

WOMAN and HER WORK.

Perhaps you may remember, dear girls to whom I usually address these out-pourings of thought, that a short time ago I said we should soon be hearing about the Old, instead of the New Woman! If you do, you can imagine the mingled joy and

in courtship went. But it Boaz was satisfied, and the men of the present day approve of her course, further comment would be useless, and the new woman is clearly "out of the running," as racing men say, while the old woman has got into print at



NEW SPRING SUITS AND HATS.

The right figure shows a frock of brown hairline with tan braid trimming. The next figure shows a striped cheviot gown and apron with lace applique yoke. The figure on the left shows a surah serge, dark blue, with light blue ribbon and black galloon as trimming.

triumph which throbbed in my breast when I picked up a New York "World," last week and saw an editorial column headed "The Old Woman." I thought my prophecy was being fulfilled even sooner than I expected. But on reading the article I discovered that my jubilation had been rather premature, and the writer was merely contrasting the New Woman, the end of the century product, with the older and more familiar type, the type men have known and loved since the beginning of the world, and the comparison was greatly to the disadvantage of the former.

The writer intimated that the New Woman was creating quite a ripple on the shores of time just now, that everybody was interested in her because of her novelty, her audacity, and her cleverness. He said the New Woman was "interesting, piquant, and even charming in a way" and he praised her for her wit, her freedom of manner, and her large acquisitions: I suppose he meant acquisitions in the form of culture, education, and freedom of opinions, for these I think have been her greatest acquisitions, so far. But after lifting the New Woman up so gently and so high, the "World" writer proceeds to set her down hard with the information that however much man may encourage her, and even be amused by her, he has in reality lost none of his reverence for the old woman, and her womanliness; and that the great majority of women are perfectly aware of the fact. I am afraid they are, and to tell the plain truth I believe that knowledge is what prevents more of us from joining the ranks and marching under the New Woman's banner; we know where our power lies too well and a good many of us are finding out that womanliness pays best in the long run, and is really the shortest cut to unlimited power after all.

But to return to our editorial, the writer sums up his reasons for preferring the old to the new woman thus—"The old woman has been the mother and the companion of man ever since man ceased to be a monkey, and man is on the whole perfectly satisfied with her. He looks back with loving reverence even to the spankings with which she disciplined him for his bad * * * The new woman, with all her brilliancy and clatter has not supplanted the old and never will, while man remains dominant in this curious old world of ours. Ruth still means more to Boaz than Dodo means to anybody, and the woman who cheerily sings over her ministry, whatever it is, will never be ousted by the stateswoman or the spectacled philosopher, from her throne in the hearts of men, while the love of home endures."

"All of which I am sure must be a great comfort to those home loving bodies amongst us who don't want either to vote, philosophize, or wear spectacles, unless we should happen to be short sighted; but I do wish the writer had not selected Ruth, as a model for the rest of us to live up to! I have always considered that young woman very advanced indeed, several thousand years at least in advance of her generation, as far as taking the initiative

last and intense holding her own, in spite of her dislike to notoriety. May she live long and prosper."

By the way another long silent individual about whose place in the world I was beginning to feel anxious, is likely to occupy an important position in moulding the destinies of the race, if he possesses half the noble qualities attributed to him. He is none else than the New Man, who has at last been heard from, and who according to his sponsor Dr. Anna Shaw, of Philadelphia, will be "pre-eminently a man in mental, moral and physical development, in every respect a fitting companion for the New Woman." What a sublime being he will be! Let us all pray that we may be spared till he appears, that we may gaze upon him before we die!

I believe Dr. Shaw made the new man the subject of a very brilliant lecture a short time ago, and she drew such a delightful picture of him, and his numerous good qualities, that those who have been lamenting over the possibility of the human race coming to an end through the new woman's independence of marriage, need have no fear, because the newest woman that ever was born will not be able to resist the charms of the peerless creature described by Mrs. Shaw.

He will be manly, not effeminate but yet feminine, it to be feminine means to be virtuous, gentle, true, tender and loving. He will also have clearness of judgement, but his judgement of woman will be as clearly drawn as his judgement of men." Best of all the new man's relation to the state will be maintained in such a manner that there will be no need of civic investigations and political purification, the officials of the state will be essentially new men, or perhaps, who knows, new women, and they will always be above suspicion in their management of the affairs of state entrusted to them by the public.

Under such conditions as these, the world will be little short of a Utopia, and the result will be that we shall almost cease to look forward to the millennium. With such a race of men and women walking lovingly hand in hand—Mrs. Shaw's new woman by the way will be two and a half inches taller than we are, have a waist two inches larger, and wear a shoe two sizes larger—and such a perfect system of government life will be a perpetual dream of bliss. There is only one point about the New Man upon which Dr. Shaw has failed to inform us, she has left the date of his appearance on this terrestrial sphere shrouded in mystery, and I am sure every woman who listened to her eloquent description of his charms is pining to know just when he is to be expected, and how she is to recognize him when he arrives. More light on this subject will be gratefully received by every woman Old or New.

It is very hard to write fashions, at least to write with anything like authority, and expect people to pay attention to what you say, because the very best fashion authorities are so given to contradictions, to saying one thing this week, a quite a different

thing next, that their humble followers are often at a loss whether to abide by their edicts or strike out a line of their own. I never did think the writing of fashions was my strong point, in fact I have done lots of work that I admired more after it was finished than I ever did a fashion article of my own; but I do try to make up in accuracy what I lack in brilliancy of invention, so I only describe what I see; and if I happen to see a good many contradictions in the course of my investigations, it is not my fault.

One surprise which the spring fashions had in store, was the revival of the Eton jacket which has proved a very thorough revival indeed, and the jaunty little garment, which seemed to have been deposed so much too soon, is to enjoy a new lease of life. It will be very slightly changed in shape, merely a little longer, reaching the bottom of the waistline in the back, and slightly below it in front where the ends are pointed a little. Any of last year's Eton's which were trimmed with braid can easily be altered to the height of the fashion by ripping off the trimming and adding an inch or so to the length; the seam will be concealed by the braid when it is replaced, and the garment satisfactorily remodelled.

So popular does the Eton jacket promise to become, that it will be seen in figure and outing cloth, as well as the more conservative serge. All kinds of vests and waists will be worn beneath it, from the full blouse, or shirt waist with stiff bosom and cuffs, to the full silk plastron made on a foundation of lining and closing in the back.

These silks are made up with yokes, and long cuffs of coarse meshed lace, laid over silk of the color that predominates in the dress. Thus a dress of black and white striped silk will have yoke and cuffs of white satin overlaid with black lace, or perhaps the order will be reversed and black satin covered with white lace will be substituted.

Everyone who wishes to be well dressed and can afford such a luxury, should have a skirt of some kind of black silk or satin; it can be worn with almost any kind of bodice from silk to lawn, and one always looks well dressed in such a garment.

If there is one material above another which may be said to be popular, this season, it is silk. I mean, of course, silk material, for satin is almost a rage. Silk for skirts, silk for blouses, silk for trimmings and silk for the whole costumes, and above all summer silks, the light weight, low priced silks which have so many advantages, coolness, cheapness and above all style. Their smooth surface sheds the dust, their moderate prices place them within the reach of anyone who could afford a new dress of any woolen material, and they can be made to look much more dressy than a woolen costume, however expensive. Stripes are very fashionable, and they vary in width from nearly two inches to the finest hair lines. Many pretty designs show a light background with hair strips in a contrasting color, and tiny bouquets of flowers scattered here and there upon the surface. The colors most frequently seen are blue, rust brown, sage lettuce green, a cream shade, and an immense variety of pinks and blues.

In making over a partly worn dress, there will be no possibility of making a mistake if black satin be selected as a combination; it is used for skirt panels, yokes, collars and belts on all materials, and all colors. Black satin duchesse is the material which wears best, and looks richest; an excellent quality may be purchased for one dollar per yard.

In the light-weight woollens for summer wear the colors which prevail are blue, green, and brown, but of course there are almost endless possibilities of change afforded by the mixing of these colors, both in shot and mottled effects.

A pretty summer travelling gown of checked tweed in the new stem green, barred with darker green, showed a bell skirt measuring four and a half yards in width, with the fullness laid in two box plaits at the top of the back breathers. The whole centre back, and the front and sides to a depth of 20 inches was interlined with haircloth and the tight round bodice was cut V. shape in the neck and had immense leg of mutton sleeves. A chemisette of ecru linen was worn with this costume, and a sailor hat of rough ecru straw, trimmed on one side with a large bunch of mignonette and red roses, and on the other with a bow of changeable red, green and ecru taffeta ribbon.

Another pretty dress was of golden brown light-weight cheviot, and had a skirt cut almost on the same model, a coat basque—which by the way is another revival short on the hips and with tails about ten inches deep in the back, faced with poppy red taffeta to a depth of three inches. The fronts were fastened with pearl buttons about the size of a ten cent piece, and the V-shaped space left at the throat by the collar and revers—which were also faced with the poppy red—was filled in with a high stock collar and a small vest of red and brown glaze silk. The vest was fastened with three small gold studs. The sleeves were large, and drooped at the elbow in a sort of heavy puff, tight to the waist, and finished with a piping of red silk.

The godet skirt is not nearly so much

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