

WOMAN and HER WORK.

One of the most pronounced facts in the fickle world of fashion, is the gradual, but certain decadence of the very wide skirt. Like the Empire craze, and the crinoline scare they did not come to stay, but are already taking to themselves wings; and I am quite inclined to give myself airs because I predicted in the spring that wide skirts would not last. Now the girls who were determined to be in the height of fashion and therefore had their dresses made with nine gored skirts, will have the pleasant task before them of taking out at least four gores, for the best dressmakers are already refusing to make skirts which measure more than four yards around the bottom, so determined are they to discountenance the graceful and cumbersome width introduced in the spring.

But if simplicity is growing in favor for skirts, it is the very reverse with bodices, which seem to grow more and more elaborate, and strange to say the well dressed woman today, is not the one who is dressed *en mite*, but the one who shows the most daring originality in the difference between her bodice and skirt. Nothing like a sympathy in varying shades of any one color is considered admissible. Your bodice must not bear the slightest relationship to your skirt if you would be fashionable, they must not be even Scotch cousins. Here is an illustration in a gown recently worn by one of fashion's favorites. A skirt of heliotrope batiste, oddly trimmed, not more than twelve inches below the waist line with a group of three narrow ruffles of itself, their own width apart. The bodice was of striped black and yellow silk; it was cut in shape at the neck, and the silk was draped about the yoke and trimmed with a yellow tinted insetion. The inevitable chemise was of yellow chiffon, and the belt of black velvet ribbon. It sounds very strange, I confess, and not particularly attractive, but it was, to say the least both striking and stylish.

The girls who favor the English style of architecture in dress, are wearing a decided novelty in the shape of skirt waists of black silk, with soft empire scarfs of the same, folded around the waist. Of course the silk used is either surah or India silk which drapes softly and prettily. Studs fasten the waist down the front, and with it is worn an English walking coat of chamois yellow with immense revers, bordered with black silk gimp or passanterie. The full silk sleeves are finished at the wrists with the same garniture. Coats of brilliant red similarly made are trimmed with black, and worn with the black waists.

The outing gown has become such a feature of every one's wardrobe now-a-days that to write even a short article on fashions without mentioning it, would be impossible. Until this season no one dreamed of an outing dress made of any material but flannel or serge, but this season the English woman of fashion has shown us the wisdom of adopting cotton and linen fabrics, and so keeping cool and comfortable even though we are "outing." Brown, white and blue linen and pique, plain, striped and figured, appeared on the shelves of the best dry goods houses, made into blazers, reeters and suits, and they speedily won their way into favor until now their position is firmly established, and fashion's favorites wear jaunty suits of linen and duck. Some time the skirt is of serge, and the blouse of blue and white poulard, with reefer of blue duck. Imagine a shirt waist to be worn with a dark blue linen skirt and reeter, made of four large bandana handkerchiefs, two forming the sleeves, and the others the body! Scotch ginghams are in high favor also, but I must not stop to describe them; just a word about the newest tennis shoes and then I must away to my correspondents.

We do not generally associate tennis shoes with any large amount of grace or style; but a new tennis shoe has recently made its appearance from England, the home of tennis, which is certainly a great improvement upon the majority of tennis shoes. It has a vamp of patent leather which gives it quite a festive appearance, and the vamp is quite low like a slipper, so a quaint little ankle tie such as babies used to wear, comes around the instep and fastens in front with a single button, thus preventing the shoe from coming off, just when the wearer is most anxious to keep it on.

HOME MADE WINES, St. John.—Thank you again and please don't think your recipes are not valued because they are not used immediately, I have to use such recipes as are in season just now, and I intend publishing the wines next week, I was especially glad to get them, as they are all so good, and I have long wanted to know how to make ginger wine.

E. D. W., Florida.—I hope you will not mind my using your initials, as you gave me no *nom de plume*. Thank you for the recipes, I am always glad to get any good ones. I have found the recipe for freezing ice cream without ice, but I wish you had cut it out when you first saw it, as I had quite a hunt, but I daresay others will be glad to get it, so my labor will not be in vain.

Place the preparation to be frozen, in a tin pint and immerse it in a bucket of weak solution of sulphuric acid and water,

into which has been thrown a handful of common Glauber salts, and the resulting cold is so great, that a bottle of wine placed in it, will be frozen in a few minutes, so that ice cream, or ices can be quickly and easily prepared. Of course the cream must be stirred in the usual manner adopted by people who have no freezers, or else it will either cake, or become solid. I am glad you enjoy Progress so much in your southern home.

PINEAPPLE.—It was a most extraordinary performance, and most decidedly improper according to all rules of etiquette, and good feeling, but I once know of a widower attending a theatre with a gay party of friends, two months after his wife, whom he was supposed to idolize, died, and as he said he did it to try and cheer himself up a little, we will be charitable enough to hope your friend had the same object in view, but it looks more like utter callousness, and want of feeling.

Women in the World.
Mrs. Mary Ranlett has built up an extensive business in a sailors' shipping office. She furnishes seamen in any desired number.

There are a good many sad sights in this sad world, dear breddern; but dere's one dat must make eben de angels weep, an' dat's de spectacle ob a jealous man, wid a wife who hez a face dat ud frighten a hoss from his oats.

A bright woman who spent last Summer in the Adirondacks said: "I really felt that I was repaid for my journey by one bit of information that I acquired. That was how to tie my shoelaces so that they would stay tied. Physicians recommend laced boots and fashion decrees them, but they have always been an intolerable nuisance to me until I discovered what to do. I make a loose bowknot, bringing down the upper ribbon over the lower, I curve this same upper loop around to the right and so up through the middle of the knot. Then I pull sharply and it is secure beyond further trouble to me."

Sir Edwin Arnold is credited with having said that if he were at liberty to choose his sex and country he would be an American woman. He must be the first man who ever wished he was a woman. If he isn't, it would be interesting to know who the other one is. But certainly he is right about the proud position of the American as compared with other women. Right here it would be well for all women to remember that said proud position was not gained by sitting down and letting men arrange it for them. Every new advantage that she enjoys today was obtained through the grit and courage of some other woman. The men, bless their hearts, don't mean to be hard hearted and tyrannical, but how are they to know what a woman wants unless she lets her needs be known? "If you don't see what you want ask for it."

We are sometimes better off than we think ourselves: A case in point: A story is told of a New York woman who became afflicted with the mania for a change, and finally succeeded in persuading her husband to sell their house and try a new neighborhood. He reluctantly placed it in the hands of a real estate agent; and one morning shortly afterward, his wife came into his room in a state of great excitement, with newspaper in her hand. "I have found the very thing that will suit us!" she exclaimed; "do go at once and see about it before some one else gets ahead of us!" The poor man, thus adjured, hurried through his bath and dressing, swallowed a few mouthfuls of breakfast, and arrived in a breathless state at a house agency mentioned—only to find that the attractive advertisement referred to his own house.

TO Make Cloth Waterproof.
Ordinary cloth may be made waterproof by the following treatment: Put half a pound of sugar of lead and a half a pound of alum in a pail of soft water; stir this at intervals until it becomes clear, then pour it off into another pail, put the cloth or garments into it and let it stand an entire day—24 hours. Then hang up to dry without wringing. Garments treated thus, it is said, can be worn in the wildest storm of wind and rain without the wearer getting even damp. The rain hangs in globules upon the cloth, and cloth that is waterproof is better and more healthy than rubber goods.

Found.
We found each other in those darkest days Which, some say, come but just before the dawn. I know not how, save that our feet were drawn Without volition into mingling ways.

Hearts have no ears to hear, they can but feel, The stranger stands outside and knocks, and knocks There comes no answer to the noisy shocks Save the re-echoes of his rain appeal. But draws the only one the portals near; Though fall his footsteps as rose petals blown, Trembling, it hastens to open to its own, And this is how we found each other, dear.

A good story is told of the Indians, who replied when a missionary asked them if they were willing to abstain from work on Sunday: "Yes and not only on Sunday, but on all other days as well."

According to an old superstition of the medieval Church, whenever a cock crows a lie is being told. The reason that cocks crow so persistently in the early morning is because the morning papers are being set up.

"Can't you call again tomorrow?" asked the debtor.

"No," responded the creditor; "I never put off till to-morrow what ought to be done to-day."

Farmer Giles—Them varmint's of boys have bin an' taken the scare-crow out of the field.

Mrs. Giles—Well, can't you stand in the field till John fixes up another?

Her Majesty considers the Duke of Connaught to be more like his father in personal appearance and character than any of her other sons.

"Progress" in Boston.

PROGRESS is for sale in Boston at the Kings Chapel News Stand, corner of School and Tremont streets.

DRUGGISTS HAVE THEIR TRIALS.

Some of Them That the Public Do Not Always Think About.

What extraordinary ideas the great majority of people seem to have about drug shops, the dry goods shop, the candy shop, the grocery "store," the hardware shop. Each and all of them occupy a clearly defined position in the world of commerce. They are places where a certain class of merchandise is bought, and sold, and where a certain independent sense of mutual obligation prevails between customer and proprietor. The salesman takes your order, or hands you your change, with a courteous "Thank you," but at the same time both he and you are fully conscious that it you are doing him a favor in purchasing from him, he fully returns the compliment in the trouble he takes to serve you, and the zeal he shows in accommodating you by every means in his power. Indeed, I think it must be a very ungracious man or woman, who leaves a shop without thanking the clerk who has waited upon him, or her, so patiently and solicitously, for the trouble he has taken.

But a drug shop? "Oh well" you say, "a drug shop is different! It is there for the convenience of the public and one naturally expects every accommodation there."

I really believe that is the case and the public regard every drug shop as a sort of free club, which is maintained especially for the convenience of those who may wish for a pleasant lounging place free of charge. A drug shop is also supposed to be a bureau of general information, to keep a directory on hand, an unfailing stock of postage stamps and postal cards for sale and to have its proprietor and clerks thoroughly posted in all the affairs, private and public of the immediate neighborhood. A stranger in town, who is looking up some long forgotten relations, of whose whereabouts he has not the remotest idea, invariably steers his course for the nearest drug shop and is quite hurt when the druggist confesses his ignorance concerning the family in question and suggests that the querist had better consult the directory, because it is a well known fact amongst that "general public" of whom I am writing that to call in at a drug shop and ask to look at the directory counts just the same as making an extensive purchase, at least if it does not, it should, because by doing so one patronizes the druggist, and shows a flattering appreciation of his wares, if he does not make any money out of the transaction, why of course that is his affair.

I verily believe most people cherish a fancy that the druggist will feel slighted if they leave his shop after purchasing a stamp, without testing the quality of his sachet powder by removing the stopper of each bottle and sniffing critically at the contents, and helping themselves liberally from the different bottles of perfume which he keeps on his show case for selling in bulk. Such little evidences of good will on a customer's part show a friendly interest in the druggist and his stock, which should please him immensely. I need scarcely add since the etiquette of the drug shop is pretty generally understood, that it would be an almost unpardonable breach of good manners to pass out of a drug shop without sampling the various brands of cough lozenges which are temptingly displayed to attract customers. Few well-bred people neglect these little ceremonies, so perhaps any further reference to the subject on my part would be out of place, but I must say I think it is rather hard to expect a drug shop to be open day and night, Sundays and holidays, to be a sort of free lunch counter on a small scale for all comers, and then to go away and grumble in virtuous indignation over the extortionate prices charged for the smallest articles in a drug shop. The leakage in a drug shop is very large and in order to keep himself out of the poor-house, a druggist is simply forced to charge pretty good prices, and even then the mystery to me is not why his prices are high, but how he manages to live at all, and keep grim starvation from his door.

"Oh taking one consideration with another—with another, A druggist's life is not a happy one!"

GEORGEY CUTHBERT STRANGE.

THE REASON WHY OF THEM.

Explanation of the Origin of Some Common Modern Customs.

Soda water bottles, says an exchange, are made with rounded bottoms, so that they may always lie on their sides, for in this position the contents are found to keep better, as the gas cannot then escape through the pores of the cork.

One often finds draught and back-gammon boards which, when folded, have the appearance of two volumes side by side; and the origin of this is as follows:—During the time of the Commonwealth, when backgammon and such-like games were pronounced illegal, the breakers of this absurd law were in the habit of using boards of this pattern so that, on the approach of a suspected informer, the boards could be folded up and placed on the shelf amongst the books.

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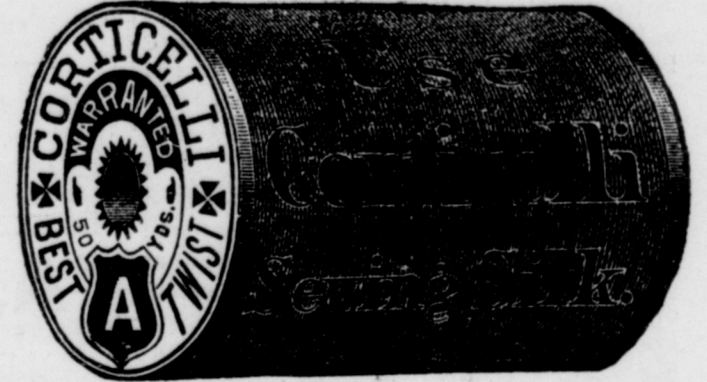
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