

# WOMAN and HER WORK.

I am often amused, in the course of my fashion reading—for it takes quite an amount of reading to get up one practical fashion article, at the amount of solemn nonsense written on the subject by people who should know better. A fashion talk which is not strictly practicable had better remain unwritten, for the part of the fashion writer, as I understand it, is to explain the prevailing modes and help her readers as far as possible to adapt those modes to their own individual needs.

It is an easy task to describe dress, after dress of rich material and the very latest cut, when no regard has to be paid to the cost of these dresses. Nothing is easier than to use yards and yards of costly satin, lace brocade and chiffon—on paper—it makes lovely copy and fills up more quickly than any other style of writing, because there is so little effort about it. I suppose it is all right in the case of the high class fashion writers who cater to the tastes of the wealthy few, but those in Canada are supposed to write for the many; wealth is not so common with us, and a fashion writer who took no heed for the wants of those who are moderately well off, and those who are not well off at all would soon find her occupation gone.

I found some very instructive remarks recently in the weekly contribution of a well known fashion writer, to a prominent New York paper. The writer speaks very sensibly of the necessity of the summer girl who goes to a popular summer resort, being provided with a full fledged outfit for all the athletic sports so fashionable amongst women now, boating, yachting, bicycle, tennis, and golfing. And then she goes to say that it is not expensive, so much as thought that produces the needed outfit for a summer campaign, and the girl with a small dress allowance can appear quite as up to date as her more prosperous companions if she brings her mind and good taste to bear upon the subject.

I am a great believer in the influence of mind over matter myself, but still I know I should have to concentrate my attention upon ways and means for some time, and devote more thought than I could possibly spare, to the operation, before I could succeed in evolving an extensive summer outfit, from my limited means, by merely bringing my mind and good taste to bear upon the subject. I should be literally clothing myself with my own brilliant fancies.

The writer referred to goes on to say that as the coat and skirt style of dress prevails in all the plainer and many of the more dressy gowns, a girl only needs three or four well made costumes of this sort, a variety of pretty waists and vests, and some simple evening gowns, to be fairly well equipped for the season—fairly well, you will notice, not by any means very well. Now I wonder if this well meaning fashion authority stopped for a moment to consider the cost of such an outfit, before she recommended it to a girl with a limited dress allowance? In the first place the cost of those three or four well-made costumes alone would be enough to scare the average girl with a small dress allowance, out of all idea of a summer holiday at all! Why the mere making of them without counting the material would eat up more than a quarter's allowance.

Suppose the girl mentioned takes her material—just the bare material, without even a yard of trimming—to a first class dress maker—a second class one will merely ruin her material—and requests that it be made up into four stylish, tailor made coat and skirt costumes? When the bill comes she will find that not one of those gowns have cost her less than twelve dollars, for the making, lining and smaller turnings. In fact, if she gets them at that price she will be getting a bargain, and I am quoting Canadian prices, not American! serges, mohairs, or chevrons which are the materials most used for such suits, are rarely worth making up when they cost less than a dollar a yard, and the last mohair dress I had made contained eight yards, besides the silk for trimming it, so our summer girl's four well made gowns are going to cost her just 80 dollars.

As for the variety of pretty waists, by which I am sure shirt waists are not meant, I saw one pretty waist last summer, of very light quality silk, and not elaborately made, which was considered quite a bargain, but it cost fifteen dollars. Of course there are not many Canadian girls who can afford to be lavish of fifteen dollar suits, but it is not easy to get even a pretty lawn, or organdie blouse properly lined and trimmed under five dollars, even when one makes it herself, and these dainty fluff trifles which look so simple are far from easy to make, and unless they are properly put together, they are far from being satisfactory, as they are liable to have a twisted untidy look. However we will put these pretty accessories down at eight dollars apiece, lawn, silk and organdie, trimmed with lace and ribbon, and allow the summer girl five of them, 40 dollars more, and a hundred and twenty dollars have been swallowed up. Quite an item for a girl with a small allowance! Granting that she

is well supplied with white skirts, shirt waists etc, and allowing 20 dollars apiece for the material and making of those simple evening gowns, and reducing their number to three, we have spent 200 dollars and still our summer is unprovided with hats, gloves, parasols boots and shoes, and those numerous vests which are recommended by her. So I think it is fair to assume that her summer outing will cost her the whole of her yearly allowance before she starts, and that she will not only be left without anything to carry her to her destination, or to spend while she is absent, but remain utterly without resources for the rest of the year.

Of course I know quite well that what would be considered a small allowance for a girl in New York, would be almost an income for a family amongst the middle classes in New Brunswick, but still the writer I have quoted was not supposed to be writing exclusively for New York girls, but rather for the average American girl, whose income is not by any means large, and I cannot help thinking that even an American girl could manage to start out for her summer vacation amongst the mountains, or by the sea with less than one half the outlay, which has been indicated above. Indeed I have known a Canadian girl, and a well dressed one too, to go off for an outing of five weeks with one well made tailor suit of good blue serge—skirt and coat—five or six shirt waists, one or two of them pretty white ones, a duck suit, and one pretty dress of blue organdie, trimmed with lace, and made with two waists, one for day wear and the other for evening. A new sailor hat, and her own pretty summer one; and just her usual summer allowance of shoes, gloves, neckties and other "supplies."

She told me afterwards that she had simply lived in the blue serge, and the shirt waists, and had it not been for a party or two she could have got along without her best dress altogether. The duck suit was useful for warm days, but the serge was literally her standby. It was not that she could not have provided herself for the campaign, but she went unexpectedly and had no time to get ready. After that, I do think any girl need be deterred from taking a summer trip, for fear of the expense caused by a too close study of the requisites for her outing as set forth by the fashion writers of the day.

Speaking of the coat and skirt style of costume, reminds me of the numerous varieties of vest which seem to be increasing almost too fast for one to keep up with them, I fancy each week that I have described the very latest thing in vests, when lo! next week something quite new has appeared on the horizon, and is reflected in the glass of fashion. These vests may be truly said to transform the plain coat suit into quite a dressy costume, and it is a real boom to the economical summer girl whose ambition is wide, while her income is narrow. Grass lawn vests are one of the novelties of the season, and they are made of the very fine and alter quality, lined with silk and trimmed with ecru or colored embroideries, and yellow lace. White, and black net and chiffon, with cream lace applique make lovely vests, and then the stitched white muslin trimmed with narrow valenciennes lace, and fastened down the front with gold studs, are very new and pretty. Persian taffeta silk handkerchiefs are also used, and adds greatly to the diversity of this most important, if small article of dress.

For the girls who expect to include yachting in this summer amusements, there is a new kind of serge shown which is especially made for yachting gowns, and is warranted to be proof against the effect of salt water. Both colored and white serges are worn, but the white is so easily soiled that it is scarcely a serviceable investment. Numberless other gowns for outing purposes, are shown in duck linen, pique, and linen crash, which is one of fashion's latest fads. The coats of all these suits have either a basque frill four inches deep and half loose fronts with wide pointed reverse and square collars, or are made in some of the many forms of zouave, eaton or bolero jacket now so fashionable once more.

There are several styles of English, and Scotch tweeds for bicycling, golfing and coaching which give excellent satisfaction. They are shown in all kinds of patterns from the tiny pin check to the most enormous plaid, and all very English indeed. Of course such garments are rigidly tailor-made.

The crash suits come ready made, and the material looks exactly like the cloth we use for our kitchen towels except that the weave is wider. It is made up in blazer suits, frequently lined with taffeta silk and trimmed with huge pearl buttons. Some of these suits are incongruously trimmed with rich lace in applique figures all over the suit and in a contrasting color from the material itself. The color of the crash varies very little, cream, ecru, or a peculiar dull white called "mat-white."

I have read about "iron grenades," when I was a child, but I never expected to see one, much less that they would ever come into fashion again; but the iron grenade is mentioned amongst the newest materials for this season, and they are certainly deserving of popularity, being smooth and firm, as well as silky in texture. They are about as opaque as scrim, which they resemble slightly, in their peculiar weave. The canvas cloth which is destined to divide popularity with them, is in natural linen color, also very firm, and of an opaque weave. Made up over a contrasting color, it is a charming dress. Of course there are dyed colors in the canvas cloth, and it comes in Nile green, gray, tan and blue, but when undyed, it resembles the color of the darker of the grass linens.

ASTRA.

## WOMAN'S HAND GROWING.

It is Spread by the Exertions of the Athletic Era.

Nos. 5 and 6 in women's gloves are going the way of No. 1 and 2 shoes and of No. 18 and No. 19 corsets. They are sinking into desuetude, because women's hands are growing larger at the same time with their feet and waists. They are spreading out and becoming more muscular every day, so the glove men say.

A chunky, middle-aged woman wearing a very broad and heavy wedding ring learned some astonishing things from a manufacturer and importer of gloves the other day.

"Have you finished altering these gloves I left here?" she asked as she seated herself on a stool in front of the counter.

"Yes, madam," was the polite response. "Let me see how they do now," she commanded rather impatiently.

"I hope they are all right now," said the suave manager, "but it was an ugly job, I can tell you. How a regular glove maker, a man who pretends to make a study of woman's hand, ever cut such a shaped glove for your hand is a mystery to me. No wonder you were dissatisfied, for these gloves," producing a pair of black lace gloves, "made your hands look much shorter and fatter than they are. We've altered them, and I'll just try them on to see if they are satisfactory in every way."

"If they aren't, I'll just throw them in the ash can, and five other pairs that I had made at the same time with them," answered the customer petulantly, "for this make is certain, I'm not going to wear a glove that makes my hand look three times bigger and shorter than it really is, for goodness only knows it's grown so much in the last three years, anyway, that I am ashamed of it. Doesn't it strike you as being phenomenal that my hand should take a sudden start and grow at my time of life when I haven't increased a pound in weight in five years, either?"

"No," answered the glove man; "it isn't phenomenal that your hand should grow at your time of life. It's an every-day occurrence. Women's hands are growing larger as well as those of children and young girls. You ride a wheel, don't you?"

"Yes," admitted the customer as she looked up in surprise, "but what has that to do with the size of my hands, and how do you know it, any way?"

"Oh, it doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to tell that you are an enthusiastic wheel-woman. Your hands show it, and that also accounts for their increased size. From time immemorial it has been the desire of every woman to have a pretty hand—a long slender hand with tapering fingers. But the craze for athletics is going to make it very hard for those who are born with such hands to retain the shape of them, and it will be even harder for women who have plump hands with short fingers to cultivate long slender hands. Women use their hands more to-day than ever before since America was discovered, and when I say that I include women of all classes. First of all, take so-called society women. While they do not do any actual work, still they use their hands. They row, play tennis and golf, ride wheels and horses, drive, swim, and work in gymnasiums. These things are bound to develop the hand. Then think of the hundreds of women who are employed in offices, stores, restaurants, and factories. They are constantly using their hands, and even if it isn't very heavy work, it makes the hands grow. Of course, menial labor develops and coarsens the hands, and we expect to find domestic servants with large hands, although some of the negroes in the South, whose ancestors have worked in the fields for several generations, have the most beautiful shaped hands to be found in the world. They are not always small, but are symmetrical in every way. The only thing that negroes do not have pretty nails, inasmuch as the half moon is never to be found on one of them."

"Three years ago I wore a 5 1/2 glove," interrupted the matron, "and now I wear a seven, so my glove man says. Think of it! But I shan't go back to him any more. I wouldn't think that riding a wheel three or four hours every day would make my hand grow like that."

"Yes, it will," answered the glove man, as he tugged to get the altered glove on, "and it is reasonable that it should. You grip the handle bars firmly and wear a very loose glove, because steering the wheel in tight gloves would be decidedly uncomfortable. Your hand is in a spreading



We are Showing

An elegant assortment of

## MEN'S TAN SHOES.

All the most desirable shapes and shades are now in stock. And the price—\$5, \$4, \$3, down to \$1.25 for a good wearing Oxford Shoe, make it impossible for us not to please you.

61 King and 212 Union Street.

**WATERBURY & RISING.**

# RIPANS

ONE GIVES RELIEF.

attitude, its muscles are all brought into action, and they harden in that shape."

"Oh, these gloves make my hands look beautiful," she exclaimed enthusiastically as he buttoned the last button. How did you ever do it? Why, they look as they did before they grew to such enormous thickness and breadth. You must alter the other five pairs."

"You see it was this way," explained the manager. "The gloves were cut to make your hand look fatter and shorter than it is, instead of being cut to make it appear long and slender. We gave you longer fingers and cut the seam running round the base of the glove down considerably. This drew the palm down so that the first button fastens well down on your wrist instead of up on the hand. That makes your hand look longer. Then we ran the stitching on the back well down on the wrist. That also makes the hand look longer. That stitching is a trifle too broad for a hand shaped as yours is, anyhow. A woman with short, broad hands, or even with long broad hands, never should wear gloves with broad stitching on the back, for it makes the hand look almost twice as broad. She should have gloves made with fingers just as long as she possibly can wear them, and they should fit down well between her fingers. Then, if she has three rows of very narrow stitching running down on her wrist, the thumb seam running down on her wrist also, and the glove by toning around the wrist, without her trying to make it meet over the base of the hand, she will be gratified by seeing her hand look really quite long, slender, and shapely."

"I have in mind a customer of ours living up town. She wouldn't be induced to wear a glove that isn't made to order, and in that she is wise, for it pays every woman to have her gloves made to order in the long run, and costs very little more. But such a shape as she insists on having those gloves cut! Her hand is quite pudgy to begin with, and she has the fingers of the gloves cut so short that they can't possibly get down between her fingers, and so short in the palm that she has to wear a solitaire. Narrow stitching? I guess not. I've never known her to wear anything but the broadest of the broad, and her hand looks deformed. I'm ashamed to have her tell who her glove maker is, and have done everything to get her to wear gloves that fit, even going so far as to give her a pair for a Christmas present that did fit her, hoping to convert her, but she brought them here and had them altered."

"All athletic sports make the hands grow, and women who indulge in them can expect nothing else, but they can console themselves with the knowledge that the broad, muscular hand is the useful hand and denotes ability to do things. If a woman rides a wheel several hours every day or plays basket ball, tennis or golf, or rows a boat or handles a whip, she must not hope to change the shape of her hand by wearing gloves that are improperly cut and fitted, but she can change totally the appearance of its shape by doing so. She should wear the longest, narrowest glove that she possibly can. For my part I'm glad to see women's hands growing. It proves that they are developing physically, and physical development, as a rule means mental growth. The tiny little hands of ten years ago were very pretty to look at, and very nice to pat and hold, but there was nothing in them to interest a person who really enjoys studying hands. They always did strike me as being purely ornamental, and I enjoy my business so much more since the athletic craze came, for now I amuse myself while I work by reading the character development of my customers in the steadily increasing size of their hands."

"I don't care how much you study my hands," answered the customer with a contented laugh, "as long as you make them look as pretty as they do in these gloves. There's only one thing. I notice that the seams show white where you've altered them. Shall I put some ink on them?"

"Ink!" he repeated in astonishment. "Truly, the ways of women are past finding out. The idea of putting ink on an elegant pair of black lace kid gloves. I'll fix that in a minute before you take them off with some of this French dressing, which is made for the purpose. It is made of lamp black and glycerine, and I'll rub it not only over the seams that show a little

white, but over the whole glove. See, the white has disappeared, and the gloves look much better. Every woman who wears black lace gloves should have a bottle of this among her toilet accessories or if she wears kid boots, for it is equally necessary and beneficial to kid boots. It makes a glove last three times as long to have a little of this dressing rubbed into it well with the fingers occasionally, and especially when the gloves get hard and with perspiration. It should be applied to boots with a piece of old kid, and care should be taken to rub it in very thoroughly, else it will catch and hold the dust. No, if I were you I wouldn't worry about my hands growing larger for you may be sure that what is true in your case applies to women generally, and athletics is largely responsible for it."

"I was really worried," answered the plump matron, as she got up to go, "but since I have learned that all the other women are in the same boat I don't mind."

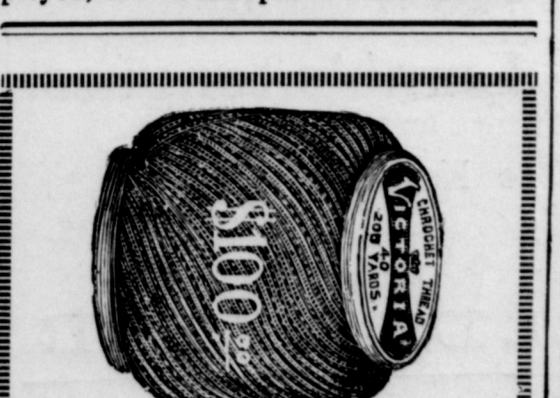
## MANICURING AT HOME.

One Branch of a Constantly Increasing Business.

Of the greatly increased, and still increasing numbers of persons who have their hands attended by professional manicures, a great number now have the work done at home. Among the customers at the large manicuring establishments there are almost as many men as women; those whose hands are cared for at home are nearly all women and regular customers. Operators are sent to them at any desired hour from the manicuring establishments, and there are now visiting manicures who devote themselves entirely to home work. The visiting manicure acquires the art in a manicuring establishment. An apt pupil can learn the work in two or three months. She then sets about building up a route of customers.

Women usually have their hands cared for once a week. They are not likely all to want the work done at the same time, and the visiting manicure endeavors to lay out a route that can be covered without loss of time and which will keep her constantly employed. More parents now have the hands of their children, both boys and girls, cared for by a manicure, beginning when the child is six or seven years old. In the case of children, the work is done to cure them of the habit of biting the finger nails as much as it is to beautify them. It is sought to instill in the child a pride in the appearance of the nails, and thus to prompt it to preserve them in good order. The work thus begun is likely to be continued for purposes of beautifying. The number of people, men and women, who now have their feet attended to by the chiropodist, as they do their hands by the manicure, has also increased greatly. The work on the hands is done to beautify them; upon the feet, for comfort. It is now required by the law of June 3, 1895, that chiropodists shall pass an examination by a board of examiners of the Podic Society of the State of New York. Some persons have their feet cared for at home, but much the greater number go to a manicuring establishment in which chiropodists also are employed, or to a chiropodist's establishment.

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 copies in stamps to R. Henderson & Co., Montreal, P. Q., and they will provide you a sample spool.



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 copies in stamps to R. Henderson & Co., Montreal, P. Q., and they will provide you a sample spool.

## Gave His Hand for Wealth.

When a wealthy merchant died in Cardiff he left a will directing that his two sons should be taken to a point in the English Channel, put in boats and that his fortune should belong to the one whose hand first touches the English soil.

When the day of the trial came a large crowd collected to see the race. There was utter feeling between the brothers. When one saw the other was about to beat him by a few inches he drew a knife, cut off his hand and threw it to the shore, thus securing the fortune. He afterwards built a line of merchant vessels and adopted a hand as his trade mark, having it painted on the funnel of his boats, where it remains to this day, his heirs continuing the use of the design.



## "HEALTH FOR THE Mother Sex."

This caption, "Health for the Mother Sex," is of such immense and pressing importance that it has of necessity become the banner cry of the age.

Women who have been prostrated for long years with Pro-lapsus Uteri, and illnesses following in its train, need no longer stop in the ranks of the suffering. Miles' (Can.) Vegetable Compound does not perform a useless surgical operation, but it does a far more reasonable service.

It strengthens the muscles of the Uterus, and thus lifts that organ into its proper and original position, and by relieving the strain cures the pain. Women who live in constant dread of PAIN, recurring at REGULAR PERIODS, may be enabled to pass that stage without a single unpleasant sensation.

Four tablespoonfuls of Miles' (Can.) Vegetable Compound taken per day for (3) three days before the period will render the utmost ease and comfort.

For sale by all druggists.

Prepared by the

A. M. C. MEDICINE CO.,  
136 St. Lawrence Main St.,  
Price 75 cents. Montreal.

Letters from suffering women will be opened and answered by a confidential lady clerk if addressed as above and marked "Personal." Please mention this paper when writing. Sold by all druggists.

## SILVER GLOSS STARCH

IS THE "OLD RELIABLE" LAUNDRY STARCH. HOUSEKEEPERS WHO HAVE TRIED IT AND THEN OTHER MAKES ALWAYS RETURN TO "SILVER GLOSS." THOSE WHO HAVE NOT TRIED IT SHOULD DO SO AT ONCE. ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT.

Starches made by the Edwardsburg Starch Co., Ltd., are always reliable.

THEIR LEADING BRANDS ARE

Benson's Canada Prepared Corn } FOR COOKING.  
Silver Gloss Starch, } FOR LAUNDRY.  
Enamei Starch, }