

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I see that the ladies in charge of some of the Woman's Clubs, represented at the World's Fair, are having rather a lively time of it, and if I did not happen to be a woman myself, I am afraid I should come to the conclusion that we did not possess the amount of talent for organization that we would have the rest of the world believe. A description of the state of backwardness displayed in this part of the great exhibition is very amusing. The Chicago papers themselves see the humor of the situation and some of them cannot refrain from poking wild fun at these rather disorganized ladies. I believe that out of the large number of clubs to be represented, only three or four, are really ready for visitors; the spaces allotted to the others being given up to packing cases, confusion and general chaos.

The cause of this delay in arranging matters seems to be a lack of that union, which means strength amongst the different lady managers, who are drawing six dollars a day for their services, and apparently doing very little else, and the consequence is very widespread dissatisfaction and indignation on the part of those unfortunate women who have charge of an exhibit and are anxious to get it into order.

One hapless woman sitting patiently on an unpacked case, said to a sympathizing reporter: "Here I am, delayed in my work again, because Mrs. Blank has decided that I cannot have this space, but must take another, and where that space is, or is going to be, is a question. The lady managers are drawing six dollars a day and nothing done, and I am spending six dollars a day while I am waiting for them."

One sufferer says, "We should have been ready long ago, but we have been waiting for those six dollar a day managers to come to some decision." Another complained bitterly: "I have been dancing around this room all day, till I am tired out, and now I am going to sit right here until I find out which of those managers has some authority. I never saw such a mixed up lot of women! You get permission from one of them to do something and get nicely started, when another comes along and stops your work. She asks you why you are doing this without consulting some one. When I say I have the authority in black and white from Mrs. A——, she says, 'Mrs. A—— cannot give you permission. She has no authority. You must wait until we have a meeting, which will be in a day or two, and I will have the matter brought up.'"

"Then I wait a day or two, and go to this woman, who has stopped my work, and she tells me she was not able to do anything for me because some one woman was ill, and not at the meeting, and then she says for me to be patient and she will attend to it personally. Then I wait until she attends to it personally, and I am waiting yet." The writer goes on to say, that the only spaces which look really ready are the Lassell Seminary, from Auburndale, Mass., Hellmuth College, London, Ontario, the South End Flower Mission, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

So you see girls, this goes to prove that going to the World's Fair in charge of an exhibit, is not by any means a bed of roses, also that a woman drawing a good salary is quite capable of living up to her privileges, now-a-days, and doing almost as little as a man in the same position, a walking delegate for instance.

But I really cannot help feeling a thrill of human sympathy for those unfortunate lady managers. Imagine occupying a position of sufficient prominence and authority to be made a target for the complaints of a couple of hundred other women each firmly convinced in her own mind that the organization she represents is the only really important one in the whole Woman's Building. I wonder they are not all insane, in spite of their six dollars a day.

Next month will be the month of weddings as this is the one dedicated to maidens and moving; few couples having the hardihood to brave popular prejudice and worse still, popular superstition by embarking on the beautiful, uncertain, but sunlit sea of matrimony during the month of May. Therefore I think it should be appropriate to give those amongst my large family of boys and girls who may contemplate matrimony in the immediate future, a few hints on the etiquette of both church and home weddings. I might not have thought of this were it not that several of my correspondents have asked me for advice on the subject and I am taking this method of answering them all.

I wonder how many of us know the origin of the old superstition about the ill luck which is supposed to follow a May wedding? Not many, I fancy, and I don't believe I should ever have known myself if it had not been for a wonderfully clever old teacher of mine who was a perfect encyclopedia of knowledge, ancient and modern, but chiefly ancient. One day I was telling him about some one who had flown in the face of all precedent, and dared the Fates, by getting married in May, and he asked me suddenly and unexpectedly if I could tell him why it was unlucky. It is needless to say I couldn't;

so he told me. The beautiful sea-born Greek goddess of love and beauty—Aphrodite, was also the goddess of death, and as her mortuary festival occurred in May, she disliked to have her two attributes confused, and hence forbade, and frowned upon all marriages contracted during the month of May. This is the original superstition, but the more modern reason, especially in the Church of Rome, for discouraging May weddings has been the well known custom, of setting apart the Virgin Mary, as a special period of adoration of the Mother of God.

This is Tuesday, however, and after tomorrow we may all and sundry of us who are free from encumbrances, get married as soon as we like, and can find some one willing to have us. To begin at the beginning of the wedding ceremonies, though custom has placed a stamp of approval upon the license, so that it has come to be the accepted form of obtaining the requisite permission to wed, amongst the higher classes, the marriage by banns is in reality the proper and correct form, as prescribed by the Church of England, the rubric of which says distinctly, "First the banns of all that are to be married together must be published in the church three several Sundays, during the time of morning service, or of evening service—if there is no morning service—immediately after the second lesson; the Curate saying after the accustomed manner."

That is pretty distinct, is it not, and the rubric further says, that if the two persons to be married belong to different parishes, the banns must be published in both, and no curate shall marry two persons from different parishes without a certificate of the banns having been thrice published in the other parish. There is no word of any license, special, or otherwise, in the prayer-book, therefore banns must be the correct manner of publishing one's intentions, and it is frequently adopted by members of the English aristocracy.

Of course, it must be very trying to the betrothed couple if they should be in church at the time, but I fancy they would only attend evening service during the eventful three Sundays. It will be observed by those who read society papers, that quiet weddings are steadily gaining in popularity, amongst the best and most fashionable people, and the announcement "There were no attendants" is frequently seen in the description of fashionable weddings.

Of course there is a poetry and beauty about a wedding where the bride is clad in glistening white robes and finely veiled, which can never attach to a plain "travelling dress wedding," but yet the latter is steadily growing in favor and is considered, amongst some of the most exclusive society people by far the best form, and I believe it is always the most popular with the bridegroom, men hate show and ceremony so intensely, and they are so utterly effaced, poor dears, when they take part in a "swell" wedding.

Even at the most formal of full dress weddings, eight, six, or even four bridesmaids are no longer fashionable, one bridesmaid, or "maid of honor," being considered the correct thing. She precedes the bridal procession, walking alone and directly in front of the bride and her father. Etiquette has laid down the law that the bridegroom's relatives shall sit at the right of the altar, thus being at his right hand, and the relatives of the bride on the left, at the bride's left hand.

There are usually six ushers at a fashionable church wedding, whose duties consist of showing the guests to their seats before the arrival of the wedding party, and who afterwards head the bridal procession, walking two and two, followed immediately by the bridesmaids, if there are several, and by the maid of honor, if she is alone. Should there be two bridesmaids and a maid of honor, the bridesmaids follow the ushers, the maid of honor always walking alone and in front of the bride. On reaching the chancel steps the ushers fall to the right, the bridesmaids to the left, and the bride's father stands directly behind her.

The groom and his best man, are of course awaiting the bride, when she reaches the chancel. The duties of the best man are arduous, for he simply has to look after the groom in every respect. Remember all that he forgets even to the checking of the luggage for the wedding journey sometimes; and as the bridesmaid holds the bride's bouquet and glove, during the ceremony, so does he hold the groom's glove and hat also, if there is no convenient place to put it. He signs the register as witness, pays the clergyman's fee, and then follows the bridal procession out of the church, joining the party at the house, and assisting the groom by presenting the guests. The bridesmaids stand near the bride at the reception, and assist her in receiving her guests.

For a home wedding it is not usual to have attendants, and where the bride is a widow, there are never either groomsmen or bridesmaids, nor does the bride wear white garments or a veil.

For weddings in a family where a death has recently occurred, all friends, even the bride's widowed mother, lay aside their mourning for the day, appearing at the ceremony in colors. In England, the widowed mother of the bride would wear deep cardinal red, which is considered the appropriate color for those in mourning; in our country she would probably wear violet or purple silk. It is considered bad taste to appear in black at a wedding.

And now in answer to a very important question often asked by my correspond-

ents—"What should the bridegroom pay for?" What is his part in all this expense? I must say a few words on one point upon which etiquette has laid down the most rigid laws. The groom is not permitted by social usage to provide anything for his own wedding except the wedding ring, the bride's bouquet, presents for the bridesmaids, and the best man, and some little token to each of the ushers. Of course he pays the clergyman. He must not pay for the cards, the carriages, or any part of the entertainment. He may speak to the organist, and even engage his services, but he must on no account pay him, that is the duty and privilege of the bride's family. In England it is customary for the groom to provide the carriage in which he drives away from the church with his new-made wife, but this is not the custom here, everything being provided by the parents of the bride. The reason for this is, that until he has spoken the words, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow," he has no proprietary rights at all, and therefore no rights to pay any of his future wife's expenses while she is under the care of her parents. Etiquette is especially strict on this point.

With regard to the wedding cards, they are usually ordered by the bride's mother, and it would be considered very bad form to allow the groom to pay for them, one reason for this being the fact that marriages have been broken off sometimes after the cards were out, and it would be a bitter mortification to the bride's family if he had paid for them, as they could scarcely reimburse him by sending him a cheque for the amount.

In most cases the after cards are ordered at the same time as the wedding cards and the bride's mother pays for them, it is more strict etiquette that she should, but in case they are not ordered until after the marriage the groom may pay for them, as they are then amongst his wife's ordinary expenses but of course he could not possibly order them for her before the ceremony, and when she was merely his intended bride. I think I have now answered all the queries which have been sent to me; but if not I hope my correspondents will tell me so. I have published the requisite forms of wedding invitations on several occasions, I think, so it will not be necessary to repeat them. One word more. Should the bride be portionless and poor, it is far better form for her to go to the altar in a quiet travelling dress without either guests, favors or cards, than for her to permit the groom to provide these things for her, even if he should be wealthy. After she is his wife it is time enough for him to pay her expenses, and he will respect her feeling upon the subject and admire her all the more for her self respect, and independence.

Here is a very pretty, though scarcely a substantial way to cook eggs; it would gratify the aesthetic taste, I am sure, but one might eat two or three and still have "a feeling of unsatisfied longing" in the epigastric region.

Meringued Eggs.
Beat the whites of six or eight fresh eggs to a very stiff froth. Take out great flakes of the froth with a spoon, and lay them on a dish which will stand the heat of the oven. Make a little hollow in the centre of each flake, or heap, with the back of a spoon and put a raw yolk in it. Place in the oven until the meringue is lightly browned, then sprinkle with pepper and salt, lay a small piece of butter on each egg, and serve very hot in the same dish used for baking.

Lettuce Sandwiches.
I have heard of, and made, many different kinds of sandwiches, but I never heard of, or tasted lettuce sandwiches until lately, and I would not have believed they were so nice. Some time before beginning to make the sandwiches put a plate of butter to soften, as thin bread cannot be buttered with firm butter. Then cut a loaf of bread into very thin slices. Cut these into rounds with a large cookie-cutter; butter, and place on half the rounds, crisp lettuce leaves, on each leaf put a spoonful of salad dressing, add the other rounds, press down lightly, and you will have a delicious sandwich.

Russian Cream.
Soak half a box of Cooper's gelatine for four hours in enough water to cover it. Scald one quart of milk, then take from the fire and stir into it the yolks of four eggs, beaten light, two cups of sugar and the gelatine; stir all the time while mering and return to the fire; boil five minutes, still stirring, remove from the fire and add the whites of the eggs beaten to a froth a generous glass of sherry wine and two teaspoonfuls of vanilla; strain through a sieve and pour into moulds wet with cold water; set in a cool place until firm. It should be made the day before it is to be used, and is delicious with cake.

Spanish Cake.
A little cake peculiar to the Spanish is delicious with ices and jelly. Take butter, eggs, sugar and flour of equal weight. When the butter is beaten to a cream add the eggs, the sugar, the flour in the order named. Stir for half an hour and drop it in small mounds upon a sheet iron pan dusted with flour. Place a preserved cherry in the center of each little cake and bake, or if fresh fruit is preferred add a strawberry or raspberry after baking.

Orange Shortcake.
For six persons take two teaspoonfuls of flour, sift thoroughly through it two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and two tablespoonfuls of sweet lard and butter mixed, or butter alone, and rub well into the flour as if for biscuits; mix with sweet milk as soft as can be handled. Divide into two portions after salting it lightly unless the butter is very salt, in which case omit the salt. Butter a jelly tin, roll out half the paste and put in the tin, rub soft butter over it, roll out the rest of the paste and place over it. When done lift off the top, butter well and cover with sliced oranges well sweetened with powdered sugar, replace the top and serve hot. Indigestible, but good!

Orange Fudding.
Three eggs, one cup of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, juice of two oranges, and half the grated peel of one, juice of a lemon, and half the grated peel of a lemon, two teaspoonfuls of arrowroot, or corn starch, but the arrowroot is preferable. Whip the butter and sugar to a cream, whip in by degrees the orange and lemon juice and peel; lastly the yolks of the eggs and the arrowroot, wet with water. Have ready a pie plate lined with good paste, fill with the mixture, and bake. Make a meringue with the beaten whites and a heaping tablespoonful of powdered sugar, whipping in a teaspoonful of lemon juice at

the last. When the pudding is firm, and begins to brown, spread this on the top, and leave it in the oven until the meringue is set, and incrust on the surface.

Didas.—I regret very much that my absence from town prevented me from receiving your letter sooner. I only got it on Saturday, but I hope the answer will not be too late. I do not think it will unless I am greatly mistaken. I am sorry I could not comply with your request, but it was against the rules. However if you read these columns carefully on Saturday you will see that I have answered all your questions, and that was the best I could do. Write again and tell me about it, and remember I am always glad to be of any service to my correspondents. ASTRA.

The assistant court dentist in Germany is a woman, Dr. Henrietta Hirschfeld. Of course she came from America. She was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery.

Mrs. G. H. Timpon is a successful undertaker or "funeral director," as is now the fashion to call it, and is in business in New York city in her own name.

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W. A. Robertson, of Lynn, Mass., has written to say that a bottle of Hawker's Tonic cured him of a severe cold, and that he gave it to a number of friends with a like good effect.
Francis Mills Turner, of Brockville, Ont., writes that he cured a severe cold by Hawker's Tonic, and writes the makers to that effect.
I consider Hawker's Tonic an A. 1. article for colds and colds, said conductor Hobson, of the C. P. R.
C. Nicholl, of St. John, says that Hawker's Tonic is the best medicine he ever took. He strongly recommends it to all.

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