

WOMAN and HER WORK.

One can seldom be in an' asse even half a dozen people without hearing something which either makes one laugh, or else blush for the exceeding smallness and meanness of poor humanity! And—"the more I see of men, the more I think of dogs" likewise cats, horses, cows, and sheep because all these honest folk at least know how to keep silence, and thereby conceal any lack of intelligence they may suffer from: while the noble animal, man, is forever giving himself away the moment he uses his gift of speech. A railway car is a great place for hearing queer things against your will, so is a concert hall, and even an ice cream parlor is not bad in that respect, as I found out the other evening when I was refreshing myself with a dish of the most indifferent and grittiest ice cream I ever partook of outside of the W. C. T. U. coffee rooms in Moncton.

A gay young fellow whom a very casual observer might mistake for a gentleman at the first glance, was treating two young lady friends to ice cream at a table opposite ours, and during a lull in the conversation one of the ladies remarked—"I saw Mr. Blank taking Miss Dash in to have ice cream, as we came along."

"Did you?" said this pretty youth, with sparkling wit. "Well I bet it wasn't paid for, if he was getting it."

"Why?" asked one of the girls. "Oh I know—" said their gentleman friend. And then I did not hear any more, but they all laughed; and I did hope most fervently that the ice cream might disagree with that dear youth and punish him as he deserved.

Bonnet strings are in fashion once more, but they are no longer made of narrow velvet or ribbon but of quite wide tulle, of chiffon, and the soft fluffy folds are so becoming to all faces that it is no wonder they are universally popular.

One of the prettiest of the new bonnets is made altogether of tulle; the foundation is white satin and over it is arranged white and green tulle in cloudy loops. One white feathery aigrette is the only trimming, it is caught at the left side near the front, and the strings, one in faint green, and the other in white, fasten in a careless knot at the back. Another lovely bonnet was all of violets with strings of wide violet tulle. The flowers were arranged in bunches, with the stems braided to form a crown.

Jacket effects still reign, though of course there are many other styles equally pretty. Sometimes the jacket is merely simulated by the trimming, but more frequently it is a real bolero of the same material as the skirt. Eton jackets with sleeves form the waists of some canvas dresses, but the blouse waist has as firm a hold in the world of fashion as ever and it is worn with every variety of skirt. Waists of sheer batiste, lined with silk and trimmed with lace are almost as much worn as the ordinary shirt waist, and one finds almost as many of them on sale in the shops at surprisingly reasonable price. Colored satinettes in blue yellow and pink, with fine black dots, make the prettiest shirt waists, and the ecru linen collars and cuffs with which they are finished give them a very novel effect. The plain batistes which are to be seen in

edge which is finely hemmed and trimmed with lace. One of the great charms about these pretty waists is the ease with which they can be made at home by anyone who has any skill at all with her needle. Except in rare cases they are not lined, as lining makes it next to impossible to launder them successfully, and a summer blouse which cannot be washed every week if necessary is of very little use to a girl in moderate circumstances. The shirt waist patterns sold are so simple, and at the same time so complete that one can scarcely go wrong in making them up, and if the elaborate collars or yokes which decorate them are made separate, and then used just as an adjustable sailor collar would be. They can then be ironed without any trouble and thus retain their shape much better than a yoke which is fastened in, can ever do. The waist is then finished in simple shirt waist fashion, and can be worn either with or without the collar. For instance a



A GAUDY GOWN.

blouse of blue and white striped French gingham is made with a plain square yoke of blue gingham, and a standing collar of the same. It is gathered rather fully to the yoke, and plaited in at the belt, full leg of mutton sleeves finish it. With this is worn a large sailor collar of blue and white all-over embroidery fancifully cut, and edged with a frill of embroidery to match, the standing collar is of the all over with a frill of the edging standing out from the face; frills of embroidery finish the sleeves, and the belt may be of ribbon with a silver buckle, or of the newer gold braid, very narrow, and with a small gold buckle.

As bicycling has long passed beyond the limits of a fad and become the leading pursuit for women, as well as men, a fashion column is no longer complete unless due attention is devoted to bicycle costumes which form a very important branch of the dressmaker's business in these days.

I believe it has been definitely decided by wheelwomen of the best taste, that bloomers are not the correct costume for bicycle riding, and have declared themselves unanimously in favor either of the divided skirt, or the trim short skirt of heavy cloth reaching just above the ankle. I am afraid it is too much the opinion of many women that which will do for a wheel costume, and she has only to shorten some old skirt which is to shabby for street wear, don her baggiest shirt waist and be in correct bicycling attire. But there the greatest mistake is made! Nothing looks worse than a slouchy, untidy dress on a bicycle, and women should be just as particular about their wheel, as their street dress, for one shows quite as much as the other, and should be just as neat and trim. One of the prettiest and most gracefully hanging skirts—and after all the skirt is the important part of a bicycle dress—is cut in circular shape, made of double faced cloth, checked on one side and twilled on the other; the cloth is so heavy that no lining is required, and it is simply finished at the foot with a five-inch hem or facing stitched in rows about a quarter of an inch apart. The fullness at the waist is in two side plaits which meet in the middle of the back, the sides and front being quite plain. The opening is at the side of the front, and is finished with a fly and fastened with small horn buttons. With this skirt nickerbockers either of silk or some light-weight wool material are the only proper substitute for the under petticoat. The skirt reaches just above the ankle. Other skirts are gored and plaited in different ways to give room for the knee action, but the circular cut seems to fulfill all requirements, without having any of the faults of the others. All sorts of tight-fitting coat-waists, and tailor made jackets are worn with this skirt, and sometimes contrasts of color in either silk or cloth are used on the collars and revers. The ever comfortable shirt waist is worn in warm weather, and both the sweater, and the lately revived jersey, are appropriate garments to wear with bicycle skirts. Many expert wheelwomen declare that the divided skirt is the only proper bicycle garb, and one of the newest is so artfully cut that the division would never

be suspected. It buttons down each side when walking, and around the leg when on the wheel; of course the division must always be concealed, or the skirt is not a success, and there are many devices for effecting this. A broad box plait is a useful addition to the front of a divided skirt as it affords ample room for the knees.

Tweeds, chevots, covert cloth and serges are the favorite materials for bicycle costumes, but cravenette is really the most desirable of all, as the weather has no effect on it, and is capital for shedding the dust. For the very warmest weather there are costumes of linen canvas and heavy duck, and small sailor hats of embroidered holland trimmed with white quills and white moire ribbon, are worn with them. Small hats are best for cycling and pretty toques are made of light weight tweed, with a crown like a jockey cap and a turned up brim caught up at the side with a rosette of ribbon loops and two quills. For gloves, pretty light tan and white gloves have ventilated palms of an leather, and some are ventilated on the back as well as the palms. Russia leather gloves are highly recommended for cycling, and are warranted to wear forever. ASTRA.

TO CAPTURE BUTTERFLIES.

The Summer Girl Has a New Fancy—Her Bright Hued Prey.

The summer girl—that is the real country summer girl—has a brand new fancy. It is butterfly hunting; the pastime amused her so much when a child that she is anticipating her season among the butterflies with keenest joys.

This is one of the sports, happily for which a moderately filled pocketbook will furnish the wherewithal to invest in an outfit. One and one half dollars buys a box, with a beautiful butterfly painted on the top, and within are cork mounts, cyanide bottle, narrow strips of paper,



IN THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE.

pins and a glass case; 25 cents for a net and there you are—all but the butterfly.

A collection of nets seems almost as attractive as the butterflies themselves. In gay colored gauze—pale yellow, heavenly blue, delicate mauve and orange hues.

But about the prey; one soon learns the art of capturing these gossamer-winged creatures by a clever turn of the net; when caught the butterfly must be gently seized from outside the gauze, with the wings back to back to prevent its struggling and bruising itself.

The best way to kill it is to take a glass jar with a large mouth which can be closed tightly with a lid. Into this receptacle put four or five small lumps of that deadly poison, cyanide of potassium, covered with enough plaster of paris, dissolved in water, to form a hard surface. After putting the butterfly in the jar, cover closely and leave for about five hours. As soon as taken out, the butterfly must be placed on a cork mount.

In mounting a specimen, the wings and antennae should be spread out evenly and confined with the narrow strips of paper fastened down by pins, which stick easily in the cork.

Most convenient and pretty for preserving a collection of butterflies are the little plaster of paris blocks, which some collector has recently invented. They are of various sizes; you buy the blocks, 20 or 40 cents each, according to the size of your specimen. The block is an inch or two thick of plaster of paris, chemically prepared with a groove in the center, in which the body of the insect fits; a glass cover, like the lid of a box, fastens closely over it, so that the specimen is hermetically sealed and forever protected from dust; against this snow white background a butterfly shows off to the best possible advantage; especially one of bright metallic blue or those with gaudy orange wings.

To learn the retreats of the butterfly and the favorite flowers of different specimens is part of the training of an expert hunter.

Not a few are very limited in the selection of their haunts, some prefer the green fields, pastures where thistles and various weeds abound attract others, shabby beside streams or rivulets, sheltered valleys or even the tops of rugged hills may be visited in search of specimens. Red clover, mignonette and plox are favorite flowers for these dainty insects.

One of the most cosmopolitan of butterflies, being found in almost every quarter of the globe, is the painted lady, or thistle butterfly (genus vanessa), may be looked for about the middle of July, when the first

brood flies forth, and again the last of August when another brood appears. Its wings are a blackish brown, marked with orange, white and gray also appear in its coloring and thistle being the chief of its diet.

A long lived butterfly is the painted beauty (also genus venessa), which may be seen any time from the middle of May to the end of October. It is found in New York and all New England states, usually in the open fields.

Another specimen which one may add to one's collection is the cabbage butterfly (pieris rapae), it flits in town gardens; indeed, it is said there is no cultivated spot where it cannot be traced.

The damsel who is spending the summer in the state of New York will add the banded elfin (genus incisalis), the hoary elfin (genus incisalis) and the dreamy dusky-wing (nisonia des icelus) to her collection; also, in the southern part of New York state is found that curious little butterfly which has an odor like violet—the cloudless sulphur (calidryas eubule). Its wings are a canary yellow, touched with brown; it must be sought for in August.

In New England most delightful specimens can be caught. The morning cloak (envanessa), for instance; in the White Mountains it should be sought for in August, although it appears in June and September in Southern New England; its colors are dark maroon, velvet black and straw yellow, with dashes of blue. The violet lip, the viceroys and the Indian hesperid are other interesting butterflies of that region.

In July and August the swallow-tail (genus euphrosades), with dark brown wings, shading to pale blue-green, with metallic blue dusting, is found in Penn-



MOTH HUNTING AT NIGHT.

sylvania, also the orange dog or giant swallow-tail, one of the largest of butterflies; it has an expanse of nearly five inches. The hop merchant (polygonia comma) and the gray emperor (chlorippe celtis) are also interesting species found in Pennsylvania.

A butterfly seen only through the month of June and in meadows, flying swiftly and close to the ground is the Mormon (genus atrytone). It is dark cinnamon brown, flecked with lilac and has an expanse of only one and one-half inches. This curiously named butterfly is at home in the west. The ruddy silver-spot (argynnis alestis) is found only in Western states. It is charmingly marked with silver spots and hovers over beds of sweet-scented violets, pansies and lilies.

No one place will yield much over one hundred species and, if the rarer kinds are omitted, not nearly so many. If one is anything of a traveler, a butterfly diary will be found a great help and a fascinating volume to refer to year by year; and it really an enthusiast on the subject, nothing less than a visit to the Amazon next winter, will

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RIPANS

ONE GIVES RELIEF.

satisfy her; for there the most beautiful specimens in the world are netted.

They are so showy and fly in such



FOLLOWING ACROSS THE FIELD.

multitudes that in many places they compensate for the absence of flowers.

The summer girl is not only going to catch butterflies, in order to lay them stiff and stark upon plaster of Paris blocks, but throwing aside the cyanide bottle, she intends to release a few of the prettiest ones in a fernery covered with glass, where she can watch and train them; here they may live for days; one was known to live for three weeks, sipping constantly from sugar-sprinkled moss or from a few flowers which were placed in the case, and had an extra drop of sweetened water poured in their tiny cups.

More than once did the mistress of this trained butterfly—the one that lived to the green old age of three weeks—have to get up in the night to feed her pet and, sleepy and weary she wondered if ever, before a tired woman had been known to sit up with a hungry butterfly.

It became so tame that when its mistress went to feed him and put out her hand, he flew upon it, and when he was at liberty in the room, when she entered he would fly to her, lighting on her hand or shoulder.

Another interesting experience in one's butterfly career is going to be, the dark-lantern episodes. The prowling around by night with net and dark lantern, in search of moths, many of which are equally as beautiful and quite as interesting as butterflies.

The preliminary step in this brigandish proceeding is to set forth, just before dusk, with a pot of sugar and treacle, and a little rum or aniseed oil and smear over leaves and trunks of trees with the mixture, which is certain to attract hordes of moths; then after sunset, steal forth with dark lantern and net and reap the rich harvest—pretty emerald moths, the hidden star moths, early thorn and brilliant scarlet tiger.



The Manufacturers of the Victoria Crochet Thread, fully appreciating the fact that a large amount of their thread is being used in Canada and hoping for an increase of same, offer One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) in premiums (as follows): Lady returning the largest number of spool labels \$25.00, lady returning next largest number \$17.50, \$15.00, \$12.50, \$10.00, \$7.50, \$5.00, \$2.50, next eight ladies, each \$1.00. The spool must be used between May 1st, 1896, and Jan. 1st, 1897 and labels sent to R. Henderson & Co., Montreal, P. Q., not later than Jan. 1st, 1897. If your dealer does not keep this line of goods send eight cents in stamps to R. Henderson & Co., Montreal, P. Q., and they will provide you a sample spool.

It is indeed fascinating sport, especially if the company be congenial and a merry one, and most important, if every girl of the party has provided herself with a picturesque costume; full, rather short dress, high laced boots to protect one from the dew and damp, and ecquettish little cap as wide-brimmed hats are altogether out of place in moth or butterfly hunting.

Depend upon it, moth parties and butterfly balls are going to be the most novel and delightful functions of the season.

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SILK AND MUSLIN CASINO.

all the pretty light shades, are made with frills of the same material down the front, edged with narrow black lace. Other dainty waists have collars, cuffs boxplai and a narrow band of tucks inserted on each side of the front, made of the same material but some contrasting color. A cream white batiste with pale blue is lovely. The prettiest white waists are made of French muslin trimmed with bands of embroidery, and finished with linen collar and cuffs, which are adjustable. A very pretty batiste blouse has a wide collar of batiste trimmed across with frills of yellow Valenciennes lace about an inch wide. It forms a yoke, and points on the sleeves, and is the same front and back. Ribbon collar belt and bows on the shoulder give it a very dainty look. Still another waist of batiste has a yoke back and front formed of three bands of finely tucked batiste left with an inch-wide frill on one