

COLORS OF THE SPRING.

CHATTY DRESS TALKS BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED.

The Brightest and the Newest Things in—The Different Shades for the Spring—What is Being Done With Lace. Dress—What is Worn in Fashions Centre

March brought with it anything but a foretaste of spring, the days reminding one more of drear and chill November than early springtime. One went about enveloped in furs and it seemed absurd to think of spring gowns. Nevertheless the average woman had a keen delight in ordering her Easter paraphernalia, although she knew from sad experience that in all probability, it would be too cold to wear it, and she must appear in winter guise.

"In the spring a young man's fancy



lightly turns to thoughts of love." In the spring a woman's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love (grey).

Grey of all shades will be used for spring and summer costumes, the newest tint being known as quicksilver, which is a grey with a silvery sheen like that upon the changeling metal; silver garnitures of all kinds, and also those of flashing steel, will be used on these quaker-like gowns which will be relieved of all sombreness by the application of brilliant metallic braid and embroidery either in open-work galloons as in cut work passementerie.

Argent, nickle, granite and pearl are among the season's greys, although the tans and beige colors contend for supremacy; blonde, furet and castor are the favorites among the latter. A charming shade of light brown is known as Maryland, and a dark rich one as Mor-dore.

Natural shades are in the ascendant, the natural tinted homespuns and Vicunas being considered extremely stylish.

Niger is a peculiar tint of old rose and Bengal rose, Christmas rose, May rose and laurel pink are all new and beautiful shades. Echevin, Parma violet and regent are light shades of mauve, while chardon and iris are rich deep ones, which look particularly handsome in silk and velvet fabrics.

Quite a new blue is hyacinth, which true to nature, is exactly the color of the beautiful spring blossoms. Pervenche or periwinkle blue is of a darker shade inclining to lavender.

Pompadour is a delicious water blue, somewhat assimilating with the old-time



robins egg, which was a cross between a blue and a green. Watteau is almost identical with the lovely lime green, such a favorite color for evening dresses several years ago.

Muguet, or lily of the valley green, frasier or strawberry leaf, emerald and Russian are among the more subdued greens.

Banana is a very pale yellow. Cythere is a shade darker, and Cleopatra is of a rich golden hue; paillette, straw and corn color are pale evening shades.

Lace will be used in profusion upon everything, even as flounces upon wool work dresses; the India silks and grenadines almost float in a sea of filmy lace either white or black, or quite as often

they are buried in waves of ethereal chiffon, daintily scalloped or elaborately embroidered. Chiffon affords by far the most stylish finish for tulle of light fabrics and is peculiarly adapted for neck and sleeve ruffling. Silk and velvet violets, daisies or forget-me-nots are applied to some of the more expensive kinds of chiffon the leaves and stems being worked in colored flosses.

The jabot and the Robespierre or Moberie cravat is almost the invariable finish at the neck of the long square waistcoats. In fact fluffy neck dressing of all kinds, Henry II collarettes, pompadour-ruchings, etc., are the height of la mode. Women who prefer stateliness of effect incline toward the valois and medici styles of neck



wear with the high jewelled collars of jet passementerie or wired lace perhaps softened with an inter-filling of gauze or net.

Byzantine belts of quaint design set with dull stones such as coral, turquoise and unpolished garnets are very artistic and as a consequence expensive. Albanian and Algerian clasps are handsome for holding classic draperies, and belt clasps and buckles are made in the semblance of antique coins and ancient Italian cisele work.

Jewelled stomachers are elegant adjuncts to gowns of stiff brocade, and are being much used by those to whom costliness is not an object. Pearls are largely employed, ropes of them catching filmy silken draperies or heavy fringes trimming the foot of evening gowns.

Fringes are again to the front, but they are mostly bullion or metal bead fringes, or those of finely cut jet. They are placed across the bodice of gowns, coming from one shoulder diagonally across the waist; they appear in a rain of glittering color down the sides of handsome gowns or are sometimes placed across the foot. Even on street dresses fringe asserts itself; it is, however, an especially untidy ornament at the bottom of a gown as it catches the dust, straws and the other unwelcome flotsam and jet-am of the city streets.

There is an inexpressible variety in the Paris dress patterns and strange combinations are the rule. A lovely dress of as fresh as that tint of a half ripe strawberry, had a front of coarse meshed golden net, on which was embroidered at close intervals whorls in the same color as the gown fabric, the pattern growing



larger as it reached the foot where it ended in a shower of tiny golden gretots.

Lace effects are the novelty of the season, not the fabrics with borders woven to imitate lace, but the lace itself, introduced as borderings or interwoven in intricate patterns in different colored goods either in white, black or colors.

The dressmakers are overwhelmed with orders, and one has almost to plead with the modiste before a promise of an April gown can be exacted. Happy is the woman who knows enough to make her own gowns, with perhaps the aid of some humble sewing girl. Many wealthy ladies take delight in originating their own styles, not for economy's sake but for the independent feeling it gives. It is accomplished with the assistance of the garment drafting machine invented by A. McDowell, which system is in use in almost all of the first-class dressmaking establishments in the United States.

A delicious gown which has the handiwork of an heiress was composed of cream-white India and chiffon; it was as in olden times, flounced to the waist with frills of the transparent material; the bodice was a *la belle*, that is simply shirred on to a tight fitting lining and held at the waist with a flexible belt of silver webbing with a classic buckle in repousse work. The young girl looked very sweet in this unpretentious gown, and nothing more becoming to her fresh beauty could be well imagined.

It is a pity that young girls do not realize the loveliness of simplicity. A fresh complexion, clear, bright eyes, and a supple form do not require meretricious adornment. A woman after twenty-five needs something to enhance her charms, and the French are wise when they relegate rich silks and flashing jewels to the dowagers, and dress young girls in inexpensive crepes, silk muslins and chiffons.

The illustration shows a handsome calling costume, it is of Parma violet cloth with waistcoat and panel of gold damask; the revers on the coat and skirt are of a darker shade of violet velvet.

COUNTRESS ANNIE DE MONTAIGU.

A ST. JOHN MAN'S NOTES.

PENNED IN THE CITY OF BROTH-ERLY LOVE.

Philadelphia and Some of its Characteristics—The Appearance of its Streets and Houses—Magnificent Public Buildings and Churches.

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—Although situated at a distance from you, I thought possibly a few items of news from this city would not be entirely uninteresting to your readers.

Let me describe some of the characteristics of Philadelphia for the benefit of those who have not had the opportunity of visiting this city of brotherly love.

The first thing that impresses a stranger is its immense size, the city proper being 23 miles long, with an average width of five and a half miles, and has an area of 129 square miles, which is double the size of New York, yet with a population one-third less in number. The dwelling houses are, as a rule, not over three stories in height, which spreads the city over much more ground and makes it, in consequence, healthy and pleasant to live in. Every one can have their own house and not be huddled together as in large cities, where houses are built up to the skies and are filled with apartments for ten or fifteen families to live under one roof. The people are slow, deliberate and methodical in their habits, retaining many of the traits of their quaker forefathers. This is quite noticeable in the way they walk the streets and get in and out of the horse cars, so unlike the hurry and bustle of the New Yorkers, yet they are enterprising and progressive, and generally successful in their business operations. Like Boston and New York, Philadelphia has its own peculiar characteristics. The difference between the three cities is well defined in these questions: Boston asks of a stranger, "What does he know?" New York, "How much is he worth?" while Philadelphia inquires, "Who was his grandfather?" Ancestry being the latter's standard of merit, the old families here are of the very bluest blood and are said to look down even on New York's favored "Four hundred." While there is much of the quaker element here, the people are not narrow in their views or actions. Their charitable institutions are of the noblest and broadest character. The churches are large and handsome buildings and the theatres and places of amusements plenty and well patronized.

Gerard college, a magnificent establishment costing nearly \$2,000,000, provides for about 1500 boys who may have lost one parent or both, and gives them a good home, plenty of clothing, the best of food, and a good education, sending them out into the world when old enough, well fitted to follow any trade or profession they may be inclined for. There are many other smaller but not less important charitable institutions, such as homes and hospitals and schools entirely free to all who may be in need of such.

As I have said the churches are mostly large and handsome structures. One that was only recently opened "Grace Temple" a baptist church will seat 6,000 and on the opening Sunday accommodated at one service, 10,000. The pastor, Rev. Russell Conway, a well known pulpit orator, formerly of Boston, is a progressive minister and has established in connection with his church a free school for adults where all the higher branches of education are taught, I believe he was the author of one of the histories of the St. John fires. That the Philadelphians are fond of amusements is evident from the fact that there are twenty regular theatres in the city, beside concert halls and lecture rooms, and all of them are well patronized. The public buildings of Philadelphia are fine models of modern architecture, many being built of white marble. The city hall, considered the finest building of the kind in the United States, stands exactly in the centre of the city, and is so gigantic in its proportions, as to be easily discernable from all points of the city, its cost, so far, and it is not nearly finished yet, is \$15,000,000.

The dry good stores are the perfection of shopping places for ladies, every convenience being provided for the comfort of their patrons. "Wanamaker's" covers a whole block, and contains within its walls absolutely everything you may want, from the proverbial needle to an anchor. Visitors are provided with a sitting room very handsomely furnished, writing materials, magazines, newspapers, and other conveniences entirely free of charge, besides a free concert every afternoon in the musical department. The building is so vast that you are given a plan when you enter that you may be able to find the different departments, or if a party desire to look over the whole establishment a guide is provided to conduct them. The head of the house, John Wanamaker, is a wonderful man, who has risen by his own energy and talents from a poor boy to the position he now occupies. Besides being the head of this great emporium, he runs the largest Sunday school in the country, is a cabinet officer in the government and postmaster general of the United States, the latter office alone being enough for any ordinary man to fill, but he attends to them all and does not slight any of them. A wonderful man, indeed.

Just now there is a remarkable movement being carried on here called "University Extension," which is somewhat like the Chataqua circle, but much more thorough and of a higher order. It comes to us from where we get many good things, England, and has been introduced by a very clever man, Prof. Moulton of Cambridge, who has been brought over by a few gentlemen who are interested in the movement. The aim is to extend to men and women who are beyond the possibilities of attending a university such an education as is given there. Prof. Moulton's lectures are not only interesting but instructive, the methods he adopts are such that you can not be instructed by them, and they have so increased in attendance that it is hard to get a hall large enough to hold all that would hear him. I would like to tell you more about the city and what is



going on here, but I fear I have already made my letter too long and have trespassed on the space you have kindly allotted me. In my next letter I will tell you about the St. John boys who have made this city their home and are making their mark here.

In conclusion let me congratulate the people of St. John on having such a bright enterprising paper as *PROGRESS*, which presents so creditable an appearance and is so full of news.

R. S. H.

EGG-HATCHING MACHINES.

The Immense Number of Chickens Hatched by Them.

In a shop on the west side of Regent street, near Oxford street, London, hatching machines are on exhibition, and the movement of the young chickens are always watched with curiosity by crowds at the shop window. The use of incubators is widely spreading in this country, both for game and for domestic poultry. The United States consul general in Egypt, in a report recently published, describes the system of hatching eggs by artificial heat pursued in that country from time immemorial, and still in active operation. One establishment visited by the consul-general was wholly constructed of sun-dried bricks, mortar and earth. It was 70 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 16 feet high, and was provided with twelve compartments or incubators, each capable of hatching 7,500 eggs, or altogether 90,000 at one time. The season begins in March and lasts until May, and three batches of eggs are hatched in this time, each taking an average of three weeks. The fourth week is given to removing the chickens and preparing the incubators for a new batch of eggs. The number of eggs treated at this establishment in a single season was therefore 270,000, from which 234,000 chickens are usually obtained. The percentage of chickens would be greater, but that the eggs are in some instances procured from long distances and in large quantities, and are therefore liable to damage. The price of eggs is 2½ d per dozen, and chickens just issued from the shell are sold at 7½ d per dozen. The loss of chickens after incubation is comparatively small. The whole staff of the place is a man and a boy, who keeps the fires to a temperature of not less than 98 deg. F., arrange the eggs move them four or five times in the twenty-four hours, look after the chickens, and hand them over to the buyers. The number of chickens hatched in this manner throughout Egypt is estimated at 75,000,000, and would, under ordinary circumstances, require 1,500,000 mothers.—*Leisure Hour.*

Observing The Birds.

Oliver Thorne Miller, in a paper in the April *Atlantic* called "From My Window," tells about her "Bird Study." She says:

"The best place I have found for spying upon the habits of birds is behind a blind. If one can command a window with outside blinds, looking upon a spot attractive to the feathered world, he will be sure, sooner or later, to see every bird of the vicinity. If he will keep the blinds closed and look only through the opened slats, he will witness more of their unconstrained free ways than can possibly be seen by a person within their sight, though he assume the attitude and stolidity of a wooden figure. Says our nature-poet, Emerson:

"You often tread the woods in vain
To see what singer piped the strain.
Seek not, and the little creature
Flies forth and ev'ry sense is sight."

And the bird student can testify to the truth of the verse.

Many times, after having spent the morning in wandering about the bird haunts of a neighborhood, I have returned to my room to write up my note-book, and I have seen more of birds and bird life in an hour from my window than during the whole morning's stroll.

A Woman With a Lion Heart.

"What led you to break off your engagement with Miss Craik?" "I was afraid of her. One evening in the parlor a mouse ran across the floor. She never moved a muscle, but said: 'Oh, what a pretty little creature!'"—*Ex.*

Free to Ladies.

Every lady reader of this paper sending at once her address on a postal card will receive a free copy of THE LADIES (Pictorial) NEWSPAPER, containing full particulars of their old-fashioned English Prize Competition. Over \$6,000.00 in prizes will be given away between now and June 1st, with special daily prizes of value for each locality. THE LADIES NEWSPAPER is one of the largest and most profusely illustrated publications in Canada, and the Competition offered by them is to be conducted in a strictly fair and honorable manner without partiality to persons or locality. Anyone can secure a good prize by a little work. No cheap presents will be given. It costs you nothing for full information and a sample copy, if you send at once. Address: THE LADIES NEWSPAPER CO., Canada Life Building, Toronto, Ontario.—*Adet.*

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HARD WORK FOR NURSES

THE DAY'S ROUTINE FOR AN ENGLISH HOSPITAL NURSE.

She Works Fourteen Hours in the Day, with but Very Scant Time for Meals—Most Rigid Etiquette and Rules Observed.

"A day nurse" in an hospital is called at six and takes breakfast at 6.30. Prayers are said in chapel at 6.50, and at seven she is expected to be in her ward. In a ward of 32 beds in two divisions there would be, in addition to the sister, four nurses or probationers, that is, two to each division of sixteen beds. A nurse's first duty in coming into the ward is to take the patients' temperature and to mark it in the charts attached to the several beds, and to make the beds. Allowing three minutes

and a half per bed for this double process, if every bed be occupied, 56 minutes or close upon an hour will have elapsed before it is completed. But time must in some way be economised, for not only must beds be made, but the ward must be swept by eight o'clock. And the sweeping must not be done perfunctorily, every locker and mat must be removed and ten leaves thrown down. From eight to nine one nurse thoroughly dusts the division, while the other polishes brasses, washes the tops of lockers and basins, jugs, carbolic bowls, and all the other numerous medical or surgical appliances in use in the ward. At nine the nurses generally take a hasty cup of tea, which they themselves prepare and drink in the ward, washing up the cups themselves. Between nine and ten each nurse in turn has half-an-hour off duty to make her bed, dust her room, and attend to her own toilet, while the nurse remaining on duty looks after the patients and completes the preparation for the day's work, in a surgical ward putting out the necessary dressings on the lockers beside the patients' beds. In a medical ward there is sure to be some patient requiring special attention. Between ten and twelve the house staff of doctors and surgeons make their rounds. Each house physician and surgeon must be attended by a sister or nurse capable of giving any information he may desire about the patient and of taking his instructions. At twelve, four, and eight, what are known as the four hours' duties must be attended to, that is to say medicines, poultices, fomentations, dressings, and icebags ordered every four hours must be administered. At twelve the patients' dinner is served, the nurses also clearing it away and washing up everything except the plates. At 12.45 the one nurse goes to her own dinner, returning to the ward a little before 1.15; each nurse has to give in her name as she enters the room, and a cross is placed against it if she is late. Thus allowing a few minutes for going from and returning to her ward from the dining-room; a scant twenty minutes is left for dinner; and as there are few to carve and serve and many to dine, there is in practice a further inroad upon the time, and the meal is indeed a hasty one. From two till five p. m., the visiting surgeons and physicians go round the wards, but this is a much more solemn function than the morning visit of the house staff. The doctor who comes round with his students must be attended by the sister, who holds a pen and ink for his use, and by the staff nurse, who prepares the patient for the doctor's examination, and makes him comfortable again afterwards. Often a probationer is also in attendance to carry messages and fetch any appliance that may be needed. The round of the visiting doctor often entails fatigue sometimes unnecessarily increased by the observance of a rigid etiquette, and by want of consideration on the doctor's part. However long a doctor may linger by a patient's bedside, so long must the sister in attendance remain standing, holding her pen and ink. A kindly matron complains that she has frequently seen a doctor keep a sister standing for three-quarters of an hour at one bedside, not for any benefit that could accrue to the patient but solely in the interests of the students. At four o'clock the four-hour duties again recur, and the patients have their tea. Time has to be found while the patients are having their tea for the nurses' own afternoon tea, which they must take in the ward, as no time is allowed for absence. The nurses have to provide themselves with their own teapot and all necessary crockery! From five to seven o'clock the work of preparing the wards and the patients for the night must be done. Baths of various kinds must be given, and temperatures

again taken. At eight the lights are turned down, report given to the sister what orders have been received for the night, and the nurse finally goes off duty at 9.20. She will thus have been at work since 7 a. m., over fourteen hours. During this time she has had a scant half-hour for dinner, half-an-hour for doing her room and for her own toilet, and two hours to spend as she likes.

The actual working day of the nurse is thus a little under twelve hours. But against that computation must be set the fact, while one nurse is off duty more work is thrown upon the other. Thus in a ward where the staff consists of two nurses, there will always be six hours in the day when there will be but one nurse in the ward beside the sister, and in a ward where the staff consists of three nurses, there will be but two nurses in the ward during eight hours.—*English Illustrated Magazine for March.*

This is Worth Ten Dollars.

"Nearly everybody eats far more than is necessary," said the doctor. "Among my patients those who eat the least get over their mollygrubs the quickest, while those who eat the heaviest are ill the oftenest. My experience shows that half the ailments of life are brought about by over-eating or drinking. I myself take a light breakfast, perhaps eggs with toast, or fish with potatoes, or a bit of cold chicken, or something of the kind, and a cup of coffee. At noon I take milk, with a few crackers, or else some California fruits. At 6 I have a hearty, but not heavy dinner, with soup, fish, meat, vegetables, bread, and a few glasses of light wine. I do not eat over a pound and a half of solid food a day, though I am more robust than most men, and am never troubled with any of the hundred complaints that are the result of overeating. I advise you to eat lightly, be careful of what you eat, and take your time in eating. This looks like common-place advice, but my fee for it, without any pills, is \$10."

How Fast Can the Dumb Speak.

The deaf and dumb, as everyone knows, "speak" by means of their fingers. How many words, then, can a good hand-speaker form in a minute? According to the Postal Telegraph Department, the average number of letters per word in the English language is five. Now, a ready hand-speaker can make the English alphabet ten times in a minute; that is to say, 260 letters. It is usual for him to pause for the space of one letter after each word, to show that the word is completed. If, therefore, we subtract from the total just given about one-sixth of these stoppages, the total will be reduced to 215 letters. Let this be divided by five, the average number of letters per word, and we shall find that a fairly expert deaf and dumb person will speak forty-three words per minute. A person in possession of speech will probably speak 150 words in the same space of time.—*Little Folks.*

How to Play Fan Tan.

The players sit around a table, and the keeper of the game has in front of him a bowl or tray containing two or three quarts of "cash," small coins made of bronze and worth about one-fiftieth of a cent each; each coin has a square hole in the center for convenience in carrying it on a wire or string. The dealer takes a large handful of the coins from the bowl, generally a double handful, and places it on the center of the table. The players guess at the pile, the guessing being based upon the number that will remain after the coins have been removed, four at a time, until three, two, one or none are left. The removal is made with a pointed rod like a long lead pencil, it being forbidden to the dealer to touch the pile with his fingers in any way.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Got Them Out of Sight.

A genial old farmer once visited his refined and aesthetic married daughter, who was great on tides and antimacassars as drawing-room ornaments. As the old farmer was sitting by the window chatting with his daughter he spied the minister coming; and as his daughter rose to go to the door to receive the minister, the old farmer, not used to such finery, whipped up the tidies off the chairs, and threw them under the bed. When the minister had gone away he turned to his daughter and said—"Ay, Jeannie, lass, glad was I to get your washing out of the road before the minister came in, but I managed it."—*Ex.*

The Consolation of the Widow.

The following explains itself:
St. JOHN, N. B., 26th March, 1891.
John L. Stearns, general manager for the maritime provinces:
DEAR SIR—I beg to thank yourself and the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, for payment in full of policy 46,217, on the life of my late husband, Edward Willis; and I have also to thank Robert Marshall, special agent, for his kindness in so promptly attending to the settlement.
Yours respectfully,
(Signed) SARAH WILLIS. —A