature above 65 degrees will cause the tomatoes to ripen rapidly.

Another method of preserving tomatoes before the frost strikes is to pull up the vines with the tomatoes attached and hang the vines in the cellar where they will be kept at a temperature of 55 to 65 degrees. Light sprinkling with water occasionally will aid in preventing tomatoes from shriveling.

Here's an interesting bit of news about saving bulbs from your garden. Naphthalene flakes, widely used to protect clothes from moths, will also control an insect pest that feeds on gladiolus bulbs. Fumigate your gladiolus bulbs with naphthalene during the time they are stored, just as you fumigate your woolen clothes. This will free the bulbs from gladiolus thrips, a tiny, cream-banded black insect that feeds on the bulbs in winter and on the plants in summer. Store your bulbs for at least a month in a cool place before you fumigate them. In treating small lots, place the bulbs in tight paper bags and scatter the flakes over them. Then fold back the top of each bag so the fumes will not escape. Don't use tin cans or similar containers as the bulbs are likely to sweat and sprout in these. Let the naphthalene remain with the bulbs for three or four weeks and then shake out the excess flakes. Leaving the bulbs with the flakes for two months or longer does no harm.

Wednesday: "School Day Meals."

