

WOMAN and HER WORK.

It used to be considered rather a stamp of vulgarity to be fond of perfumes, or at least to indulge in their use to any extent, and one must admit that in the days when Patchouli was rife, and Hoyt's German Cologne contended madly with essence of musk for supremacy, people of good taste had the best of reasons for almost tabooing perfume. But some good fairy came to the rescue of those who loved sweet scents, and yet dared not indulge in them, gathered together a number of the sweetest perfumes known to nature of art, touched them with his magic wand, stirred them lightly together, and gave the result to the world under the name of sachet powder. At once the new product became fashionable. It was so faint, so elusive and yet so all pervading that well bred people felt they might venture to gratify their taste and smell faintly of "myrrh, alces, and cassia" if they wished.

Ever since then, perfume, provided it is very faint and delicate has been quite permissible provided one selected a perfume and adhered to it, to the exclusion of all others.

I do not think there is such a potent aid to memory in the world as perfume! A strain of music has a wonderful effect in bringing before one the scene in which the melody was last heard; but a sudden whiff of perfume is sufficient to stamp upon the brain a whole panorama of shifting scenes. Which of us has caught the first breath of new mown hay without a sudden contraction of the heart, and a wild rush of memories, taking us back to the days of our childhood when we tossed about in the hay, and rode home to the barn on the last load?

I believe it was a child who exclaimed on entering a room which had been decorated for Christmas—"My how solemn it smells!" The odor of spruce and cedar was inseparably associated in her mind with churches and solemnities, and it is the same association which sends a hushed reverent feeling over one on entering a pine or spruce wood—it smells solemn, like a church. It is this unconscious association of ideas, which gives significance to the choice of perfumes, and affords every woman an opportunity of impressing her individuality upon her friends. Suppose a girl never uses any perfume but white heliotrope; naturally by her perfume she is known, it seems to become a part of herself and none of her friends, those who knew her well and loved her, I mean—can ever smell white heliotrope without calling up a vision of the girl whose gloves and fans and handkerchiefs, always bore a faint tinge of that dainty perfume. Time may steal her charms, distance separate her from her friends, even death may claim her, but a breath of white heliotrope will always recall her to their minds, they can never smell it without thinking of her even if the memory be but momentary—but she must never permit herself to change or waver in her allegiance, otherwise the charm is broken and, like a composite photograph, in which the individuality of the original sitter is merged in the after impression, is weakened if not lost altogether.

I had this peculiar property of perfume rather forcibly impressed upon my mind not long ago when some one picked up a handkerchief in a crowded room, nobody had the least idea who was the owner so it was passed around for identification and as it reached one lady she sniffed at it daintily and exclaimed—"Why it's Astra's; I am not sure what the perfume is, but I know that it's Astra's and I know it in China, I should expect to turn round and see Astra standing just behind." Of course I snatched modestly at this tribute to my power of impressing my own identity upon my friends and resolved to continue the use of Jockey Club in the future and be as faithful to my one love in the perfume line, as I had been in the past, so that Jockey Club, and I should always be linked together in their minds.

One of the latest developments of character reading is by perfumes, and those who practice it declare that the ancient science of palmistry is not to be mentioned in the same breath with it for accuracy. The principle upon which they proceed is that the mind finds expression in the perfume used, just as the choice of books, or the furnishings of a room express the taste and character of the people who select them.

Thus the woman who chooses wood violet as her favorite perfume, does so not out of mere caprice but because her nature corresponds to that of the violet. In other words she is sure to be modest and sweet.

I regret to say that according to these oracles the girl who is devoted to heliotrope, is a person to be avoided, as her choice of a perfume proclaims her to be not only unforgiving and revengeful, but intolerably jealous. The maiden who affects musk is also a good person to steer clear of, as she is sure to be heartless, extravagant and shallow. Most people I fancy, would be inclined to give her a wide berth even without this key to her character—on account of the perfume alone.

And now I suppose every girl who consults the oracles will go about exhalant

perfume of sweet violets, so all who come near shall know her unmistakably for a damsel who is faithful, affectionate and modest.

Some very swell fashion authority has assured us that sealskin coats are once more in fashion and will continue to hold their own during the coming winter. This is satisfactory intelligence though I must confess that I did not know that aristocratic and expensive sealskin had ever been out of fashion; I thought it was one of those things which were always popular with those who were so fortunate as to be able to afford it; and it is news to me to hear that it too, like its humbler brethren is subject to the whims of fashion. I believe sealskin caps are also to enjoy a meed of public favor during the coming winter, so those who have long cherished a handsome but useless investment in the shape of a seal cap can now bring it out and rejoice that they can be in the fashion again.

The new autumn hats are fearfully and wonderfully made, and the more wonderfully trimmed, but there is no denying the fact that they are stylish. There is nothing in the world harder than to make a low crowned hat look really stylish, and grotesque as some of this season's hats are, with their almost conical crowns there is an air about them which no flat crowned hat ever possessed.

Some of the most becoming large hats are of velvet and have rather wide and perfectly flat brims like sailors, while the crown is a veritable "jam pot" narrow and tall and embellished with bands of gold or copper tinsel embroidery or jet. Sometimes it would almost seem as if the colors used to trim these hats had been selected with the eyes shut, so very extraordinary are the combinations, but a closer inspection shows a certain method in the madness, as they are all arranged to harmonize or else contrast with a due regard to proper color schemes.

Amongst the materials that are new, fine felt braid which closely resembles passementerie, and silk felt, may be numbered. The felt braid is used both for entire hats, and also for either brims or crowns in combination with other materials. A very elegant large hat shows a crown smoothly covered with black satin, and a brim of black felt braid. A bunch of black and white ostrich tips fastened with steel and rhinestone buckles stands out at each side, and in the front is a large bow of black velvet held in place by a third ornament. Dark red velvet roses and foliage massed at the back, give the needed touch of color. Some of the newest imported hats are of fine beaver, and others have a crown of beaver and a trim of felt edged with beaver.

It looks odd to see a hat trimmed with three different colors, but if the milliner understands her business she will manage them so skilfully that they will seem perfectly right, after the first glance. The crown of the hat so trimmed, is banded with the three colors, which are blended in all the other trimmings, feathers flowers and ribbons.

The pretty French narrow back sailor hats continue in favor, some of them having perfectly straight brims, while others turn up in the back. A very jaunty example is of black felt with a brim facing of black satin, and a full careless looking ruche of the satin encircling the crown. At the left side is a cluster of green and black cocks feathers fastened in place with a small green parrot's head. At the back which is turned up there is a large bow of black satin. The hats are a little startling what can be said of the bonnets? They are indeed a study. One very striking little headress, which the strings alone proclaim to be a bonnet, is of black silk beaver with a very narrow crown slightly smaller in the centre than at the bottom! The crown is banded with jet at the top, and the brim is cut in perfectly square shape with one point directly in front, and the others at the back and sides. This brim is liberally draped on the under side with velvet in the brightest peach shade, and feathers and jet complete the trimming. One of the oddest fancies in the millinery line is for wide ties of moire ribbon on some of the hats. These ties are usually fastened under the left ear, and as they are far from becoming, and too eccentric looking to come into general favor, it is not likely they will be seen in any but pattern hats. The ties of bonnets are of black velvet ribbon quite narrow and tied under the chin.

Violets have taken an entirely new lease of life, they appear on the new Russian hats of fur, with lace and velvet. Green and violet or Royal purple is a very popular continuation of color.

ASTRA.

THE WOMAN HATER.

A Curious Breed of Cranks That Specially Flourish in England.

The art of woman hating has not reached the degree of perfection in this country it has in England. There the American visitor who delves into social customs and closely scrutinizes the national manners of life is amazed to find that there exists a race of woman haters whose creed, originating about the time of Thackeray and based upon many of his sayings has been reduced to principles and by-laws.

In England women have less power and freedom than in any other country. This is shown by the laws and by decisions of the courts no less than by the meek and humble demeanor of the average English girl compared with her American sister. In many cases the anti-woman sentiments is carried to absurd lengths.

Henry Cavendish, the famous chemist, had such inveterate abhorrence of female society that from the precautions he took to avoid personal contact with any member of the sex, he earned for himself the sobriquet of the 'Woman Hater.' It is said that he used to carry on communications with his housekeeper entirely by correspondence, and a rigid rule was enacted in his establishment that on no pretense whatever might a female venture into his presence.

A gentleman died recently in Vienna who used to adopt extraordinary measures to avoid contact with womankind. At the theater it was his practice to book three seats and occupy the middle one, so that a female should not by any possibility sit next to him.

When traveling he would engage an entire compartment in order to avoid the risk of having a woman in the carriage, and he invariably chose the road in walking for the reason that he was least likely to find a female there. The man's hatred of the sex was indeed carried so far that in his mortal sickness he gave orders for the purchase of six feet of ground on either side of his grave in order that in death a female body should not come within that distance of his.

A man now living in a London suburb has a similarly pronounced hatred of the gentler sex. Being wealthy, he keeps up a large staff of servants, but no female is to be found among them. Men and boys have to do all the domestic affairs of the household, even to scrubbing the floors and making the beds. Women (even the relatives of the servants) are strictly forbidden the place, and any menial transgressing the rule by admitting a person in petticoats is instantly dismissed.

One opulent gentleman in the north of England, who for years shut himself out from female society, died not long since, leaving a will the terms of which displayed in an unmistakable manner his hatred of womankind. Ignoring the females entirely all his male relatives were provided with legacies, but on this condition, viz., that the single ones were to forfeit their inheritance the moment they married, and the married ones were not to come into their will their wives were living.

A FRENCH IDEA OF JUSTICE.

Interesting and Suggestive Change Just Made in French Law.

A law which changes radically the legal position of children born out of wedlock, and which, in the eyes of its opponents, threatens the existence of the family in France, was passed almost without attracting notice during the last session of the French parliament. It was not discussed at all in the chamber of deputies, and met with only faint opposition in the senate. An illegitimate child who is recognized according to the forms of law by his father may now inherit, or rather cannot be disinherited under normal conditions, a share in the property the father leaves. His share is to be one-half that of a legitimate child, where one exists; three-quarters, if there are only uncles, aunts and nephews left, while, if the nearest relatives are merely first cousins of the father, the whole inheritance descends to the natural child. The provisions of the French law of inheritance, which secure to legitimate children a certain proportion of their parents' property, inalienable by father or mother, are made to apply to illegitimate children also. Moreover, the father may leave to his natural child a portion of that part of his property of which the law allows him the free disposal, provided that portion is not larger than the portion left to the least favored legitimate child.

Henceforth the law has forbidden legacies to illegitimate children, so that the only way in which a father could make a bequest to his natural child was by refusing to

recognize him as his, thereby placing him legally in the position of a stranger unrelated to him.

It will be interesting to watch the effect on French society of this attempt at a solution of a grave social problem. The measure is not so sweeping as it seems to be at first sight, for it affects only a part of the children born out of wedlock. The famous section 340 of the Code Civil, La recherche de la paternite est interdite, which many Frenchmen look upon as one of the main bulwarks of social order, remains in full force. The father who refuses to acknowledge his illegitimate child cannot be compelled to do so. If either mother or child were to try to force an acknowledgment, the case would be thrown out of court.

Another class of children born out of wedlock, which is not affected by the law, consists of those who have become legitimate, as by the French law the subsequent marriage of the parents legitimizes their children already born. The number of persons to whom the modified law will apply must, therefore, be small when compared with the total population of France, much smaller than might be inferred from the prominence given to their so-called wrongs in literature and on the stage. It is large enough, however, to give value to the results of the present experiment, whatever they are. It is not expected that French fathers will hasten to assume all their moral responsibilities simply because the law now permits them to do so.—New York Sun.

EDUCATION IN MEXICO.

Efforts Being Made to Secure a Better Class of School Teaching.

'Mexico is catching up with the rest of the nations by the only plan that a country can hope to attain a high place among the civilized Governments—by educating her citizens,' said Prof. Andres Osuna of that country to a Washington Post reporter. Prof. Osuna is at the head of a party of six young Mexicans, who having been graduated at normal schools in their own country, are seeking to extend their knowledge of the art of teaching by a full course at the Massachusetts State Normal School, at Bridgewater, near Boston.

'Education is getting to be prized by our people,' he continued, 'and we have in nearly all the states schools for training teachers, the one at Vera Cruz being noted for its excellent work. But the lack of good teachers is still keenly felt, and it was thought advisable to send a party of young men to the United States to learn the very best methods of pedagogy. If the experiment is a success many others will come hereafter. These young men will not only learn to be good instructors, but they will also learn the English language, and gain, by contact with Americans, the broader education which is the product of a superior environment.'

'American schoolmasters, who can speak Spanish, are very much in demand in Mexico, but it matters not how efficient a teacher may be if he can't talk the language of the natives he would be of little use. Good teachers get about \$1,200 a year in our country. Education is free, and attendance of children is compulsory.'

'It was only by the hardest effort that our party was able to carry out this undertaking, owing to the heavy expense, as it requires about \$2 in our money for \$1 here in payment for board, books and tuition. However we feel that two or three years we shall remain will make us better fitted to teach, and that our example will be followed by many others, so that eventually the youth of our country will be able to get proper instruction without leaving home.'

Disappointed.

Mamma (to Edie, just home from her first morning at the kindergarten)—Well, Edie, how did you like it?

Edie—I didn't like it a bit. The teacher put me on a chair and told me to sit there for the present. And I sat and sat, and she never gave me the present.

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