

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I often wonder when we women will learn to be honest! I don't mean when a certain class of our sex will cease from shoplifting and another class stop appropriating everything they can lay their hands upon without being discovered. I fear we shall have to wait for the millennium before that time arrives—I am thinking of the small, and almost unconscious dishonesties to themselves, as well as to others which so many women practice without ever dreaming that they are doing wrong.

Somehow our New Womanism does not seem to have helped us much in this direction! True, it has made us more exacting as to the dealings of others with us, but it has had very little effect upon our dealings towards the rest of the world. The New Woman rather prides herself upon being a business woman and making sure that the pound of tea the grocer sends home shall really weigh a pound, and that the joint of meat from the butcher shall be fully as heavy as it professes to be, but centuries of training in a sort of delightful irresponsibility, have imparted their influence upon her, and do what she will she cannot help letting her heart run away with her head! To be just, however, she is generous seems to be a rule she cannot learn to apply, and perhaps she does not mean to apply it because she cannot get rid of the idea that it is a selfish, and rather mean rule, like that other old reading old maxim that 'charity begins at home.' Therefore she promptly puts her name down for a dollar on the subscription list which is being circulated for the poor family around the corner who were burnt out last week, and feels a glow of honest satisfaction in thinking that she has done a really praiseworthy act in helping the unfortunate, and spent at least one dollar of her allowance in a manner she may be really proud of.

Somehow the thought never seems to occur to her that the very dollar she gave so cheerfully did not really belong to her, since she had put it away to pay her weekly laundry bill, and now the laundress who can so ill afford to do without her money, must wait for a whole week longer. Taking from Peter to pay Paul is always the worst of economy, and Peter frequently gets tired of the unequal arrangement and clamors for a settlement of his accounts at the very most awkward time.

She is a generous soul, this woman who thinks she is so practical and business-like, and she does love to give others pleasure, so for the life of her she cannot resist taking the friend who goes out shopping with her, into the first confectioner's they pass, and treating her to ice cream, and then stopping at the chocolate counter and buying just a pound of caramels as they are going out. Or a little half pound box each; it is such a trifle that no one could call her extravagant, but all the same she had not the money to spare, and she knew it, and after the shopping is finished and she and her friend are paying their bill at the last shop they visit she is surprised to find she has spent so much more than she intended, that she is obliged to borrow a dollar from her friend to make up the amount of the account and pay her car fare home. Sometimes she pays that dollar back next day, I am sure she always intends to do so, but sometimes she forgets all about it.

How surprised and hurt she would be if anyone were to tell her she was dishonest, but yet how often the ten cents she gives with such sweet charity to the blind organ grinder at the corner is borrowed for the occasion from the companion she chances to be with because she has 'nothing less than half a dollar in her purse' and never returned?

The quarter she lays mockly in the office tray plate on Sunday, the postage stamp she affixes tenderly to her letter to the best man in the world—how often these are borrowed from her mother, her sister, her friend, and never returned! It is Sunday, and she cannot get any change. She is in a hurry to catch the mail and did not notice that her stamp box was empty, and somehow she never thinks of these trifles again. She is not inconsiderate, not exactly careless, but simply thoughtless and neglectful. It sounds terrible to say that she swindles her friends out of various small sums of money, but really stripped of all poetry that is really what it amounts to; the friends of course, even when they are little able to afford the loss, never think of asking for a return of these small loans, and therefore the transgressor goes serenely on her way quite unconscious of her little sins of omission, and serenely convinced that she is the most upright and business-like of mortals.

I once heard a clever man say that the most charming attribute a woman could possess was 'a sweet unreasonableness' no one expected a woman to be reasonable, he said, and she made a mistake if she was. I suppose many others of her sex think the same, and I believe it is this attitude towards us, in their part, which is responsible for much of the unreasonableness they admire. We have been accustomed for generations to have so little in the shape of reason, or logic expected of us, that it

will take quite a period of evolution before we realize that exactness in the smallest matter of business, is quite as much of an obligation on women as on men. Every business man, keeps a strict account in black and white of his income and expenditure, if he borrows a quarter from a friend in a sudden emergency out comes his note book, and down he puts the item, small as it appears so there shall be no danger of its slipping his memory—of course I am speaking of the great majority of men who are strict and exact in business matters—and until woman will adopt the same methodical habits of regulating their expenditure she can scarcely hope to attain the same standing as man in the great world of business even though she may prove to be his successful rival in literature, art and science.

There is no denying the fact that the new materials for autumn and winter wear are not only unusually expensive but superlatively hideous, and the woman whose taste is quiet but fastidious finds it a difficult task to make a choice even after collecting samples from all the best houses, and examining the stock of every available dry goods store within reach.

Even the standard broadcloths seems to have undergone a transformation which is inexplicable, and where an excellent quality with soft lustrous finish, and firm texture could be procured a year or two ago at a price varying from \$1.50 to \$1.50 per yard, a very ordinary cloth is now shown at \$2.40 and \$2.50 per yard.

The preference of the manufacturer is decidedly for coarse weaves, and rugged surfaces, whatever the consumer may think, and all the counters of the best dry goods houses groan under their load of harsh rough fabrics. Great tufts and knots stand out on the surface of some of the most stylish materials, and appear at such irregular intervals, that one might be excused for thinking them mis-weaves, and trying to pick them off. Others show a sort of furry nap sometimes in short close curls, and sometimes forming a sort of transparent broadcated effect, and always the ground color shows through sometimes distinctly, and again quite dimly. The surface color is nearly always black, no matter what the ground tint may be.

Canvases meshed goods are conspicuous amongst the autumn materials, and they lend themselves very readily to the two-tint fancy, alternate threads of contrasting colors giving the mixed and shot effect so much sought after. Some of them resemble the honeycomb canvas used for toilet mats some years ago, the upper meshes being of black, while a bright contrasting color shows beneath. Sometimes the knots and irregularities on the surface are grouped into figures or lines. Zitzelines, which are really varieties of camels hair are also amongst the new fabrics, they show the soft flexible finish which has made camels hair so popular, and also the long hairs thrown out from the surface, sometimes woven to represent figures. The fancy for checked and plaided goods still continues, only the checks seem to grow larger, and those shown in this season's goods are very pronounced indeed. Large checks of copper and green well covered with raised black dots, which modify the rather glaring contrast, are considered stylish and effective.

For travelling, walking or the business suits which so many women require now, there is nothing better than a perfectly plain, close weave of canvas in a solid color. Such gowns are made in the plainest fashion, and are very stylish and ladylike.

The great drawback to the boucle and tufted goods, is the fact that however effective they may be when quite new, they become shabby and dragged so soon, added to that they are regular dust collectors, and as they are utterly ruined by brushing they form a very unsatisfactory investment. Many of them are so thin that they require expensive linings, and as the material itself is nearly always high priced, a costume of fashionable loose meshed goods is a very foolish investment for a woman who only gets one new dress each season.

ASTRA.

Sculpture in the Sand.
A favorite form of diversion this year with some of the visitors on the beach at Coney Island has been to fashion imitations of the human body in the damp sand. These imitations have usually taken the shape of the female form, and some of them have been fairly well done. Recumbent figures, as it is in deep sleep, are the favorite subjects.

Frequently as many as a dozen persons are to be seen making these figures. Crowds in each instance surround the moulder, and he has all the assistance he needs in supplying raw material. By parsing the hand along the crude outlines which are first shaped out, the sand is gradually smoothed away, and if the moulder has any artistic taste a figure soon assumes attractiveness. Occasionally an arm or a leg tumbles to pieces while the artist is fixing up a head or a bust, but willing hands help to repair the figure, and in half an hour the spectators can see the ideal of the artist. The figures last until the tide comes in and washes them away.

EXCESSIVE USE OF COFFEE.

Blindness is Often one of the Final Results of its Use.

Do you want to be blind? Drink coffee. Drink lots of it. Drink it with breakfast, lunch and dinner, and drink it between meals. Drink it when you get up in the morning, and drink it before you go to bed at night. Drink it long and strong, and keep it up, and by you will be sightless as the proverbial bat.

That is what the celebrated French physician, S. Arnault, says, and there are New York doctors who indorse the declaration.

It is well known that Moors are inveterate coffee-drinkers, especially the merchants, who sit in their bazzars and drink coffee continually during the day. It has been noticed that almost invariably when these coffee-drinkers reach about the age of forty their eyesight begins to fail, and by the time they get to be fifty years old they become blind. One is forcibly impressed by the number of blind men that are seen about the streets of the city of Fez, the capital of Morocco. It is invariably attributed to the excessive use of coffee. This opinion has been confirmed by the opinion of European physicians living there.

The noted chieftain, Mohammed Ben Zued, the most powerful vassal of the Moorish Sultan, is a striking example of the effect of excessive indulgence in the use of the bean. He is 52 years old. When he was 44 his eyesight began to fail, and by the time he reached his 50th year he was utterly sightless. He visited Fez to consult the European physicians there. They could do nothing for him. Then he was advised to visit Madrid and consult the famous oculist, Don Manuel de Escobedo.

This expert, though he had gained a wide reputation as a specialist in eye diseases, was puzzled with this case, which was not capable of pathological solution upon the basis of his past experience. He knew that the effect of coffee was of a decidedly stimulating nature, and to a great extent tonic, that the excessive use of it would severely affect the nervous system and bring about conjunctivitis and keratitis, but in the practice of the various diseases no other effect of coffee use was to be found, except in some very rare cases and these were medical curiosities. Mohammed Ben Zued was obliged to return home without having received any relief.

A LONDON DODGE.

Carriages With Crests for Hire if One Wishes Them.

A funeral procession that recently passed down the Strand attracted unusual attention because of the carriages in which the mourners rode. The mourners themselves looked as if they might have spent the preceding night at a wake, and the hearse, with its trappings, was of the kind furnished for the most inexpensive funerals. It was a small funeral, as funerals go among the poor, and only six carriages followed the hearse.

There were six or eight people in each carriage. The carriages were not the ordinary rusty vehicles engaged for cheap funerals. Each was a brougham of recent make and irreproachable polish, and each bore on its well-varnished sides a monogram. Several of the monograms were recognized as those of families living in the West End.

It looked at first glance as if half a dozen families had contributed their private carriages to some poor funeral. As a matter of fact, however, they had all come from the same livery stable, and anyone who chooses may hire one of them. Provided the person whose monogram is marked on it does not want it at the same time. The livery man marks a monogram or crest on one of his carriages for a consideration, and the owner of the monogram or crest may thus pose as the owner of the brougham whenever he chooses to hire it.

NEXT YEAR'S BICYCLE.

Manufacturers Are Undecided About Fixing Their Price.

A vexatious question now among cyclists and prospective cyclists is the price that a first class wheel will bring next year. Whether one may be had then for the same price or less than it fetches now, or whether the price will be advanced, no one seems able to tell absolutely. The oldest makers of \$100 wheels say that it would be disastrous to their business to sell machines at the low figure which several younger manufacturers have named, and at the same time furnish each customer with a guarantee. On the other hand, it is said in some quarters that enough money is made by many of the concerns which have cut their prices to warrant their continuing the experiment next year. It is understood also that certain of them have promised to offer even better wheels at a cheaper price next year than

Experienced wheelmen seem slow to believe that the difference in quality of the component parts of high grade bicycles is

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RIPANS

ONE GIVES RELIEF.

so marked as some of the makers of those machines would have the public to believe it is. These riders say that skillful workmanship is required in the construction of all durable wheels, and if it is true that some of the high-grade wheel-makers employ more skillful workmen than others, the fact is often indiscernible both in their wheel's appearance and use.

Whether the wooden bicycles which are promised for next year will materially affect the wheel trade remains to be seen. Their advocates say that the wheels will have many advantages over those with metal frames.

Nobody was surprised when wheels of disputed quality were sold at a low price, but now that those of a standard make can be bought for half price, everybody is set to thinking. When the stock of wheels now selling so cheaply is exhausted, cyclists wonder what move the dealers will make then. Persons who will want wheels next year are probably safe if they wait until then before buying.—N. Y. Sun.

THE TRIFLING EXPENSES.

If They Can Be Stopped Domestic Economy Is Secured.

It is the trifling expenses that must be looked after if a housekeeper intends to conduct her domestic affairs on lines of economy. The woman who knows how to handle a hammer, to mend and to contrive can stop many a leak in the family purse—each small in itself, but often amounting to a large sum in the course of a year. For instance: Certain kitchen utensils are usually thrown away on trifling cases as soon as they are cracked. This is especially true of articles made of paper or granite ware. A high wind after rolling a light paper tub about promiscuously, threw it against a stone, and, to all appearances, wrecked it forever. But the tub was owned by a woman who had few pennies but original ideas, and she straightway went to work to demonstrate that, although mutilated, the tub was not beyond repair. First she took putty and put this over the hole and smoothed it down carefully, until it was about the same thickness as the paper mache of which the tub was made. This was then allowed to dry. Pieces of stout muslin were then pasted over the putty and a coat of paint was put over the cloth to hold it, and to make the mended part of the tub look like the rest of it. Several coats of paint were added from time to time, and the mended place is probably the strongest part of the tub. The mending is a simple matter and the time required was small. The same woman mends small holes in granite ware with copper wire or copper rivets, carefully fitted and hammered down.

A CRIPPLE FROM RHEUMATISM.

Cured by a Few Doses of South American Rheumatic Cure—Miraculous but Fact.

Mrs. N. Fessis, wife of a well-known manufacturer of Highgate, Ont., says: 'For many years I was sorely afflicted with rheumatic pains in my ankles and at times was almost disabled. I tried everything, as I thought, and doctored for years without much benefit. Though I had lost confidence in medicines I was induced to use South American Rheumatic Cure. To my delight, the first dose gave me more relief than I had had in years, and two bottles have completely cured me.'

False to the Principles.
The man with the long beard threw his paper down in disgust.

'That settles it,' he said. 'Bryan don't get no vote from me. He ain't to be trusted. He talks a lot, but when he comes to the proof of his devotion to silver they ain't to be found.'

'What's the matter now?' asked the man with the side whiskers. 'It's his wife again,' returned the man with the long beard. 'I s'pose he'd claim he ain't responsible, but a man has got to take the blame for what his wife does or else throw her over.'

'He'd have a lot of fun throwing her over,' said the man with the side whiskers. 'Why, she's pretty near the whole thing in this campaign. But what's she been doing?'

'This here paper says her only jewelry consists of three rings and a good comb.' 'Well, what's she doing with a gold comb when we're devoting all our energies to pushing up the price of silver?'—Chicago Post.

Police-man's Pocket Telephone.

One of the most useful additions that have recently been made to the equipment of some of the Newcastle (Eng.) policemen is the pocket telephone. It is handy, and light, consisting of a combined mouth-piece and earpiece, with about a foot or more of wire attached, an affixing pin and a small key. This apparatus is to be used by the officers in connection with the fire alarms placed at various parts of the city. Instead of breaking the pane of glass in case of a fire occurring in the neighborhood—as an ordinary individual would have to do—the policeman opens the door with his key, places the affixing pin in a socket provided for it, and is in direct communication with the fire brigade.

How to Science.

He—Wife, there are 1,000,000,000 stars in the sky.

She—Oh, there must be more than that, if you stayed out last night till you had counted them.

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Four or five tablespoonsful of Prepared Corn to one quart of milk; dissolve the Prepared Corn in some of the milk; heat the remainder of the milk, and when boiling add the dissolved Prepared Corn; boil fifteen minutes, flavor to taste, and allow it to cool in a mould. Serve with milk and jelly or milk and sugar.

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