

# WOMAN and HER WORK.

We have got accustomed to the idea of bloomers though we do not see many of them on our own streets, and even the knowledge that English women of good position, who devote a certain part of their year to climbing mountains in Switzerland, invariably perform the feats which win them fame in trousers, has ceased to shock us! One can grow accustomed to anything in time, and fashion is a wonderfully powerful goddess who seems to make all things possible to her votaries. Let her but place the magic stamp of her approval upon any custom, however absurd, and it is sure to find a certain number of advocates at once. Even the German fadist—Kneipp, I believe his name is—who thinks he has discovered a cure for all human ills in the persistent practice of going barefoot for a certain number of hours each day, and whose one specific for the preservation of beauty is a daily footbath in heaven's own dew, even he has found disciples, and a certain number of cranks may be seen in New York city paddling about their own grass plots and even the parks in the early morning, bathing their undressed feet in the all healing dew. They even practice their extraordinary cure in the dead of winter, and martyr themselves by walking barefoot in the freshly fallen snow, under the impression that they are preserving their youth, health, and beauty, by so doing, and securing immunity from all bodily ills.

If these devoted souls believe in what they are doing, there is every excuse for them strange as their conduct must seem to those outside the cult. The women who cast aside every illusion in the shape of skirts, and scale lofty mountain peaks in garments which scarcely differ from those worn by their husbands and brothers, also have good reasons for their apparent eccentricities. Serious work in the shape of mountain climbing is utterly out of the question in skirts, and these robust English ladies are not out for show, therefore a picturesque and useless—mountain costume has no charms for them. They are in Switzerland for serious work, their object is not to look pretty, but to bring home a record of the number and height of the mountains they have ascended; and they are in the habit of keeping up with their male companions in every respect; walking sometimes 30 miles a day, and thinking nothing of sleeping out in the open air for nights at a stretch. Such achievements as these would be obviously impossible if the daring climber was impeded by skirts and she would be merely a drag upon the men of the party. Therefore she can show good use for her tetracerous condition, and can therefore defend her position much better than most of her sex who step aside from conventional rules in dress, or anything else.

So much for the bloomed woman, the trousered woman, and the barefooted one! It is with a crink, pure and simple, the bare-legged woman that we have to deal next! She is neither a German disciple of Kneipp, nor a sober minded English mountain climber, nor even a coquettish American girl in dainty bloomer costume; but a French woman who for some strange reason of her own has adopted a style of dress which would put the most weather beaten Highlander to shame. She is a cyclist, usually a Parisian, and her costume consists of the usual coat and blouse, with the lower limbs encased in knickerbockers, they are not bloomers, but startling like the neither garments worn by her husband or brother, and the dress is finished with the daintiest of cycling slippers above which rise for a few inches the most elaborate of socks, but from knee to ankle there stretches a wilderness of bare skin. Exaggerated as it sounds, women costumed in this manner are so frequently to be met on the streets of Paris, as scarcely to attract the notice of the passers by.

The reason for such an extraordinary display of undraped flesh is not explained, but that it is not altogether a matter of ostentation is proved by the fact that the fashion is not by any means confined to Paris fair wheelwomen with bare legs being frequently encountered in the country districts, where the attention they attracted could only be of a very unpleasant nature. The object of exposing the flesh to all sorts of danger from contact with brambles, mud, dust, and worst of all, with unfriendly dogs, is hard to understand, and if the wearers are doing it for their health, surely they are making a very grave mistake. Imagine the amount of dirt that would be collected in a single ride, and the appearance those dainty bare calves would present on their return from a twenty mile spin! The fashion is certainly a startling one, but that is all that can be said for it.

One of the newest of the new sleeves, shows a small puff at the elbow, and another a trifle larger at the shoulder. Another, a tight wrinkled sleeve has frills at the shoulder for a finish. These frills consist of three half circular pieces set on without gathers at the armhole and falling over the sleeve in fluted ripples; they taper

to a point under the arm. The muskmelon puff, and the short puff slashed once at the top to show the tight sleeve beneath, are both new and popular. One quite wide frill is also in good style, it is made in two pieces with the opening or slash at the top and trimmed around with narrow lace and black velvet ribbon. The perfectly tight sleeves with a short cape, or drapery at the top, are perhaps the very latest, but as they are not by any means the prettiest, it is best to make any change, as gradually as possible and select what is individually the most becoming. Whatever may be the popular opinion as to newer fashions in sleeves, there can be no question that the tight styles are far from being as becoming as the large sleeve of last winter, and it is well to get accustomed to the change by slow degrees. All the new sleeves seem to be extreme in length as they were extreme in breadth last year, and they are cut to flare well over the hand. This effect is frequently given by an added cuff lined with some pretty color and filled in with either lace, or chiffon. Of course the small details of dress are really more important than the dress itself, and the wide belt of black satin, is one of those details that the up-to-date woman provides herself with, always supposing that she is not a very stout person. If she weighs more than a hundred and forty pounds she will be wise in steering clear of any belt over two inches in width; but the slim woman who has a girlish figure can indulge at her pleasure in any of the wide belts—which, by the way are perceptibly narrower than the wide belts of the summer. Bias satin which fits the figure so much better than any ribbon can do, is the favorite material for these belts, and various fastenings are adopted, two rosettes of ribbon set a little way apart, and each finished with one long sash end, is a novel fancy, and rosettes of black lace, each with a fancy button in the centre are also very effective. Some belts fasten either in front or at the side, the edge laps over towards the back, being shirred into a double frill an inch and a half wide, and decorated with two jewelled buttons.

Double and triple skirts are seen on some of the new gowns, having the effect of three half circular flounces, and among the importations of this month, there are numerous trimmed skirts. Some of these imported dresses have panels of fancy silk, or velvet down each side of the front, while others are trimmed with a narrow band of fur, rows of round braid, or an inch wide band of velvet set on the edge, and headed by a row of fancy galon. Folds of black satin set their own width apart, trim one skirt; and bands of the cloth stitched on are used as a decoration for plain tailor made costumes. Bands of flat braid or velvet and row upon row of stitching are also seen on these plain dresses.

A very new idea for a bodice, is brought out in one of the celebrated dressmaker Paquin models in dark, smooth faced cloth. The skirt and sleeves are of the cloth, and the bodice of cream-white spotted with black, and trimmed with rows of narrow knite plaitings of dark red ribbon, set on up and down, and about two inches apart. Shoulder pieces of cloth edged with the plaiting, fit over the sleeves which have a vandyked cap trimmed with the same tiny plaiting which is everywhere less than an inch wide, and the collar and belt are of red velvet.

A very effective theatre waist is made of one of the soft, thin flowered silks in light colors, or else of taffeta, if the wearer prefers, and finished with the inevitable belt of black satin. A little bolero front of white chiffon laid in fine plaits and edged around with a very full ruffle of the chiffon trimmed with two rows of narrowest black velvet ribbon, finishes this pretty waist. There is a great variety shown in cloth capes this autumn. It was predicted at one time that the cape would scarcely be seen at all this season, but on the contrary capes of all lengths, kinds and degrees of fulness, are to be seen. They are made in all the dark colors as well as tan, fawn, and gray, and in both smooth and rough material. In shape the autumn wrap is varied, the loose saque, the coat, the pelerie, and the combination coat and cape, all seem equally in favor. The cloth capes are usually trimmed simply with bands of the cloth stitched on, and are prettily lined with bright colored silk. Some have plaits in the back in order to make them swing out like the loose saque, and all have flaring collars standing up around the neck, and usually cut in squares on the edge. The new black velvet capes are very stylish and pretty, and jet, feathers, and fur seem the chosen trimming for them. Colored velvets and cream lace are often used to make them more dressy, and one of the prettiest round capes has a collar and a second shorter cape of apple green velvet almost covered with gathered rows of cream lace, four or five inches wide. Magenta red is another popular color for combination with black.

A very jaunty wrap of velvet is a garment which is a sort of sleeveless waist with a black satin belt across the back, and a full cape effect over the arms, which al-

most conceals the jacket in front. Either ostrich feather trimming or fur may be used to decorate the edges. Ribbon rosettes fit in below the high tabbed collar, which has a plaiting of satin edged chiffon inside. These garments are made of green and heliotrope velvet, as well as black, and very little trimming is required to make them look stylish, and finished. A simple A simple, but very handsome cape of black velvet is embroidered with jet, and finished with a high collar of Thibet fur. ASTRA.

## NEW STYLES IN STATIONERY.

The Most Remarkable is Red Paper, Which Authorities Frown Upon. Stationery has taken an astonishing departure. The newest paper should take well with lovers. It is of a color capable of reflecting the most ardent passions that ever mortal man or maid endured. There is no name for the color, because it is entirely new. Crimson and Carmine and scarlet appear pale in comparison. It is a disputed question whether fashionable people will use the new paper. One thing is certain; somebody has taken to it, and most kindly, for reams of it are sold.

'What else new have you in stationery?' asked a customer in a stationery store, who had pushed a sample of the paper to one side.

'The next newest thing is the Delft paper,' was the reply. 'It is imported, and retails at 1 25 a box, and there isn't much in a box, either. You see, it is octavo size, pure white, and has the windmills and water scenes of Holland stamped on it in the genuine Delft blue. Then we have this very dark gray and blue paper, with an extremely narrow edge of white that looks like enamel. The envelopes are of a very curious shape, with the flap running from one narrow edge to the other. That style is copied from the French. Women do like colored papers. Most of them use the very delicate shades, but many of them like the glaring blues, greens, and pinks.'

'People of good taste do not take up fads in stationery,' said the head of the stationery department in another store very emphatically. 'A well-bred woman's paper becomes a part of herself, and this extreme style may come in and that go out, but she sticks to the same paper. The billet and octavo sizes are most popular, though a great sheet that folds twice and is thrust into a green envelope has been rapidly gaining favor recently. I can readily account for that. The latest wedding invitations are a very large square, leaving a wide margin around the engraving, and folding so as to fit an immense oblong envelope, and so writing paper of similar dimensions has grown popular for correspondence. America leads the world in the art of engraving, and while it is now considered good form here to use the English form of bidding guests to a wedding, our invitations are much more elegant than those on the other side. It is quite a breach of etiquette for Mr. and Mrs. So and So not to request the honor of their guests presence, and a greater breach still not to spell honor with a 'u'.

'But to get back to stationery,' continued the authority, 'there is something new in monograms. It is now the correct thing to have the monogram stamped in the centre of a round, oval or diamond-shaped device. The circle is the most popular, and this work in ink has been brought to such perfection that it looks almost like enamelling on gold. The extremely small letters are most fashionable, the die being considerably smaller than a silver ten-cent piece. If the background of white ink the lettering is in gold, silver, or delicately colored ink, such as pink, blue, lilac, or green; but if the background is silver or gold, only colored letters are used. The proper place for the monogram is in the centre of the paper, sufficiently far from the top to leave a margin that looks well. Some women will have it in the left corner, however. Monograms are very popular, because they give an individuality to one's paper.

'Street addresses are stamped on paper in dark blue, red, and brown, blue having the preference. Block letters are considered the best form for this. All fashionable people have the stationery for their country places stamped with the address in the usual place, and in the extreme left-hand corner in very small block letters the railroad and telegraph station and telephone call. This is quite a labor-saving scheme. The American women show excellent taste in their choice of stationery. Occasionally they may take up some freak paper or invitation, and there are always some cranks to give special orders for freak things, but as a rule they are sensible in this matter, as in most others.

'Our North American trade is quite dif-

## Although Leather has Advanced.....

Very much during the past month, there will be NO ADVANCE in our prices for the following reason: Just before the rise we placed orders for about 600 cases of the various kinds of Shoes most affected by the rise. As there are 60 pairs in each case, this means nearly 40,000 Pairs, or

A Pair for every Man, Woman and Child in St. John.

So that, while leather has gone up and is still advancing, you can rest assured there will be NO ADVANCE at present in our prices, and every person in the city can have at least one pair at our old prices—THE LOWEST.

## WATERBURY & RISING,

61 King St. : 212 to 214 Union St.

ferent from our South American, and from that we did in Cuba before the present war. The people of those countries are devoted to very highly colored, glaring stationery, and like their monograms stamped in many colors in letters varying from one to three inches in length. Of course, this necessitates paper of uncommon size. They would be carried away with the new red paper, but what American woman of taste would be guilty of sending out a note written on that hideous parchment?

The latest thing in London in the way of stationery is a sheet of paper with the corner turned down and held in place by a colored seal or wafer, which displays the Christian name or monogram. These devices give opportunity of using many dainty colors, and are also placed on the side and in the middle of letter paper. They appear to be suspended by gold cord, or to be bordered by a wreath of laurel leaves. The envelopes are stamped to resemble a seal on the point of the flap, bearing the writer's initial or crest, prettily the latter. Decorated envelopes are considered bad form in America. The seal or wafer idea is also finding special favor for wedding invitations on the other side.

There was a time when purple ink was the rage, and then came the brief reign of white ink at the cost of the religion of every postal official that handled the mails, but colored inks passed away with the angular hand, and now black ink is the thing.

The fad of reading character from one's handwriting has been in a measure responsible for breaking up the craze for squiggles in chirography. It led women to write as seemed most natural. In doing this women found that they wrote with greater ease and that the writing was really prettier, or, at least had more character in it. The chief cause, however, of the dying out of the craze for peculiar and generally illegible, styles of penmanship has been common sense.

### \$6,000 A YEAR DEBUTANTE.

How a Girl by Proper Drill May be Made Attractive in a Gay World.

What makes a successful debutante? 'Scientific training,' said the shrewd, gray-eyed woman at the far end of the luncheon table, in answer to query.

'The thoroughly civilized debutante blooms into fashionable life such an immaculately groomed young creature you couldn't possibly call her ugly and so up to date on her special fad she never could be voted dull. She is a butterfly, captivating and pleasing, but often molded from the commonest clay—her mother, perhaps, only recently herself has wriggled her way into fashionable circles and is a little uncertain as to how she ought to fit Edythe for the future.

'Up to the time of her 17th birthday Edythe is allowed to stay at school, and only her general health and bills interest her mother. After this she comes home to stay, and is put through a rigid examination. A careful and impartial inventory is taken, not only of her stock of knowledge,

but her accomplishments and her capacities.

'First of all she is put into the carriage and driven around to the family physician, who diagnoses the cause of her inferior complexion and outlines a diet. Next in order is not only a visit to both 'pedicure and manicure, and weekly engagements agreed upon, in order that the hands and feet can be massaged, polished and bleached into all possible state of perfection, but a competent authority on hair takes down and inventories the child's tresses, appointments are secured at a well-known gymnasium, and finally the dressmaker is called upon.

'This last is not a mere cutter and fitter of garments, but a Parisian artist, who decides whether the girl should dress for picturesque or smart effects, what colors she can and cannot wear, what her waist line ought to be, and whether, wide, narrow high or low hats suit her features.

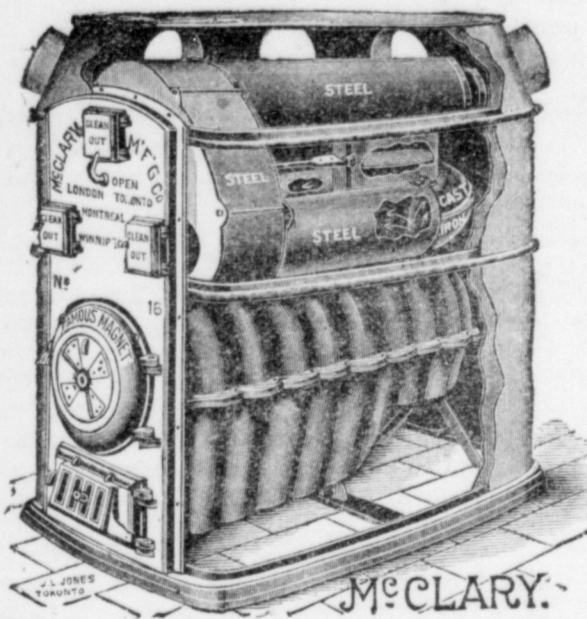
'After this no hard-worked artisan, who carries a hod, toils for longer hours or with more unremitting vigor than the prospective debutante does under her mother's eye. If her arms are discovered to be thin she is sent to drive, to fence, swing dumb bells and even to sweeping vigorously, that the wrists may be strengthened and the forearms rounded out. Once a day a masseuse comes to knead her thin neck into fulness and rub her chest with sheep's wool fat, to fill out the hollows made by insufficiently clad collar bones.

'As often as five times a day she eats a dry diet, with beef juice and fruit, if she is very stout, and scalded cream, with hundreds of slices of brown bread and butter, if she is thin. Just as many times her stays are changed to keep her waist supple and lengthen it, and besides swimming and doing gymnastics for a half hour daily she plays croquet from her bicycle at her wheeling club, takes a gallop through the park on horseback and sleeps flat on her back on a hard, pillowless bed. Though she may not have the least voice or taste for music she gets up early in the morning for a singing lesson.

'This is to give her the proper tone and pronunciation in speech, laughter, or perhaps to correct a tendency to deafness. To bring out the fine suit of hair her head possibly is shaved clean as a baby's and the sprouting locks scientifically treated as they grow again. Very much filled teeth are carefully cut off and new ones screwed in, as neatly as nature could do it. Violin instruction is instituted, merely to give gracious gestulation. One hour a day the girl goes to bed, to get color in her cheeks, at intervals during the weeks she takes lessons in dancing, embroidery, lace making, painting and golfing.

'On Tuesdays she goes to or gives a luncheon; on Saturdays she fills her mother's opera, theater or concert box with chosen young people for the matinee. She is also obliged to join several charitable societies, attend church regularly, read an assortment of the latest very proper French and English novels, look over the magazines, get the names of new authors

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