

*At Your Service Madam* *With hints, fashions and shoppy gossip!*

By M. PRISCILLA HAZEN

A KITCHEN garden behind the house. Flower borders about the front lawn. We flip the pages of the catalogue. A rock garden. Yes, we'll send away for those seeds too. We will have oceans of home-grown flowers and vegetables, like the beauties, 'illustrated above.' We'll communicate with Nature all summer long. Our intentions are good but, somehow or other, they only pave the proverbial road to hell instead of leading us up the garden path. In mid-summer we are communicating with nature—through the green-grocer and the florist. After all, the family can't eat withered nasturtiums and that lonesome scarecrow of a sunflower would hardly provide floral decorations. We are rather provoked when our next door neighbor kindly presents us with bunches of her self-raised zinnias and turnips. Next spring, we pledge ourselves, next spring we shall not lose our self respect through an uncared for sunflower, we shall raise turnips and zinnias, we shall take our place among the gardeners of Saint John.



SO, HERE we are at Emerson's on Germain Street, where our next door neighbor advised us to get Steele and Briggs' Seeds, our garden tools, plant food. We will stock our garden with more than good intentions this year—all the pansies about the house will grow in flower beds. So optimistic do we feel about the vegetables it is with visions of luscious red tomatoes that we purchase a scallop dish of that cream chromo-trim ovenware, which is finding its way from Emerson's to a great many stoves and tables in the city. Since our so-called emancipation, our lives seem fuller than those of the stronger sex. On the whole, the tomatoes we can grow are more edible than the ones they can cook. We have more interests . . . while they pooh-pooh any excitement over our new hat, we share the thrills they receive from a hooked minnow. In fact, we have cultivated an inclination towards hooking minnows ourselves. . .

AT W. H. Thorne's on King St., you can get everything in the way of fishing tackle except the fish story that will convert the minnow into a whale. You'll have the trout by the tail instead of the tale of the one that got away when you obtain your equipment at Thorne's. I used to like to angle so I could strike a picturesque pose against picturesque background. Now the bending rod and the singing reel have drawn another angle on fishing that puts me on tenterhooks to "strike" the struggling trout. There is a throb in that moment girls! Don't let yourself be convinced that all complete anglers are masculine. Once upon a time only men played golf. Now you should see the array of the best grade golf clubs Thorne's have on display for you to choose from. While you're in the Sporting Department, you will see that Thorne's are all out for summer. They have new croquet sets to give that sedate game a tang. Their balls, bats, tennis rackets are all of superior makes to put you on the bounce for days to come.

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NO MATTER how virile or how fragile we may be, we can always find something in common with the Manequin, on Charlotte Street. This month it has fired a salute to romance, bless its feminine heart. The evening dresses are on parade! There is a heaven-blue marganza gathered at the high waist-line by a dusty pink sash to match the satin flowers crushed against the bodice; the low decolletage and the hem of the full skirt are bordered with frilled plaiting, so is the detachable jacket with the huge ruffled sleeves; all in all, it should make a soldier hate to "ground arms." "Attention," shouts the braided halter neck of the white crepe printed with provocative flowers but it can be transformed into a smart, unobtrusive dinner dress by a wisp of a cape. There is a two-tone net affair, navy blue over pink, as rosy as love's young dream—and you won't be disillusioned by the impression it will create on the dance floor. A white, yellow, orange and brown chiffon is saved from angelic placidity by the Satanic tinge of a pink undershirt that counteracts the demure full elbow sleeves and the high frilly collar. There is a black lace . . . but what is the use of conveying these skeleton fashion plates to you, you must see them in the flesh at the Manequin.

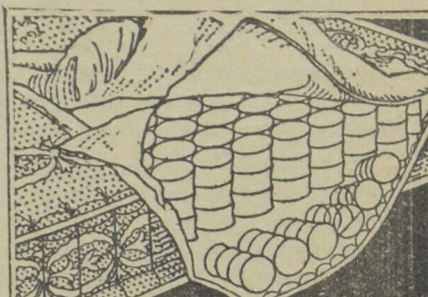
IT WAS easy to put two and two together at Kemp's Credit Jewellers on Prince William Street—black lace evening dress, a marquise ring, marquise earrings, a marquise necklace. That set of jewellery would always add the finishing touches to your afternoon or evening ensemble. I went to Kemp's to have my wrist-watch operated on—I wanted a brand new movement in its antique case, which is something of a heirloom. Kemps are past masters in jobs like this, that require skill to the last twitch of the eyelash. They showed me how they made signet rings to order, with that individual stamp which factory-made rings lack. These hand-made signet rings might round up your idea for a graduation gift.

WOULD that I could give you some idea of the flowering of the Blue Orchid. If it has not blossomed into the most exquisite beauty salon you have ever set eyes upon I'll stand you a permanent wave on the new so-very-expensive machine. The plans of the interior decorator seem to have been molded on the modern blue and chromium furnishings—and it gives you a svelte sensation merely to sit in one of the turquoise leather chairs. Ne-Ne is purring that many a cat has looked at a queen but never before has a feline had the palatial surroundings of crystal and mirrors that are now hers—and you will be as pleased with them as Ne-Ne. It's hats off to Miss Willis for a magnificently successful venture! Hats off, while the Blue Orchid "crowns" our hair with the "glory" it is fabled to possess!

Now I want to come in at the finish with these bridge clubs about town, which are dragging themselves to a boring end. Dismiss this dismal death by a grand finale at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, that will form a memorable climax to the season's festivities. When you're Beatty-bound you're after good times, careful catering, warm hospitality. So phone the Beatty to make arrangements for your dinner bridge or dinner dance—then please, send me an invitation to joint the party.

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